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**SENATE BILL 6694**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1998 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Patterson, Long, Heavey, Prentice, Haugen, Fraser, Spanel, B. Sheldon, Snyder, Bauer, Wojahn and Schow

Read first time 01/27/98. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to newborn screening for exposure to harmful drugs;  
2 adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The policy of the state of Washington is to  
5 make every effort to detect as early as feasible and to prevent where  
6 possible preventable disorders resulting from parental use of alcohol  
7 and drugs.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of health, in consultation  
9 with appropriate medical professionals, shall develop screening  
10 criteria for use in identifying pregnant or lactating women addicted to  
11 drugs or alcohol who are at risk of producing a drug-affected baby.  
12 The department shall also develop training protocols for medical  
13 professionals related to the identification and screening of women at  
14 risk of producing a drug-affected baby.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of health shall investigate  
16 medical protocols for laboratory testing of newborn infants for  
17 exposure to alcohol or drugs. The department of health shall consider

1 how to improve the current system with respect to testing, considering  
2 such variables as whether such testing is available, its cost, which  
3 entity is currently responsible for ordering testing, and whether  
4 testing should be mandatory or targeted.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of health shall report to the  
6 appropriate legislative committees on its findings under sections 2 and  
7 3 of this act by December 1, 1998.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department of health shall adopt rules  
9 necessary to carry out the intent of this chapter.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute  
11 a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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