
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4410

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Cody, Haler, Moeller, Clibborn,
Darneille, Fromhold and Chase

Read first time 03/21/2005. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 WHEREAS, The public health system as defined in RCW 43.70.575 is
2 essential to fulfilling the state's constitutional responsibility to
3 protect the health and safety of its citizens; and
4 WHEREAS, The population-based services provided by the public
5 health system are cost-effective and are critical in improving the
6 value of public investments in all types of health services and in
7 controlling health care costs; and
8 WHEREAS, Our state public health system lacks the capacity to
9 fulfill its critical functions with respect to well understood health
10 threats such as impure air and water, unsanitary living conditions,
11 unsafe food, and inadequate rates of immunization; and
12 WHEREAS, The public health system lacks the capacity to address the
13 emerging health threats of the 21st century including bioterrorism and
14 other emergencies, health disparities, the spread of drug-resistant
15 tuberculosis, HIV, SARS, West Nile virus, and other infectious
16 diseases, and the predictable increases of heart disease, cancer,
17 diabetes, and other diseases that will result from tobacco and other
18 drug addiction, poor diet, and inadequate exercise; and
19 WHEREAS, According to the provisions of chapter 43.70 RCW the
20 department of health has developed a public health improvement plan, in

1 consultation with local health jurisdictions, the state board of
2 health, and other state agencies, health services providers, and
3 citizens concerned about public health; and

4 WHEREAS, The public health improvement plan includes standards for
5 all elements of the public health system and provides a detailed
6 accounting of both performance and funding deficits in the current
7 system, suggesting ways in which additional funds could be used to
8 improve that system;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives,
10 the Senate concurring, That the public health financing task force be
11 established. Its members shall include one member from each caucus
12 from the committee on health and the principal fiscal committee of the
13 House of Representatives and Senate. The task force shall collaborate
14 with the office of the governor, the department of health, the
15 association of counties, the association of local public health
16 officials, and the state board of health. The task force shall appoint
17 an executive committee not to exceed four members from among its voting
18 members and may appoint one subcommittee if necessary. Staffing
19 assistance shall be provided by the House of Representatives office of
20 program research, Senate committee services, and the joint legislative
21 audit and review committee. Legislative members of the task force
22 shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
23 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members, except those representing an
24 employer or organization, are entitled to be reimbursed for travel
25 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force recommend a source and
27 level of dedicated funding the legislature should provide for public
28 health services. The recommendation shall include methods to ensure
29 that such funding does not supplant existing federal, state, and local
30 funds received by any element of the public health system; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force complete a report to
32 the governor and the legislature by July 1, 2006.

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