
SENATE BILL 6195

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Regala, Keiser, Eide, Prentice, Jacobsen, McAuliffe, Fraser, Kline and Shin

Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to health impact assessments; adding a new section
2 to chapter 43.20 RCW; creating a new section; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that people of color
6 experience significant disparities from the general population in
7 education, employment, healthy living conditions, access to health
8 care, and other social determinants of health. The legislature intends
9 that state government policy leaders, program managers, and staff
10 increase their awareness of actions they take or that they contemplate
11 taking that contribute to health disparities. It shall be the policy
12 of the state of Washington to address health disparities in communities
13 of color and among women by creating an action plan and statewide
14 policy to include health impact assessments that measure and address
15 other social determinants of health that lead to disparities as well as
16 the contributing factors of health that can have broad impacts on
17 improving status, health literacy, physical activity, and nutrition.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The state board, in collaboration with the governor's interagency
4 council on health disparities, shall complete health impact
5 assessments, in collaboration with the council, and with assistance
6 that shall be provided by any state agency of which the board makes a
7 request. The state board may limit the number of health impact
8 assessments it produces to retain quality while operating within its
9 available resources.

10 (1) A health impact assessment may be initiated by any council
11 member or by any state legislator by written request submitted
12 according to forms and procedures proposed by the council and approved
13 by the state board.

14 (2) The subject of the assessment may be any state government
15 program, policy, practice, or proposal for state legislative or
16 budgetary change that the requesting party believes may have a
17 significant impact on health disparities.

18 (3) Upon receiving a request for a health impact assessment from a
19 member of the legislature during a legislative session, the state board
20 shall deliver the health impact assessment to the requesting party in
21 no more than ten days. Requests made in the normal course of business
22 shall receive an assessment from the state board no later than ninety
23 days after a request is made.

24 (4) Upon delivery of the assessment to the requesting party, it
25 shall be a public document, and shall be available on the state board's
26 web site.

27 (5) The assessment shall be based on the best available empirical
28 information and professional assumptions available to the state board
29 regarding the most likely health impact of the subject program,
30 practice, or proposal. Such impacts may include changes in health
31 disparities or in the social determinants of health experienced by
32 racial or ethnic minorities.

33 (6) In fulfilling their responsibilities under this subsection, the
34 state board and the council may create ad hoc committees or other such
35 committees of limited duration as necessary.

36 (7) The state board and the department shall collaborate to obtain
37 any federal or private funding that may become available to implement
38 the state board's duties under this chapter. If the department

1 receives such funding, the department shall allocate it to the state
2 board to implement its duties under this chapter, and any state general
3 funds that may have been appropriated but are no longer needed by the
4 state board shall lapse to the state general fund.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of three hundred thousand dollars,
6 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
7 year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the department of
8 health for allotment to the state board of health for its use in
9 implementing this act.

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