

JAY INSLEE
Governor



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May 9, 2019

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Sections 4, 5, and 6, Senate Bill No. 5054 entitled:

“AN ACT Relating to increasing the behavioral health workforce by establishing a reciprocity program to increase the portability of behavioral health licenses and certifications.”

Senate Bill 5054 will help out-of-state applicants to more easily and quickly become integrated into Washington State’s behavioral health workforce. Sections 4, 5 and 6 direct the Department of Health to conduct a study to explore options for adoption of an interstate compact or compacts supporting license portability for certain professionals. I agree with the intended purpose of the bill; however, the final budget did not provide funding for the Department to perform this study and the cost of this work cannot be absorbed.

For these reasons I have vetoed Sections 4, 5, and 6 of Senate Bill No. 5054.

With the exception of Sections 4, 5, and 6, Senate Bill No. 5054 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee
Governor