

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1533

As Reported by House Committee On:
Health Care

Title: An act relating to inspection of hospitals.

Brief Description: Revising provisions for inspection of hospitals.

Sponsors: Representatives Appleton, Bailey, Cody, Morrell, Skinner, Hinkle, Curtis and Campbell; by request of Department of Health.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 2/24/05, 2/28/05 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Extends the inspection period for hospitals from every 12 months to every 18 months.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Campbell, Vice Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Bailey, Ranking Minority Member; Curtis, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Appleton, Clibborn, Condotta, Green, Hinkle, Lantz, Moeller, Schual-Berke and Skinner.

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

The Department of Health (Department) must conduct annual inspections of hospitals, unless the hospital has been inspected by either the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or the American Osteopathic Association within the previous year. The Department is required to coordinate hospital inspection activities with other agencies, including the Department of Social and Health Services and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, to minimize the number of separate inspections that must be conducted.

Summary of Bill:

The requirement that the Department conduct inspections of hospitals every 12 months is extended to every 18 months. Surveys conducted by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or the American Osteopathic Association may substitute for a Department survey as long as their standards are substantially equivalent to those of the Department. The hospital is responsible for notifying the Department within 30 days of an accreditation inspection and making the inspection report available to the Department.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: An 18 month survey cycle assures that health facilities will be surveyed with greater regularity and allows the Department of Health to focus on the facilities that have known issues.

(With concerns) Extending the time period for conducting facility should not result in higher licensing fees.

Testimony Against: None.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Laurie Jenkins, Department of Health.

(With concerns) Len McComb, Washington State Hospital Association.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.