
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2703

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Darneille, Skinner, Cody and Wood)

Read first time 02/08/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to the study of the effects of fluoridation of
2 public water supplies; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that dental caries,
5 one of the most prevalent diseases known, is often irreversible and has
6 a significant medical and economic impact on millions of sufferers.
7 The legislature further finds that fluoride is known to reduce tooth
8 decay and its associated pain and suffering by as much as forty
9 percent, yet despite its proven benefits, many Washingtonians are not
10 served by fluoridated water supplies, the most cost-effective means of
11 providing this trace element to the population. The legislature
12 further finds that the state of Washington has a compelling need for
13 current, reliable, and comprehensive information regarding the
14 potential benefits of fluoridation in reducing expenditures incurred by
15 medicaid and other public health programs.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of health must study the
17 costs and benefits of dental disease prevention through fluoridation of
18 public water supplies. At a minimum, the study must include a review

1 of medicaid and other public health costs to the state to determine the
2 extent to which differences in these costs in different regions of the
3 state are attributable to the presence or absence of fluoridated public
4 water supplies. The costs of the study shall be borne by foundation
5 grants. The department of health must submit a report of its findings
6 to the legislature by December 31, 2002.

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