

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 26-62—sHB 5447

Appropriations Committee

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY AND
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

SUMMARY: This act makes several unrelated changes affecting children's behavioral health. Specifically, it requires:

1. the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CWCSEO) executive director to establish working groups to (a) study eating disorder treatment and (b) develop a statewide food education roadmap and model school nutrition curriculum;
2. the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility to provide psychiatric treatment services to children and young adults, between the ages of 14 and 21, who have intellectual or developmental disabilities; and
3. each school-based health center, starting January 1, 2027, to (a) use an evidence-based screening tool for early identification of disordered eating behaviors in addition to using existing methods to diagnose these behaviors and (b) give the screening tool to each student in grades six through 12 during the student's annual health assessment required under existing law (§ 4).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision requiring (1) the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health and Policy and Planning Committee (TCBHPPC) to annually review the progress of the working group is effective October 1, 2026, and (2) each school-based health center to use a screening tool for early identification of disordered eating behaviors is effective July 1, 2026.

§§ 1 & 2 — CWCSEO WORKING GROUPS

The act requires the CWCSEO executive director to establish two working groups: one on eating disorder treatment and one to develop a statewide food education roadmap and a model school nutrition curriculum. Each working group's members are selected by the executive director and must include at least one member of the TCBHPPC.

Under the act, the executive director must annually report the working groups' study results to the TCBHPPC and the Children, Education, Human Services, and Public Health committees starting by January 1, 2028. The TCBHPPC must also annually review the working groups' progress.

Working Group on Treating Eating Disorders

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Under the act, this working group must consult with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to compile information to be made available to the public for:

1. providers of eating disorder treatment services in the state, including facilities that provide this treatment;
2. details about the types of services these providers offer and the ages of the people they serve; and
3. any other resources available in the state for people with eating disorders.

The working group must also consult with DPH to establish best practice guidelines for facilities providing eating disorder treatment.

Working Group to Develop a State-Wide Food Education Roadmap

The act requires this working group to develop a state-wide education roadmap and a model school nutrition curriculum that includes developmentally appropriate evidence-based education programs on disordered eating behaviors, nutrition, culinary skills, growing food, food safety and food systems.

§ 3 — DSS FEASIBILITY STUDY

The act requires the DSS commissioner to study the feasibility of establishing an inpatient facility to provide psychiatric treatment services to children and young adults, between ages 14 and 21, with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The commissioner must do this in collaboration with the children and families, developmental disabilities, and mental health and addiction services commissioners and the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate.

The study must at least include:

1. the facility's appropriate size and patient capacity;
2. best treatment practices;
3. operational costs and the feasibility of operating within available appropriations;
4. appropriate location sites for the facility, which may include state-owned property; and
5. billing options, including Medicaid, for the inpatient population served.

DSS must report the study results to the Appropriations, Children's, Human Services, and Public Health committees by July 1, 2027.