
HOUSE BILL 2366

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Carlson, Pennington, Radcliff, Mielke, Mulliken, Boldt, Gardner, Sheahan, Bush, Anderson, Mitchell, Dyer, Schoesler and McDonald

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1 AN ACT Relating to providing infectious disease testing for good
2 samaritans; adding a new section to chapter 70.05 RCW; creating a new
3 section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that citizens who
6 assist individuals in emergency situations perform a needed and
7 valuable role that deserves recognition and support. The legislature
8 further finds that emergency assistance in the form of mouth to mouth
9 resuscitation or other emergency medical procedures resulting in the
10 exchange of bodily fluids significantly increases the odds of being
11 exposed to a deadly infectious disease. Some of the more life-
12 threatening diseases that can be transferred during an emergency
13 procedure where bodily fluids are exchanged include hepatitis A or B,
14 hepatitis non A or B, tuberculosis, HIV, and AIDS. The legislature
15 further finds that a number of good samaritans who perform life-saving
16 emergency procedures such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation are unable
17 to pay for the tests necessary for detecting infectious diseases that
18 could have been transmitted during the emergency procedure. It is the
19 purpose of this act to provide infectious disease testing at no cost to

1 good samaritans who request testing for infectious diseases after
2 rendering emergency assistance that has brought them into contact with
3 a bodily fluid.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.05 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 Any person, who without compensation or the expectation of
7 compensation renders emergency care, as defined in RCW 4.24.310, at the
8 scene of an emergency that brings them into contact with bodily fluids
9 shall be provided the opportunity to have infectious disease testing
10 provided by a local public health department free of charge, provided
11 the person needing the test has no insurance coverage. The department
12 of health shall adopt rules concerning the use of this public health
13 service.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
15 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
16 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
17 immediately.

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