
HOUSE BILL 1945

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Darneille, Hunt, Morris and Conway

Read first time 02/09/2001. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to immunizations at long-term care facilities;
2 adding a new section to chapter 74.39 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
5 ensure that long-term care facilities are safe.

6 (1) The long-term care resident and employee immunization act is
7 intended to:

8 (a) Prevent and reduce the occurrence and severity of the influenza
9 virus and pneumococcal disease by increasing the use of immunizations
10 licensed by the food and drug administration;

11 (b) Avoid pain, suffering, and deaths that may result from the
12 influenza virus and pneumococcal disease;

13 (c) Improve the well-being and quality of life of residents and
14 employees of long-term care facilities; and

15 (d) Reduce avoidable costs associated with treating the influenza
16 virus and pneumococcal disease.

17 (2) The legislature finds that:

18 (a) Recent studies show that it is important to immunize older
19 citizens against the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease;

1 (b) The centers for disease control and prevention recommend
2 individuals over age sixty-five receive immunizations against the
3 influenza virus and pneumococcal disease;

4 (c) The influenza virus and pneumococcal disease have been
5 identified as leading causes of death for citizens over age sixty-five;

6 (d) Immunizations licensed by the food and drug administration are
7 readily available and effective in reducing and preventing the severity
8 of the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease in people over age
9 sixty-five;

10 (e) All types of long-term care facilities operating in the state
11 are appropriate locations to improve immunization rates among residents
12 over age sixty-five; and

13 (f) Employees of long-term care facilities should be immunized
14 against influenza and pneumococcal disease to prevent the spread of
15 these diseases to the frail and elderly residents of long-term care
16 facilities.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.39 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) Long-term care facilities shall:

20 (a) Provide access on-site or make available elsewhere for all
21 employees and residents to obtain the influenza and pneumococcal
22 immunizations on an annual basis;

23 (b) Require that each resident, or the resident's legal
24 representative, upon admission to the facility, be informed verbally
25 and in writing of the benefits of receiving the influenza virus
26 immunization and the pneumococcal pneumonia immunization;

27 (c) Inform all employees, verbally and in writing, at the time of
28 hire, of the benefits of receiving the influenza virus and pneumococcal
29 pneumonia immunization.

30 (2) As used in this section, "long-term care facility" includes
31 nursing homes licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW, boarding homes licensed
32 under chapter 18.20 RCW, and adult family homes licensed under chapter
33 70.128 RCW.

34 (3) The department of health shall adopt rules to implement this
35 section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the long-
2 term care resident and employee immunization act of 2001.

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