
**Select Committee on
Environmental Health**

2SHB 1601

Brief Description: Creating the children's environmental health and protection advisory council.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Rolfes, Campbell, Chase, Hudgins, Hunt, Morrell, Upthegrove, McCoy, Santos, Dickerson, Hasegawa, Sells, Schual-Berke, Wood and Simpson).

Brief Summary of Second Substitute Bill

- Creates the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council.

Hearing Date: 1/15/08

Staff: Ashley Pedersen (786-7303).

Background:

Studies have shown that children are more susceptible and more exposed to environmental hazards than adults. Children are particularly vulnerable to such hazards as lead, pesticides, air pollutants, contaminated water, toxic waste, secondhand tobacco smoke, and industrial and home chemicals. As children's bodies and biological systems develop, they are uniquely vulnerable to damage from toxic substances. Children are also more exposed to toxins from the environment, as well as school and homes. Proportional to body weight, children take in far higher concentrations of toxins in the environment than adults.

Summary of Second Substitute Bill:

The Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council (Council) is created.

Membership of the Council consists of 16 people, including members of the Legislature, representatives of several state agencies, a tribal representative, a licensed pediatric health care provider with expertise in the field of children's environmental health, a parent whose child has been diagnosed with exposure to an environmental health hazard, a representative from the

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academic community involved in research on environmental toxins and human exposure, and an expert in the field of human toxicology.

The Council must review and comment on existing laws, rules, regulations, and standards to ensure adequate protection of children's health from environmental hazards, both in Washington and in other states. The Council must also review current research on environmental toxins and exposures, children's environmental health and other research relevant to the protection of children's health from environmental hazards. The State Board of Health must provide staff support to the Council.

The Council must report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2007, and December 1, 2008, with recommendations of changes in regulation that would reduce children's exposure to environmental hazards and recommendations for collaborative approaches to public education.

The Council must collaborate and coordinate its activities with the Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Review Panel to ensure that the panel's activities are not duplicated.

The act expires June 30, 2009.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.