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SENATE BILL 5455

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Saling, West, Rinehart, Murray, Stratton, L. Smith and Anderson.

Read first time January 31, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to heritable disorders; and amending RCW 70.83.010,  
2 70.83.020, and 70.83.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.83.010 and 1977 ex.s. c 80 s 40 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state of Washington  
7 to make every effort to detect as early as feasible and to prevent  
8 where possible phenylketonuria, galactosemia, and other preventable  
9 heritable disorders leading to developmental disabilities or physical  
10 defects.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.83.020 and 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 27 s 1 are each  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 It shall be the duty of the department of social and health  
14 services to require screening tests of all newborn infants before they

1 are discharged from the hospital for the detection of phenylketonuria,  
2 galactosemia, and other heritable or metabolic disorders leading to  
3 mental retardation or physical defects as defined by the state board of  
4 health: PROVIDED, That no such tests shall be given to any newborn  
5 infant whose parents or guardian object thereto on the grounds that  
6 such tests conflict with their religious tenets and practices.

7       **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.83.030 and 1979 c 141 s 113 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9       Laboratories, attending physicians, hospital administrators, or  
10 other persons performing or requesting the performance of tests for  
11 phenylketonuria and galactosemia, shall report to the department of  
12 social and health services all positive tests. The state board of  
13 health by rule and regulation shall, when it deems appropriate, require  
14 that positive tests for other heritable and metabolic disorders covered  
15 by this chapter be reported to the state department of social and  
16 health services by such persons or agencies requesting or performing  
17 such tests.