
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6197

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Franklin, Regala, Eide, Prentice, Fraser, Brown, Kline, Kohl-Welles and Shin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/7/06.

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; and adding a new section to
4 chapter 44.28 RCW.

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.

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