
SENATE BILL 5496

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Brandland, Parlette, Benson, Deccio and Mulliken;
by request of Department of Health

Read first time 01/26/2005. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to inspection of hospitals; and amending RCW
2 70.41.120 and 70.41.122.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.41.120 and 2004 c 261 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The department shall make or cause to be made (~~at least yearly~~)
7 an inspection of all hospitals at least every eighteen months. Every
8 inspection of a hospital may include an inspection of every part of the
9 premises. The department may make an examination of all phases of the
10 hospital operation necessary to determine compliance with the law and
11 the standards, rules and regulations adopted thereunder. Any licensee
12 or applicant desiring to make alterations or additions to its
13 facilities or to construct new facilities shall, before commencing such
14 alteration, addition or new construction, comply with the regulations
15 prescribed by the department.

16 No hospital licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter
17 shall be required to be inspected or licensed under other state laws or
18 rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, or local ordinances,

1 relative to hotels, restaurants, lodging houses, boarding houses,
2 places of refreshment, nursing homes, maternity homes, or psychiatric
3 hospitals.

4 To avoid unnecessary duplication in inspections, the department
5 shall coordinate with the department of social and health services, the
6 office of the state fire marshal, and local agencies when inspecting
7 facilities over which each agency has jurisdiction, the facilities
8 including but not necessarily being limited to hospitals with both
9 acute care and skilled nursing or psychiatric nursing functions. The
10 department shall notify the office of the state fire marshal and the
11 relevant local agency at least four weeks prior to any inspection
12 conducted under this section and invite their attendance at the
13 inspection, and shall provide a copy of its inspection report to each
14 agency upon completion.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.41.122 and 1999 c 41 s 1 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (~~Notwithstanding RCW 70.41.120, a hospital accredited~~) Surveys
18 conducted by the joint commission on the accreditation of health care
19 organizations or the American osteopathic association (~~is not subject~~
20 ~~to the annual inspection provided for~~) on hospitals accredited by
21 those bodies shall be deemed equivalent to a department survey for
22 purposes of meeting the requirements for the survey specified in RCW
23 70.41.120 if((

24 (1)) the department determines that the applicable survey
25 standards of the joint commission on the accreditation of health care
26 organizations or the American osteopathic association are substantially
27 equivalent to its own((

28 (2) ~~It has been inspected by the joint commission on the~~
29 ~~accreditation of health care organizations or the American osteopathic~~
30 ~~association within the previous twelve months; and~~

31 ~~(3) The department receives directly from the joint commission on~~
32 ~~the accreditation of health care organizations, the American~~
33 ~~osteopathic association, or the hospital itself copies of the survey~~
34 ~~reports prepared by the joint commission on the accreditation of health~~
35 ~~care organizations or the American osteopathic association~~
36 ~~demonstrating that the hospital meets applicable standards)).~~

1 (1) Hospitals so surveyed shall provide to the department within
2 thirty days of learning the result of a survey documentary evidence
3 that the hospital has been certified as a result of a survey and the
4 date of the survey.

5 (2) Hospitals shall make available to department surveyors the
6 written reports of such surveys during department surveys, upon
7 request.

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