



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 2, 2015

Motion 14370

Proposed No. 2015-0204.1

Sponsors Dembowski and Lambert

1 A MOTION requesting that the executive develop and
2 transmit a report addressing space constraints at the
3 Involuntary Treatment Act court.

4 WHEREAS, chapters 71.05 and 71.34 RCW, commonly known as the
5 Washington State Involuntary Treatment Act, allows for a person to be civilly committed
6 for defined periods if the person, as the result of a mental disorder, presents an imminent
7 likelihood of serious harm, or is in imminent danger because of being gravely disabled, if
8 an adult, or presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled, if a minor, and

9 WHEREAS, King County superior court adjudicates civil commitment cases in
10 its Involuntary Treatment Act court, which hears and resolves petitions for the
11 involuntary commitment of adults and minors, thereby providing judicial oversight to the
12 process of imposing involuntary mental health treatment under state law, and

13 WHEREAS, the caseload for the Involuntary Treatment Act court has risen from
14 2,420 in 2008 to 3,852 in 2014, increasing faster than any other category of superior court
15 cases, and

16 WHEREAS, stakeholders have raised concerns about challenges to court
17 operations due to space constraints, and

18 WHEREAS, plans for redevelopment of Harborview Hall contemplate the
19 relocation and expansion of Involuntary Treatment Act court no sooner than 2018;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

21 A. The executive is requested to develop and transmit to the council a report on
22 how the county is addressing space constraints related to the significant increase in the
23 caseload of the Involuntary Treatment Act court as well as both short- and medium-term
24 space strategies to address the anticipated, continual increase in such cases, including:

25 1. A description of the anticipated level of need, based on current data and any
26 information or projections the county may have related to matters that might impact
27 caseload increases, from now through the anticipated availability for occupancy of the
28 redeveloped Harborview Hall;

29 2. Estimated one-time and ongoing costs of options to expand into new or
30 existing additional courtrooms or office space to accommodate anticipated need in the
31 short and medium term; and

32 3. Consideration of the viability of phased construction for the Harborview Hall
33 redevelopment that would enable the Involuntary Treatment Act court to relocate to an
34 expanded space sooner than 2018.

35 B. The executive should transmit the report on the strategies and estimated costs
36 to alleviate overcrowding by August 17, 2015, in the form of a paper original and an
37 electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an
38 electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, the policy staff director

39 and the lead staff for the law, justice and emergency management committee, or its
40 successor.
41

Motion 14370 was introduced on 5/18/2015 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/1/2015, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert,
Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None