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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2016

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives G. Cole, Ballard, Scott, Leonard, Mielke, May, Moyer, Morris, Sprenkle, Paris, Winsley, Mitchell, P. Johnson and Miller)

Read first time 02/07/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to poison information centers; amending RCW  
2 18.76.010, 18.76.030, and 18.76.060; adding new sections to chapter  
3 18.76 RCW; and repealing RCW 18.76.040.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.76.010 and 1987 c 214 s 16 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The legislature finds that accidental and purposeful exposure to  
8 drugs, poisons, and ((poisonous)) toxic substances continues to be a  
9 severe health problem in the state of Washington. It further finds  
10 that a significant reduction in the consequences of such accidental  
11 exposures ((have)) has occurred as a result of the services provided by  
12 poison information centers, and that, by further enhancing these  
13 services for occupational, industrial, and environmental exposures,  
14 serious illness and injury can be even further reduced.

1       The purpose of this chapter is to reduce morbidity and mortality  
2 associated with overdose and poisoning incidents by providing emergency  
3 telephone assistance and treatment referral to victims of such  
4 incidents, by providing immediate treatment information to health care  
5 professionals, and public education and prevention programs. Further,  
6 the purpose is to improve utilization of drugs by providing information  
7 to health professionals relating to appropriate therapeutic drug use.

8       The legislature recognizes that enhanced cooperation between the  
9 emergency medical system and poison control centers will aid in  
10 responding to emergencies resulting from exposure to drugs, poisons,  
11 and ((poisonous)) toxic substances, and that, by providing telephone  
12 assistance to individuals with possible exposure to these chemicals,  
13 the need for emergency room and professional office visits will be  
14 reduced. As a result the cost of health care to those who may have  
15 exposures to drugs, poisons, and toxic substances will be decreased and  
16 appropriate treatment will be assured.

17       **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.76.030 and 1987 c 214 s 17 are each amended to read  
18 as follows:

19       The department shall, in a manner consistent with this chapter,  
20 provide support for the state-wide program of poison and drug  
21 information services ~~((conducted by poison information centers located~~  
22 ~~in the cities of Seattle and Spokane and satellite units located in the~~  
23 ~~cities of Tacoma and Yakima))~~. These services shall, no later than  
24 June 30, 1993, be centralized in and coordinated by a single nonprofit  
25 center to be located in a place determined by the secretary. The  
26 services of this ((program)) center shall be:

27       (1) Twenty-four hour emergency telephone management and treatment  
28 referral of victims of poisoning and overdose incidents, to include  
29 determining whether treatment can be accomplished at the scene of the

1 incident or transport to an emergency treatment or other facility is  
2 required, and carrying out telephone follow-up to assure that adequate  
3 care is provided;

4 (2) Providing information to health professionals involved in  
5 management of poisoning and overdose victims;

6 (3) Community education programs designed to inform the public and  
7 members of the health professions of poison prevention and treatment  
8 methods(; and

9 ~~(4) Information to health professionals regarding appropriate~~  
10 ~~therapeutic use of medications, their compatibility and stability, and~~  
11 ~~adverse drug reactions and interactions))~~ and to improve awareness of  
12 poisoning and overdose problems, occupational risks, and environmental  
13 exposures;

14 (4) Coordination of outreach units whose primary functions shall be  
15 to inform the public about poison problems and prevention methods, how  
16 to utilize the poison center, and other toxicology issues; and

17 (5) Coordination, as appropriate, with the poison information  
18 center in Portland, Oregon.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 18.76 RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21 The department shall establish a system for consulting with other  
22 state agency programs concerned with poisons and poisonings, incidents  
23 involving exposures to potentially poisonous substances, and other  
24 toxicological matters to develop the most coordinated and consistent  
25 response to such situations as is reasonably possible.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.76.060 and 1987 c 214 s 21 are each amended to read  
27 as follows:

1 (1) A person may not act as a poison center medical director or  
2 perform the duties of poison information specialists of a poison  
3 information center without being certified by the secretary under this  
4 chapter.

5 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if a poison  
6 center medical director terminates certification or is decertified,  
7 that poison center medical director's authority may be delegated by the  
8 department to any other person licensed to practice medicine and  
9 surgery under chapter 18.71 RCW or osteopathy and surgery under chapter  
10 18.57 RCW for a period of thirty days, or until a new poison center  
11 medical director is certified, whichever comes first.

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 18.76 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14 The center may receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or  
15 private sources that may be made from time to time, in trust or  
16 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the center and  
17 spend gifts, grants, or endowments or any income from the public or  
18 private sources according to their terms.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. RCW 18.76.040 and 1987 c 214 s 18 & 1980  
20 c 178 s 3 are each repealed.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 18.76 RCW  
22 to read as follows:

23 The department of health shall report to the house of  
24 representatives appropriations committee and the senate ways and means  
25 committee by December 1, 1992, on funding, efficiencies, and fees  
26 associated with establishing a single poison information center. The  
27 department of health, in consultation with the current poison center

1 network, shall recommend appropriate funding levels for the single  
2 center and shall also recommend how the single center should be funded.  
3 In preparing its report, the department shall seek means of maximizing  
4 funding under section 5 of this act. The report shall assume that  
5 general fund--state funding shall not increase over actual 1991-93  
6 levels and shall assume the use of fees established in this act.