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SENATE BILL 5829

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Patterson and Swecker

Read first time 02/05/2001. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to cooperative activities by local governments;  
2 amending RCW 70.44.450; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that maintaining the  
5 viability of health care service delivery throughout the state of  
6 Washington is a primary goal of state health policy. The legislature  
7 also finds that many hospitals located in Washington are operated by  
8 public hospital districts authorized under chapter 70.44 RCW, which are  
9 municipal corporations governed by publicly elected commissioners and  
10 supported by property taxes levied on the property within the  
11 districts. The legislature declares that public hospital districts  
12 should be permitted to use their tax and other limited financial  
13 resources in the most efficient manner possible and that it is not  
14 cost-effective, practical, or desirable to provide quality health and  
15 hospital care services in areas served by public hospital districts in  
16 competition with one another. It is the intent of this act to foster  
17 the development of cooperative and collaborative arrangements among  
18 public hospital districts by specifically authorizing cooperative

1 agreements and contracts for these entities under the interlocal  
2 cooperation act.

3       **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.44.450 and 1992 c 161 s 3 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5       In addition to other powers granted to public hospital districts by  
6 chapter 39.34 RCW, (~~rural~~) public hospital districts may enter into  
7 cooperative agreements and contracts with other (~~rural~~) public  
8 hospital districts in order to provide for the health care needs of the  
9 people served by the hospital districts. These agreements and  
10 contracts are specifically authorized to include:

11       (1) Allocation of health care services among the different  
12 facilities owned and operated by the districts;

13       (2) Combined purchases and allocations of medical equipment and  
14 technologies;

15       (3) Joint agreements and contracts for health care service delivery  
16 and payment with public and private entities; and

17       (4) Other cooperative arrangements consistent with the intent of  
18 chapter 161, Laws of 1992. The provisions of chapter 39.34 RCW shall  
19 apply to the development and implementation of the cooperative  
20 contracts and agreements.

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