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**SENATE BILL 6540**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1996 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Prentice and Owen

Read first time 01/17/96. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the release of addicted infants from hospitals;  
2 and adding a new section to chapter 18.71 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.71 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 Except as provided under this section, it is unlawful for a  
7 physician to discharge from a hospital or other health care facility,  
8 any infant who must be put on a controlled substance in order to be  
9 detoxified as a result of his or her mother's prenatal drug use. A  
10 physician may discharge such an infant to a facility that provides  
11 twenty-four-hour per day medical supervision or keep the infant in the  
12 hospital, until the infant has completed the withdrawal process and no  
13 longer requires a controlled substance for treatment.

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