

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SB 5903

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**As Passed House:**

April 10, 2001

**Title:** An act relating to increasing the license surcharge for the impaired physician program.

**Brief Description:** Changing physician license fees.

**Sponsors:** By Senators Winsley, Franklin, Costa and Thibaudeau.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care: 3/29/01 [DP];

Appropriations: 3/31/01, 4/2/01 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 4/10/01, 92-2.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Raises the \$25 annual surcharge on physician licenses to no more than \$35 to fund the Impaired Physicians Program.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 14 members: Representatives Campbell, Republican Co-Chair; Cody, Democratic Co-Chair; Schual-Berke, Democratic Vice Chair; Skinner, Republican Vice Chair; Alexander, Ballasiotes, Conway, Darneille, Edmonds, Edwards, Marine, McMorris, Pennington and Ruderman.

**Staff:** John Welsh (786-7133).

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 29 members: Representatives Sehlin, Republican Co-Chair; H. Sommers, Democratic Co-Chair; Barlean, Republican Vice Chair; Doumit, Democratic Vice Chair; Lisk, Republican Vice Chair; Alexander, Benson, Boldt, Buck, Clements, Cody, Cox, Dunshee, Fromhold, Grant, Kagi, Keiser, Kenney, Kessler,

Linville, Mastin, McIntire, Pearson, Pflug, Ruderman, D. Schmidt, Schual-Berke, Talcott and Tokuda.

**Minority Report:** Without recommendation. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Lambert and Mulliken.

**Staff:** Linda Brooks (786-7153).

**Background:**

A statutory surcharge of \$25 is added to a licensing fee or license renewal fee of physicians for financing the Impaired Physician Program. The Medical Quality Assurance Commission is required by law to enter into a contract with a professional entity which provides evaluation and treatment services to physicians impaired as a result of chemical abuse or mental illness to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to their patients.

**Summary of Bill:**

The statutory surcharge of \$25 for financing the Impaired Physician Program is raised to no more than \$35.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** (Health Care) Raises in the surcharge for funding the impaired physician program are necessary to provide needed services to impaired physicians.

**Testimony For:** (Appropriations) This increase in the fee surcharge will help to expand the services offered through the Impaired Physicians' Program, particularly in the area of mental health services. The original \$25 surcharge was imposed more than a decade ago when the program was first created.

**Testimony Against:** (Health Care) None.

**Testimony Against:** (Appropriations) None.

**Testified:** (Health Care) Senator Winsley, prime sponsor; and Carl Nelson, Washington State Medical Association.

**Testified:** (Appropriations) Carl Nelson, Washington State Medical Association.

