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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6197**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2006 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Franklin, Regala, Eide, Prentice, Fraser, Brown, Kline, Kohl-Welles and Shin)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/06.

1       AN ACT Relating to the creation of the governor's interagency  
2       coordinating council on health disparities; amending RCW 43.20.025;  
3       adding new sections to chapter 43.20 RCW; adding a new section to  
4       chapter 44.28 RCW; and making an appropriation.

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

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

8       The legislature finds that people of color experience significant  
9       disparities from the general population in education, employment,  
10      healthful living conditions, access to health care, and other social  
11      determinants of health. The legislature finds that these circumstances  
12      coupled with lower, slower, and less culturally appropriate access to  
13      needed medical care result in higher rates of morbidity and mortality  
14      for persons of color than observed in the general population. Health  
15      disparities is defined by the national institute of health as the  
16      differences in incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of disease  
17      and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific  
18      population groups in the United States. It is the intent of the  
19      Washington state legislature to create the healthiest state in the

1 nation by striving to eliminate health disparities in people of color.  
2 In meeting the intent of this act, the legislature creates the  
3 governor's interagency coordinating council on health disparities.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.20.025 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 s 208 are each  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
7 this section apply throughout this chapter.

8 (1) "Commissions" means the Washington state commission on African-  
9 American affairs established in chapter 43.113 RCW, the Washington  
10 state commission on Asian Pacific American affairs established in  
11 chapter 43.117 RCW, the Washington state commission on Hispanic affairs  
12 established in chapter 43.115 RCW, and the governor's office of Indian  
13 affairs.

14 (2) "Consumer representative" means any person who is not an  
15 elected official, who has no fiduciary obligation to a health facility  
16 or other health agency, and who has no material financial interest in  
17 the rendering of health services.

18 ~~((+2))~~ (3) "Council" means the ~~((health care access and cost~~  
19 ~~control))~~ governor's interagency coordinating council on health  
20 disparities, convened according to this chapter.

21 ~~((+3))~~ (4) "Department" means the department of health.

22 ~~((+4))~~ (5) "Health disparities" means the difference in incidence,  
23 prevalence, mortality, or burden of disease and other adverse health  
24 conditions, including lack of access to proven health care services  
25 that exists between specific population groups in Washington state.

26 (6) "Health impact assessment" means a systematic review of a  
27 legislative or budgetary proposal or other public policy, program, or  
28 practice completed according to the terms of this chapter that  
29 determines the extent to which such proposal, policy, program, or  
30 practice improves or exacerbates health disparities.

31 (7) "Secretary" means the secretary of health, or the secretary's  
32 designee.

33 ~~((+5))~~ (8) "Local health board" means a health board created  
34 pursuant to chapter 70.05, 70.08, or 70.46 RCW.

35 ~~((+6))~~ (9) "Local health officer" means the legally qualified  
36 physician appointed as a health officer pursuant to chapter 70.05,  
37 70.08, or 70.46 RCW.

1        ~~((7))~~ (10) "Social determinants of health" means those elements  
2 of social structure most closely shown to affect health and illness,  
3 including at a minimum, early learning, education, socioeconomic  
4 standing, safe housing, sanitary environmental conditions, gender,  
5 incidence of violence, convenient and affordable access to safe  
6 opportunities for physical activity, healthy diet, clean water, clean  
7 air, toxin-free environments, and appropriate health care services.

8        (11) "State board" means the state board of health created under  
9 chapter 43.20 RCW.

10        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20 RCW  
11 to read as follows:

12        (1) In collaboration with staff whom the office of financial  
13 management may assign, and within funds made expressly available to the  
14 state board for these purposes, the state board shall assist the  
15 governor by convening and providing assistance to the council. The  
16 council shall include one representative from each of the following  
17 groups: Each of the commissions, the state board, the department, the  
18 department of social and health services, the employment security  
19 department, the department of community, trade, and economic  
20 development, the department of corrections, the health care authority,  
21 the department of labor and industries, the department of agriculture,  
22 the department of ecology, the higher education coordinating board, the  
23 department of transportation, the state board for community and  
24 technical colleges, the work force training and education coordinating  
25 board, and two members of the public who will represent the interests  
26 of health care consumers. The council is a class one group under RCW  
27 43.03.220. The two public members shall be paid per diem and travel  
28 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. The council  
29 shall reflect diversity in race, ethnicity, and gender. The governor  
30 or the governor's designee shall chair the council.

31        (2) The council shall promote and facilitate communication,  
32 coordination, and collaboration among relevant state agencies and  
33 communities of color, and the private sector and public sector, to  
34 address health disparities. The council shall conduct public hearings,  
35 inquiries, studies, or other forms of information gathering to  
36 understand how the actions of state government ameliorate or contribute

1 to health disparities. All state agencies must cooperate with the  
2 council's efforts.

3 (3) The council with assistance from the state board, shall assess  
4 through public hearings, review of existing data, and other means, and  
5 recommend initiatives for improving the availability of culturally  
6 appropriate health literature and interpretive services within public  
7 and private health-related agencies.

8 (4) In order to assist with its work, the council shall establish  
9 advisory committees to include members from local communities.

10 (5) The advisory committee shall reflect diversity in race,  
11 ethnicity, and gender.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14 The council shall consider in its deliberations and by 2012, create  
15 an action plan for eliminating health disparities. The action plan  
16 must address, but is not limited to, the following diseases: Diabetes,  
17 asthma, infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, strokes, breast  
18 cancer, cervical cancer, prostate cancer, sudden infant death syndrome  
19 (SIDS), mental health, smoking cessation, and immunization rates of  
20 children and senior citizens. The action plan shall be updated  
21 biannually. The council shall meet as often as necessary but not less  
22 than six times per calendar year. The council shall report its  
23 progress with the action plan to the governor and the legislature no  
24 later than January 15, 2008. A second report shall be presented no  
25 later than January 15, 2010, and a third report from the council shall  
26 be presented to the governor and the legislature no later than January  
27 15, 2012. Thereafter, the governor and legislature shall require  
28 progress updates from the council every four years in odd-numbered  
29 years. The action plan shall recognize the need for flexibility.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20 RCW  
31 to read as follows:

32 The state board and the department shall collaborate to obtain any  
33 federal or private funding that may become available to implement the  
34 state board's duties under this chapter. If the department receives  
35 such funding, the department shall allocate it to the state board to

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 44.28 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 The joint committee shall conduct a review of the governor's  
7 interagency coordinating council on health disparities and its  
8 functions. The review shall be substantially the same as a sunset  
9 review under chapter 43.131 RCW. The joint committee shall present its  
10 findings to appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1,  
11 2016.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of one hundred eighty-eight thousand  
13 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
14 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the  
15 department of health for allotment to the state board of health for its  
16 use in implementing this act.

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