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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5597**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Environmental Quality & Water Resources  
(originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Swecker, Jacobsen, Morton,  
Fairley, Rasmussen and Winsley)

Read first time 02/25/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to occupational health standards for airborne  
2 pathogens and waterborne pathogens; creating new sections; and  
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that workers engaged  
6 in the handling, transportation, treatment, and disposal of biomedical  
7 waste may be exposed to elevated risks of contracting diseases from  
8 pathogens conveyed by air or water. These risks may be reduced by  
9 application of occupational health standards for airborne pathogens and  
10 waterborne pathogens that are comparable to those developed to protect  
11 workers from bloodborne pathogens.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of labor and industries  
13 shall review available data, studies, hazard analyses, and other  
14 information regarding the potential for employee exposure to airborne  
15 or waterborne biological hazards in the handling, transport, treatment,  
16 and disposal of biomedical waste. Based on this review, the department  
17 shall make recommendations for appropriate action under the  
18 department's existing authority to protect workers and develop a plan

1 for implementing the recommendations. The department shall report to  
2 the legislature its findings, recommendations, and implementation plan  
3 and recommendations for action by the legislature no later than  
4 December 1, 1999.

5 (2) This section expires December 31, 1999.

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