

2SSB 6197 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Health Care

NOT CONSIDERED 03/02/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 The legislature finds that women and people of color experience  
6 significant disparities from men and the general population in  
7 education, employment, healthful living conditions, access to health  
8 care, and other social determinants of health. The legislature finds  
9 that these circumstances coupled with lower, slower, and less  
10 culturally appropriate and gender appropriate access to needed medical  
11 care result in higher rates of morbidity and mortality for women and  
12 persons of color than observed in the general population. Health  
13 disparities are defined by the national institute of health as the  
14 differences in incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of disease  
15 and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific  
16 population groups in the United States.

17 It is the intent of the Washington state legislature to create the  
18 healthiest state in the nation by striving to eliminate health  
19 disparities in people of color and between men and women. In meeting  
20 the intent of this act, the legislature creates the governor's  
21 interagency coordinating council on health disparities. This council  
22 shall create an action plan and statewide policy to include health  
23 impact reviews that measure and address other social determinants of  
24 health that lead to disparities as well as the contributing factors of  
25 health that can have broad impacts on improving status, health  
26 literacy, physical activity, and nutrition.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.20.025 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 s 208 are each  
28 amended to read as follows:

1 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
2 this section apply throughout this chapter.

3 (1) "Commissions" means the Washington state commission on African-  
4 American affairs established in chapter 43.113 RCW, the Washington  
5 state commission on Asian Pacific American affairs established in  
6 chapter 43.117 RCW, the Washington state commission on Hispanic affairs  
7 established in chapter 43.115 RCW, and the governor's office of Indian  
8 affairs.

9 (2) "Consumer representative" means any person who is not an  
10 elected official, who has no fiduciary obligation to a health facility  
11 or other health agency, and who has no material financial interest in  
12 the rendering of health services.

13 ~~((+2))~~ (3) "Council" means the ~~((health care access and cost~~  
14 ~~control))~~ governor's interagency coordinating council on health  
15 disparities, convened according to this chapter.

16 ~~((+3))~~ (4) "Department" means the department of health.

17 ~~((+4))~~ (5) "Health disparities" means the difference in incidence,  
18 prevalence, mortality, or burden of disease and other adverse health  
19 conditions, including lack of access to proven health care services  
20 that exists between specific population groups in Washington state.

21 (6) "Health impact review" means a review of a legislative or  
22 budgetary proposal completed according to the terms of this chapter  
23 that determines the extent to which the proposal improves or  
24 exacerbates health disparities.

25 (7) "Secretary" means the secretary of health, or the secretary's  
26 designee.

27 ~~((+5))~~ (8) "Local health board" means a health board created  
28 pursuant to chapter 70.05, 70.08, or 70.46 RCW.

29 ~~((+6))~~ (9) "Local health officer" means the legally qualified  
30 physician appointed as a health officer pursuant to chapter 70.05,  
31 70.08, or 70.46 RCW.

32 ~~((+7))~~ (10) "Social determinants of health" means those elements  
33 of social structure most closely shown to affect health and illness,  
34 including at a minimum, early learning, education, socioeconomic  
35 standing, safe housing, gender, incidence of violence, convenient and  
36 affordable access to safe opportunities for physical activity, healthy  
37 diet, and appropriate health care services.

1        (11) "State board" means the state board of health created under  
2 chapter 43.20 RCW.

3        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5        (1) In collaboration with staff whom the office of financial  
6 management may assign, and within funds made expressly available to the  
7 state board for these purposes, the state board shall assist the  
8 governor by convening and providing assistance to the council. The  
9 council shall include one representative from each of the following  
10 groups: Each of the commissions, the state board, the department, the  
11 department of social and health services, the employment security  
12 department, the department of community, trade, and economic  
13 development, the department of corrections, the health care authority,  
14 the department of labor and industries, the department of agriculture,  
15 the department of ecology, the higher education coordinating board, the  
16 office of the insurance commissioner, the office of the superintendent  
17 of public instruction, the department of early learning, the department  
18 of transportation, the state board for community and technical  
19 colleges, the work force training and education coordinating board, and  
20 two members of the public who will represent the interests of health  
21 care consumers. The council is a class one group under RCW 43.03.220.  
22 The two public members shall be paid per diem and travel expenses in  
23 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. The council shall reflect  
24 diversity in race, ethnicity, and gender. The governor or the  
25 governor's designee shall chair the council.

26        (2) The council shall promote and facilitate communication,  
27 coordination, and collaboration among relevant state agencies and  
28 communities of color, and the private sector and public sector, to  
29 address health disparities. The council shall conduct public hearings,  
30 inquiries, studies, or other forms of information gathering to  
31 understand how the actions of state government ameliorate or contribute  
32 to health disparities. All state agencies must cooperate with the  
33 council's efforts.

34        (3) The council with assistance from the state board, shall assess  
35 through public hearings, review of existing data, and other means, and  
36 recommend initiatives for improving the availability of culturally

1 appropriate health literature and interpretive services within public  
2 and private health-related agencies.

3 (4) In order to assist with its work, the council shall establish  
4 advisory committees to include members from local communities.

5 (5) The advisory committee shall reflect diversity in race,  
6 ethnicity, and gender.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 The council shall consider in its deliberations and by 2012, create  
10 an action plan for eliminating health disparities. The action plan  
11 must address, but is not limited to, the following diseases,  
12 conditions, and health indicators: Diabetes, asthma, infant mortality,  
13 HIV/AIDS, heart disease, strokes, breast cancer, cervical cancer,  
14 prostate cancer, chronic kidney disease, sudden infant death syndrome  
15 (SIDS), mental health, women's health issues, smoking cessation, oral  
16 disease, and immunization rates of children and senior citizens. The  
17 action plan shall be updated biannually. The council shall meet as  
18 often as necessary but not less than six times per calendar year. The  
19 council shall report its progress with the action plan to the governor  
20 and the legislature no later than January 15, 2008. A second report  
21 shall be presented no later than January 15, 2010, and a third report  
22 from the council shall be presented to the governor and the legislature  
23 no later than January 15, 2012. Thereafter, the governor and  
24 legislature shall require progress updates from the council every four  
25 years in odd-numbered years. The action plan shall recognize the need  
26 for flexibility.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20 RCW  
28 to read as follows:

29 The state board shall, to the extent that funds are available  
30 expressly for this purpose, complete health impact reviews, in  
31 collaboration with the council, and with assistance that shall be  
32 provided by any state agency of which the board makes a request.

33 (1) A health impact review may be initiated by a written request  
34 submitted according to forms and procedures proposed by the council and  
35 approved by the state board before December 1, 2006.

1 (2) Any state legislator or the governor may request a review of  
2 any proposal for a state legislative or budgetary change. Upon  
3 receiving a request for a health impact review from the governor or a  
4 member of the legislature during a legislative session, the state board  
5 shall deliver the health impact review to the requesting party in no  
6 more than ten days.

7 (3) The state board may limit the number of health impact reviews  
8 it produces to retain quality while operating within its available  
9 resources.

10 (4) A state agency may decline a request to provide assistance if  
11 complying with the request would not be feasible while operating within  
12 its available resources.

13 (5) Upon delivery of the review to the requesting party, it shall  
14 be a public document, and shall be available on the state board's web  
15 site.

16 (6) The review shall be based on the best available empirical  
17 information and professional assumptions available to the state board  
18 within the time required for completing the review. The review should  
19 consider direct impacts on health disparities as well as changes in the  
20 social determinants of health.

21 (7) The state board and the department shall collaborate to obtain  
22 any federal or private funding that may become available to implement  
23 the state board's duties under this chapter. If the department  
24 receives such funding, the department shall allocate it to the state  
25 board and affected agencies to implement its duties under this chapter,  
26 and any state general funds that may have been appropriated but are no  
27 longer needed by the state board shall lapse to the state general fund.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20 RCW  
29 to read as follows:

30 The state board and the department shall collaborate to obtain any  
31 federal or private funding that may become available to implement the  
32 state board's duties under this chapter. If the department receives  
33 such funding, the department shall allocate it to the state board to  
34 implement its duties under this chapter, and any state general funds  
35 that may have been appropriated but are no longer needed by the state  
36 board shall lapse to the state general fund.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 7.**   A new section is added to chapter 44.28 RCW  
2   to read as follows:

3        The joint committee shall conduct a review of the governor's  
4   interagency coordinating council on health disparities and its  
5   functions.   The review shall be substantially the same as a sunset  
6   review under chapter 43.131 RCW.   The joint committee shall present its  
7   findings to appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1,  
8   2016."

9        Correct the title.

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