



Bill Description: Adding questions related to adverse childhood experiences to the Healthy Youth Survey.

Bill Number: ESSB 6191

Bill Sponsor: Senator John Braun

Effective Date: June 11, 2020

Adds a New Section to: chapter 28A.300 RCW

Background:

The Healthy Youth Survey is a collaborative effort between several agencies to measure health risk behaviors contributing to morbidity, mortality, and social problems among youth in Washington State. The survey is administered every two years to students in sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth grades. The survey currently does not incorporate questions related to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

Testimony in support of the bill noted that “Research has connected toxic childhood stress to long-term impacts and a variety of health issues. When children have ACEs, there are effective interventions such as resiliency training and social emotional learning. The ACE questions can give educators important information about the well-being of their students while still protecting their privacy. These data can identify hot spots where resources and support are needed.”

Summary

This bill:

- Directs the Liquor and Cannabis Board, Health Care Authority, Department of Health, and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to incorporate questions related to ACES into the Healthy Youth Survey.
- The responses to the survey must be voluntary and remain anonymous. Questions must be administered for two cycles and then be evaluated by the agencies for any needed changes.
- Encourages school districts to use the information collected about ACEs in their decision making to help improve student services.

Contact Information:

If you have questions, please contact [Chris Thompson, Director of Legislative Relations](#).