



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
PO Box 47820 | Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
360-236-3000 | 711 Washington State Relay

January 20, 2026

Re: Collaborative - Considering Rulemaking on Private Detention Facilities for Juveniles

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

In accordance with [chapter 43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we are writing today to invite collaboration on rulemaking concerning setting operational standards for private detention facilities.

Rulemaking will set health and safety standards to ensure detained juveniles are provided sanitary, hygienic, and safe living conditions pursuant to [Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1232 \(E2SHB 1232\)](#), [Chapter 234, Laws of 2025, Regular Session](#), and [chapter 70.395 RCW](#). Please join us to learn more about this rulemaking efforts:

Meeting Type	Date and Time	Zoom Information
Listening Session	Thursday, February 12, 2026 2:30-4:30pm	Zoom Meeting

During our virtual listening session, we'll discuss the history of session law, Washington State Department of Health (WA-DOH) regulatory authority granted by E2SHB 1232, and rulemaking timelines. *Please note, this rule would only apply to private detention facilities; if a Tribe were to operate a juvenile detention facility in the future, this would not apply.*

Currently, there is one facility in the state of Washington that meets the definition of a private juvenile detention facility, Martin Hall, located in Medical Lake. We believe there may be Washington Tribe(s) who contract with this facility, and we want to ensure we have the opportunity to hear from you.

About this Rulemaking

On September 15, 2025, the WA-DOH filed a [CR-101 Preproposal Statement of Inquiry \(PDF\)](#) to initiate rulemaking pursuant to E2SHB 1232, which amended [RCW 70.395.100](#) to remove certain exemptions for facilities that provide services for juveniles.

Chapter 70.395 RCW requires WA-DOH to set measurable standards for topics including but not limited to, the cleaning and sanitizing of living areas, the use of laundry facilities, providing personal hygiene items, providing nutritious and balanced diets, food handling and food hygiene practices, an infection control program, indoor air quality, and indoor room temperature. Chapter 70.395 RCW also allows WA-DOH to do site inspections, conduct site investigations following a complaint, and impose civil penalties.

As part of the rulemaking, WA-DOH will consider whether it is best to combine both the adult and juvenile requirements in the same chapter (chapter 246-385 WAC) or to develop separate chapters, as well as creating a severity matrix for fines related to private detention facility enforcement in order to implement E2SHB 1232.

For additional information and to provide written feedback, contact Katitza Holthaus, Regulatory Affairs Manager, Environmental Public Health at katitza.holthaus@doh.wa.gov, or Candice Wilson, Tribal Public Health and Relations Executive Director, at (360) 819-7626 or candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov.

Respectfully,



Lauren Jenks
Assistant Secretary, Environmental Public Health

cc: Dennis E. Worsham, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson—Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH
Joe Laxson, Policy Director, Environmental Public Health, WA-DOH
Katitza Holthaus, Regulatory Affairs Manager, Environmental Public Health, WA-DOH