
SENATE BILL 6069

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senators Snyder, Conner, Wojahn, West, L. Smith, M. Kreidler, Talmadge, Rasmussen, Johnson, Gaspard and Skratek

Read first time 01/14/92. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to bone marrow transplants; adding new sections to
2 chapter 70.54 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that an estimated
5 sixteen thousand American children and adults are stricken each year
6 with leukemia, aplastic anemia, or other fatal blood diseases. For
7 many of these individuals, bone marrow transplantation is the only
8 chance for survival. Nearly seventy percent cannot find a suitable
9 bone marrow match within their own families. The chance that a patient
10 will find a matching, unrelated donor in the general population is
11 between one in a hundred and one in a million.

12 The legislature further finds that because tissue types are
13 inherited, and different tissue types are found in different ethnic
14 groups, the chances of finding an unrelated donor vary according to the

1 patient's ethnic and racial background. Patients from minority groups
2 are therefore less likely to find matching, unrelated donors.

3 It is the intent of the legislature to establish a state-wide bone
4 marrow donor education and recruitment program in order to increase the
5 number of Washington residents who become bone marrow donors, and to
6 increase the chance that patients in need of bone marrow transplants
7 will find a suitable bone marrow match.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of health shall establish
9 a bone marrow donor recruitment and education program to educate
10 residents of the state about:

11 (1) The need for bone marrow donors;

12 (2) The procedures required to become registered as a potential
13 bone marrow donor, including procedures for determining a person's
14 tissue type; and

15 (3) The procedures a donor must undergo to donate bone marrow or
16 other sources of blood stem cells.

17 The department of health shall make special efforts to educate and
18 recruit citizens from minority populations to volunteer as potential
19 bone marrow donors. Means of communication may include use of press,
20 radio, and television, and placement of educational materials in
21 appropriate health care facilities, blood banks, and state and local
22 agencies. The department of health in conjunction with the department
23 of licensing shall make educational materials available at all places
24 where driver licenses are issued or renewed.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of health shall make
26 special efforts to educate and recruit state employees to volunteer as
27 potential bone marrow donors. Such efforts shall include, but not be
28 limited to, conducting a bone marrow donor drive to encourage state

1 employees to volunteer as potential bone marrow donors. The drive
2 shall include educational materials furnished by the national bone
3 marrow donor program and presentations that explain the need for bone
4 marrow donors, and the procedures for becoming registered as potential
5 bone marrow donors. The cost of educational materials and
6 presentations to state employees shall be borne by the national bone
7 marrow donor program.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of forty thousand dollars, or as
9 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
10 ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the department of health
11 for the purposes of implementing sections 2 and 3 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each
13 added to chapter 70.54 RCW.