
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6838

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT FACILITIES.

SUMMARY

This bill allows a person to be committed to a Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) facility or an approved private facility for emergency alcohol or drug abuse treatment if he or she has repeatedly overdosed on drugs or was administered an opioid antagonist (e.g., Narcan) on multiple occasions.

Under current law, a person may be committed to such a facility for emergency treatment only if he or she is intoxicated at the time of the commitment application and is (1) a danger to themselves or others, (2) in need of certain detoxification medical treatment, or (3) incapacitated by alcohol. But the facility can waive the intoxication requirement if a physician determines the person needs immediate treatment.

Existing law allows (1) a person's physician, spouse, guardian, or relative or (2) any responsible person, to apply in writing to a DMHAS or private facility to commit the person to the facility for emergency treatment. The bill specifies that a "responsible person" includes a physician who gives the person emergency medical services related to a drug overdose. By law, a person may be committed for up to five days under this commitment.

Additionally, the bill prohibits a rehabilitation facility (which the bill does not define) that treats people with substance use disorders from requiring as an admission criterion that the person be intoxicated or test positive for the use of an illegal substance or opioid antagonist when seeking admission.

Lastly, the bill makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (02/10/2025)