

HB 1698 -- MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

SPONSOR: Washington

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Tourism by a vote of 10 to 1.

This bill designates the month of July as "Minority Mental Health Awareness Month," and encourages citizens to observe the month with appropriate events and activities to raise awareness of the affects of mental illness on minorities.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that one in five adults suffer from some type of mental health disorder and the prevalence in African Americans is higher than the general public. Many minorities do not seek treatment due to religious and cultural stigmas. This bill would bring awareness of treatments for mental illnesses to communities that most need it.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Washington and North American Mental Health Institute (NAMI).

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.