
ENGROSSED 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 joint select committee on public health
11 financing be established. Its members shall include one member from
12 each caucus from the committee on health and the principal fiscal
13 committee of the House of Representatives and Senate. The joint select
14 committee shall collaborate with the office of the governor, the
15 department of health, the association of counties, the association of
16 local public health officials, and the state board of health. The
17 joint select committee shall elect one of its members to serve as its
18 chair. Staffing assistance shall be provided by the House of
19 Representatives office of program research and Senate committee
20 services. Legislative members of the joint select committee shall be
21 reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee review all
23 current and potential local, state, and federal funding sources and
24 expenditures for public health services and recommend potential sources
25 of future funding for public health services. The recommendation shall
26 include methods to ensure that such funding does not supplant existing
27 federal, state, and local funds received by any element of the public
28 health system; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee complete a
30 report to the governor and the legislature by July 1, 2006.

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