
HOUSE BILL 1999

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Edmonds, Cody, Pennington, Cooper, Conway, Kenney, Esser, Kagi, Lovick, Veloria and Rockefeller

Read first time 02/12/1999. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to smoking cessation; adding a new section to
2 chapter 74.09 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Tobacco use is the leading cause of
5 disease and premature death in every population group in the United
6 States and tends to affect the low-income population
7 disproportionately. People with low income have higher smoking rates
8 and are less likely to stop their smoking habit. It has been estimated
9 that the state currently spends approximately two hundred thirty
10 million dollars each year through its medical assistance programs to
11 pay for medical and long-term care services for people with health
12 conditions associated with tobacco use.

13 (2) Smoking cessation programs have been found to be effective when
14 they are targeted to specific groups. Effective prevention and control
15 programs that stress appropriate and direct intervention strategies
16 need to be implemented to reduce the devastating health effects of
17 tobacco use among low-income people and to simultaneously reduce the
18 medical assistance expenditures for the treatment of the health effects
19 of tobacco.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The department shall develop and implement a smoking cessation
4 program for medical assistance clients with payments received from the
5 master settlement agreement entered into by the state of Washington
6 with leading United States tobacco product manufacturers. The smoking
7 cessation program shall include but is not limited to using
8 intervention strategies using federal food and drug administration
9 approved cessation pharmaceutical products and therapies. The program
10 shall begin offering services by July 1, 2001. The department may
11 establish an advisory group of technical experts and citizens to
12 provide advice related to the design and implementation of the smoking
13 cessation program.

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