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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1042**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2001 Regular Session**

**By** House Of Representatives Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Campbell, Schual-Berke, Skinner, Haigh and Lantz)

Read first time . Referred to .

1 AN ACT Relating to sterilization procedures in the commercial  
2 practices of electrology and tattooing; adding new sections to  
3 chapter 70.54 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds and declares that the practices of  
8 electrology and tattooing involve an invasive procedure with the  
9 use of needles and instruments which may be dangerous when  
10 improperly sterilized presenting a risk of infecting the client  
11 with bloodborne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis B. It is in the  
12 interests of the public health, safety, and welfare to establish  
13 requirements for the sterilization procedures in the commercial  
14 practices of electrology and tattooing in this state.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54  
16 RCW to read as follows:

1 The definitions in this section apply throughout sections 1, 3,  
2 and 4 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3 (1) "Electrologist" means a person who practices the business  
4 of electrology for a fee.

5 (2) "Electrology" means the process by which hair is  
6 permanently removed through the utilization of solid needle/probe  
7 electrode epilation, including thermolysis, being of shortwave,  
8 high frequency type, and including electrolysis, being of galvanic  
9 type, or a combination of both which is accomplished by a  
10 superimposed or sequential blend.

11 (3) "Tattoo artist" means a person who practices the business  
12 of tattooing for a fee.

13 (4) "Tattooing" means the indelible mark, figure, or decorative  
14 design introduced by insertion of nontoxic dyes or pigments into  
15 or under the subcutaneous portion of the skin upon the body of a  
16 live human being for cosmetic or figurative purposes.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54  
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 The secretary of health shall adopt by rule requirements for  
20 the sterilization of needles and instruments by electrologists and  
21 tattoo artists in accordance with nationally recognized  
22 professional standards. The secretary shall consider the universal  
23 precautions for infection control, as recommended by the United  
24 States centers for disease control, and guidelines for infection  
25 control, as recommended by the national environmental health  
26 association and the alliance of professional tattooists, in the  
27 adoption of these sterilization requirements.

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29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54  
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 (1) Any person who practices electrology or tattooing shall  
32 comply with the rules adopted by the department of health under  
33 section 3 of this act.

34 (2) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

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