

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1093

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Health & Long-Term Care, March 21, 2001

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

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

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Ballasiotes, Cody, Campbell, Ruderman, Skinner, Conway, Edmonds, Kenney and Kagi).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long-Term Care: 3/21/01 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Thibaudeau, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Deccio, Fraser, Parlette and Winsley.

**Staff:** Joan K. Mell (786-7447)

**Background:** A statutory surcharge of \$25 is added to a licensing fee or license renewal fee of physicians to finance 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:** The bill is needed to enhance programs for impaired physicians.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Sue Shoblom, Dept. of Health.