

# ICSEW BILL ALERT

## HB 1499

Providing behavioral health care responses for substance use disorder in lieu of criminal possession charges



<https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/1499-S.pdf?q=20220304103601>

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Legislative Hotline:

**1.800.562.6000**

### **Why does this bill matter to you?**

*How does it apply to state employed women.*

- An act relating to promoting recovery and improving public safety by providing behavioral health system responses to individuals with substance use disorder in lieu of criminalizing possession of personal use amounts of controlled substances, counterfeit substances, and legend drugs.
- Requires the Health Care Authority (HCA) to establish a substance use recovery services plan to assist persons with substance use disorder in accessing treatment and recovery services.
- Requires the HCA to establish a substance use recovery services advisory committee to advise the HCA in the development and implementation of the substance use recovery services plan.
- Eliminates criminal penalties for certain violations of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and related provisions when the amount of the substance at issue is within a "personal use amount" threshold established by the HCA.
- Expands provisions authorizing alternatives to arrest for persons with behavioral health disorders.

ICSEW Legislative and Policy Subcommittee is providing the following Bill Alert as a service to inform state employees of bills that may impact them. ICSEW asks that employees remember to share their opinion in an ethical way, on their own time, & using their own phone, computer, or device.

As state employees, we cannot use state time or resources to lobby for or against legislative proposals (RCW [42.52.160](#) and [42.52.180](#)). On your own time and using your own resources, let your voice be heard by:

Contacting your legislator directly by phone at the legislative hotline: 1-800-562-6000.

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