
SENATE BILL 5430

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Wojahn, Winsley, Jacobsen, Hale, Kohl-Welles, Thibaudeau, Benton, Rasmussen, Long, Fraser, Prentice, Shin, Gardner, Heavey, McAuliffe, Patterson, Franklin, Costa, Eide, B. Sheldon and Spanel

Read first time 01/22/1999. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the office of women's health; adding a new
2 section to chapter 43.70 RCW; creating a new section; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that, until recently,
6 little attention has been given to the detection, treatment, and
7 prevention of disease as specifically related to the unique needs and
8 experiences of women. Reports show that each year between two and four
9 million women are battered in the United States and domestic violence
10 is the single largest cause of injury to women between the ages of
11 fifteen and forty-four. It is therefore necessary that Washington
12 state address these problems facing women by providing: (1) Equity in
13 policy considerations and decisions affecting women's health, including
14 the administration, funding, and delivery of medical care and health
15 care-related services; (2) additional opportunities for basic and
16 applied research directly affecting women's health; and (3) innovative
17 programs to address the effects of domestic violence on the health of
18 women in the state of Washington.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The office of women's health is created in the department. The
4 secretary shall appoint the director of the office.

5 (2) The office of women's health shall:

6 (a) Develop a strategic plan for the department to improve public
7 health services and programs targeting women;

8 (b) Conduct departmental policy analysis on specific issues related
9 to women's health;

10 (c) Coordinate pilot projects and planning projects funded by the
11 state that are related to women's health;

12 (d) Serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding women's
13 health, data, strategies, and programs that address women's health
14 issues, including pregnancy, breast and cervical cancers, AIDS,
15 osteoporosis, and menopause, as well as issues that impact women's
16 health, including substance abuse, domestic violence, housing, teenage
17 pregnancy, and sexual assault;

18 (e) Communicate and disseminate information and perform a liaison
19 function within the department and to providers of health, social,
20 educational, and support services to women;

21 (f) Provide technical assistance to counties, other public
22 entities, and private entities seeking to obtain funds for initiatives
23 in women's health, including identification of sources of funding and
24 assistance with the writing of grants; and

25 (g) Encourage innovative response by public and private entities
26 that are attempting to address women's health issues.

27 (3) The secretary may accept such grants, services, and property
28 from the federal government, foundations, organizations, medical
29 schools, and other entities as are available for the purposes of
30 fulfilling the obligations of the office of women's health.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of . . . dollars, or as much thereof
32 as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund to the
33 . . . for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, to carry out the
34 purposes of this act.

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