
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5493

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Kastama, Deccio and Benson; by request of Department of Health)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to removing state funding restrictions from the
2 hepatitis C state plan; and amending RCW 70.54.360.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.54.360 and 2003 c 273 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The secretary of health shall design a state plan for education
7 efforts concerning hepatitis C and the prevention and management of the
8 disease by January 1, 2004. In developing the plan, the secretary
9 shall consult with:

10 (a) The public;

11 (b) Patient groups and organizations;

12 (c) Relevant state agencies that have functions that involve
13 hepatitis C or provide services to persons with hepatitis C;

14 (d) Local health departments;

15 (e) Public health and clinical laboratories;

16 (f) Providers and suppliers of services to persons with hepatitis
17 C;

18 (g) Research scientists;

19 (h) The University of Washington; and

1 (i) Relevant health care associations.

2 (2) The plan shall include implementation recommendations in the
3 following areas:

4 (a) Hepatitis C virus prevention and treatment strategies for
5 groups at risk for hepatitis C with an emphasis towards those groups
6 that are disproportionately affected by hepatitis C, including persons
7 infected with HIV, veterans, racial or ethnic minorities that suffer a
8 higher incidence of hepatitis C, and persons who engage in high-risk
9 behavior, such as intravenous drug use;

10 (b) Educational programs to promote public awareness about
11 hepatitis C and knowledge about risk factors, the value of early
12 detection, screening, services, and available treatment options for
13 hepatitis C, which may be incorporated in public awareness programs
14 concerning bloodborne infections;

15 (c) Education curricula for appropriate health and health-related
16 providers covered by the uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW;

17 (d) Training courses for persons providing hepatitis C counseling,
18 public health clinic staff, and any other appropriate provider, which
19 shall focus on disease prevention, early detection, and intervention;

20 (e) Capacity for voluntary hepatitis C testing programs to be
21 performed at facilities providing voluntary HIV testing under chapter
22 70.24 RCW;

23 (f) A comprehensive model for an evidence-based process for the
24 prevention and management of hepatitis C that is applicable to other
25 diseases; and

26 (g) Sources and availability of funding to implement the plan.

27 (3) The secretary of health shall develop the state plan described
28 in subsections (1) and (2) of this section only to the extent that(~~(7~~
29 ~~and for as long as, federal or private funds are available for that~~
30 ~~purpose, including grants. Funding for chapter 273, Laws of 2003 shall~~
31 ~~not come from state sources)) funding is available.~~

32 (4) The board of health may adopt rules necessary to implement
33 subsection (2)(b) of this section.

34 (5) The secretary of health shall submit the completed state plan
35 to the legislature by January 1, 2004. After the initial state plan is
36 submitted, the department shall update the state plan biennially and
37 shall submit the plan to the governor and make it available to other

1 interested parties. The update and progress reports are due December
2 1, 2004, and every two years thereafter.

3 (6) (~~The state plan recommendations described in subsection (2)(b)~~
4 ~~of this section shall be implemented by the secretary of health only to~~
5 ~~the extent that, and for as long as, federal or private funds are~~
6 ~~available for that purpose, including grants.)) State funds that are
7 used for the implementation of the 2004 Washington state hepatitis C
8 strategic plan shall be limited to hepatitis C prevention, education,
9 and testing activities. Approaches to hepatitis C testing should be in
10 venues appropriate to the target populations. State funds used for the
11 hepatitis C strategic plan shall not supplant any current state funding
12 directed to HIV prevention, education, and testing activities.~~

13 (7) This section expires June 30, 2007.

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