

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 2139

As of Second Reading

Title: An act relating to the establishment of new regional support network boundaries.

Brief Description: Concerning the establishment of new regional support network boundaries.

Sponsors: House Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody and Hunter; by request of Department of Social and Health Services).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/08/12, 98-0.

Committee Activity:

Staff: Tim Yowell (786-7435)

Background: The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) contracts with Regional Support Networks (RSNs) to manage the local delivery of mental health services for adults and children who suffer from mental illness or severe emotional disturbance. Entities that are selected to operate as the RSN for a designated geographic area must meet regulatory and contractual standards.

An RSN must be either a county authority or group of county authorities, except in circumstances in which an existing RSN either chooses not to respond to a request for qualifications; is unable to substantially meet the requirements of a request for qualifications; or notifies DSHS that it will no longer serve as an RSN. Under these circumstances, the DSHS must utilize a procurement process in which other entities recognized by the secretary may bid to serve as the RSN. The DSHS has authority to establish new boundaries in cases where an RSN fails to respond to or meet standards of a request for qualifications or subsequent reprourement.

There are currently 13 RSNs in Washington. Twelve of these entities are either single- or multi-county authorities and there is one private entity operating as a RSN in Pierce County. RSNs subcontract with an array of community mental health agencies to provide required services.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: DSHS is authorized to establish new RSN boundaries in cases in which two or more RSNs propose to consolidate into a new RSN. In these situations, the RSNs are exempt from specific procurement procedures.

The minimum number of RSNs is reduced from eight to six.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available on original bill.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.