
SENATE BILL 5597

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Swecker, Jacobsen, Morton, Fairley, Rasmussen and Winsley

Read first time 01/28/1999. Referred to Committee on Environmental Quality & Water Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to occupational health standards for airborne
2 pathogens and waterborne pathogens; adding a new section to chapter
3 49.17 RCW; and creating a new section.

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.** A new section is added to chapter 49.17 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 The department of labor and industries, in consultation with the
15 department of health, shall develop and adopt by rule occupational

1 health standards for biological agents that protect workers from
2 airborne pathogens and waterborne pathogens.

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