
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6183

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senator Kastama)

READ FIRST TIME 02/7/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to hepatitis C; adding new sections to chapter
2 70.54 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Hepatitis C is the most common blood-borne infection in the
6 United States, infecting an estimated 3.9 million people. It is the
7 leading cause for liver transplantation, and accounts for ten to twelve
8 thousand deaths per year.

9 (2) National data suggests that as many as one hundred thousand
10 people in Washington may be infected with hepatitis C.

11 (3) There is no vaccine for hepatitis C, and no known cure.
12 However, its transmission may be lessened, and those who carry the
13 virus can take steps to improve their well-being and reduce their risk
14 of liver and other associated chronic diseases. Education and outreach
15 are key to these prevention efforts.

16 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to establish a
17 system to accurately monitor the incidence of hepatitis C in the state
18 of Washington for the purposes of understanding, controlling, and
19 reducing its occurrence, and directing appropriate resources to its

1 management. To accomplish this, the legislature has determined that
2 hepatitis C cases shall be reported to the department of health, and
3 that a statewide population-based hepatitis C data base shall be
4 established. In addition, it is the intent of the legislature to
5 establish a comprehensive hepatitis C awareness and education campaign.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, the
9 department of health shall establish, staff, and maintain an up-to-date
10 data base which shall include a record of all reported cases of
11 hepatitis C in Washington state, and deaths attributed to hepatitis C
12 as a primary or secondary cause.

13 (2) Data obtained under this section shall be used for statistical,
14 scientific, medical research, and public health purposes only. The
15 department of health shall ensure that access to data contained in the
16 registry is consistent with federal law for the protection of human
17 subjects and consistent with chapter 42.48 RCW.

18 (3) Providing information under this section shall not create any
19 liability on the part of the provider, nor shall it constitute a breach
20 of confidentiality.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54 RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, the
24 department of health shall implement a comprehensive hepatitis C public
25 awareness and education campaign for the general public and health care
26 providers. The campaign shall include at a minimum:

- 27 (1) Information on risk factors;
- 28 (2) Primary prevention activities;
- 29 (3) The value of early detection;
- 30 (4) Methods to prevent chronic liver disease;
- 31 (5) The avoidance of further transmission; and
- 32 (6) Available treatment options.

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