

1 **SB 5739** - H AMD

2 By Representative Lambert

3 On page 2, after line 32, insert the following:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.103.100 and 1991 c 176 s 6 are each  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The council shall research and develop an appropriate training  
7 component on the subject of sudden, unexplained child death, including  
8 but not limited to sudden infant death syndrome. The training  
9 component shall include, at a minimum:

10 ((+1)) (a) Medical information on sudden, unexplained child death  
11 for first responders, including awareness and sensitivity in dealing  
12 with families and child care providers, and the importance of  
13 forensically competent death scene investigation;

14 ((+2)) (b) Information on community resources and support groups  
15 available to assist families who have lost a child to sudden,  
16 unexplained death, including sudden infant death syndrome; and

17 ~~((+3) Development and adoption of an up-to-date protocol of  
18 investigation in cases of sudden, unexplained child death, including  
19 the importance of a consistent policy of thorough death scene  
20 investigation, and an autopsy in unresolved cases as appropriate;~~

21 (+4)) (c) The value of timely communication between the county  
22 coroner or medical examiner and the public health department, when a  
23 sudden, unexplained child death occurs, in order to achieve a better  
24 understanding of such deaths, and connecting families to various  
25 community and public health support systems to enhance recovery from  
26 grief.

27 (2) The council shall work with volunteer groups with expertise in  
28 the area of sudden, unexplained child death, including but not limited  
29 to the SIDS ~~((Northwest Regional Center at Children's Hospital, the  
30 Washington chapter of the national SIDS))~~ foundation ~~((7))~~ of Washington  
31 and the Washington association of county officials.

32 ~~((Upon development of an appropriate curriculum, agreed upon by  
33 the council, the training module shall be offered to first responders,  
34 coroners, medical examiners, prosecuting attorneys serving as coroners,  
35 and investigators, both voluntarily through their various associations  
36 and as a course offering at the criminal justice training center.))~~

1       (3) Basic training for death investigators offered by the  
2 Washington association of coroners and medical examiners and the  
3 criminal justice training commission shall include a module which  
4 specifically addresses the investigations of the sudden unexplained  
5 deaths of children under the age of three. The training module shall  
6 include a scene investigation protocol endorsed or developed by the  
7 council. A similar training curriculum shall be required for city and  
8 county law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel  
9 certified by the department of health as part of their basic training  
10 through the criminal justice training commission or the department of  
11 health emergency medical training certification program.

12       (4) Each county shall use a protocol that has been endorsed or  
13 developed by the council for scene investigations of the sudden  
14 unexplained deaths of children under the age of three. The council may  
15 utilize guidelines from the center for disease control and other  
16 appropriate resources.

17       (5) The council shall develop a protocol for autopsies of children  
18 under the age of three whose deaths are sudden and unexplained. This  
19 protocol shall be used by pathologists who are not certified by the  
20 American board of pathology in forensic pathology, and who are  
21 providing autopsy services to coroners and medical examiners.

22       **Sec. 4.** RCW 68.50.104 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 16 s 14 are each  
23 amended to read as follows:

24       (1) The cost of autopsy shall be borne by the county in which the  
25 autopsy is performed, except when requested by the department of labor  
26 and industries, in which case, the department shall bear the cost of  
27 such autopsy(~~(; and except when performed on a body of an infant under~~  
28 ~~the age of three years by the University of Washington medical school,~~  
29 ~~in which case the medical school shall bear the cost of such autopsy)).~~

30       (2) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, when the county  
31 bears the cost of an autopsy, it shall be reimbursed from the death  
32 investigations(~~(<sup>+</sup>)~~) account, established by RCW 43.79.445, as follows:

33       ~~((<sup>+</sup>))~~ (a) Up to forty percent of the cost of contracting for the  
34 services of a pathologist to perform an autopsy; (~~and~~

35       ~~(<sup>+</sup>))~~ (b) Up to twenty-five percent of the salary of pathologists  
36 who are primarily engaged in performing autopsies and are (~~(<sup>+</sup>)~~) (i)

1 county coroners or county medical examiners, or ~~((b))~~ (ii) employees  
2 of a county coroner or county medical examiner; and

3 (c) When the county bears the cost of an autopsy of a child under  
4 the age of three whose death was sudden and unexplained, the county  
5 shall be reimbursed for the expenses of the autopsy when the death  
6 scene investigation and the autopsy have been conducted under RCW  
7 43.103.100 (4) and (5), and the autopsy has been done at a facility  
8 designed for the performance of autopsies.

9 Payments from the account shall be made pursuant to biennial  
10 appropriation: PROVIDED, That no county may reduce funds appropriated  
11 for this purpose below 1983 budgeted levels.-

**EFFECT:** Provides that the Washington association of coroners and medical examiners and the criminal justice training commission shall include a training module which specifically addresses the investigations of the sudden unexplained deaths of children under the age of three, that a similar training curriculum be required for city and county law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel certified by the department of health as part of their basic training, that the Washington state forensic investigation council develop a protocol for autopsies of children under the age of three whose deaths are sudden and unexplained, and that when a county bears the cost of an autopsy of a child under the age of three whose death was sudden and unexplained, the county shall be reimbursed for the expenses of the autopsy if certain circumstances are met.