

CHAPTER 54.

[H. B. 166.]

MENTAL ILLNESS—HOSPITALIZATION—PATIENT'S LETTERS.

AN ACT relating to state institutions, and amending section 48, chapter 139, Laws of 1951 and RCW 71.02.590.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

RCW 71.02.590 amended.

SECTION 1. Section 48, chapter 139, Laws of 1951 and RCW 71.02.590 are each amended to read as follows:

Mentally ill. Letters to or from patients.

The superintendent shall furnish each patient the material for writing at least one letter per week, if he shall request the same, unless otherwise provided. Patients' letters shall be subject to the inspection of the superintendent, who shall mail to the proper address thereof such of them as in his judgment should be sent, and he shall retain such letters as he considers objectionable which he shall forward to the director for study. Letters forwarded to the director for study shall either be mailed within seven days to the addressee or, if deemed objectionable by the director, retained in a separate file for two years and then destroyed. All letters directed to the patients shall be delivered to them if, in the judgment of the superintendent, their contents are not prejudicial to the mental condition of the patient.

Passed the House February 4, 1957.

Passed the Senate February 28, 1957.

Approved by the Governor March 8, 1957.