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HOUSE BILL 2696

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, Campbell, Hasegawa, Schual-Berke, Green, Kenney, Darneille, Williams, Santos, Goodman, Ericks, and Kagi

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Environmental Health.

1 AN ACT Relating to testing for elevated levels of lead in children  
2 under six years old in Washington; and adding a new chapter to Title 70  
3 RCW.

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

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

6 (1) Lead is harmful to individuals of all ages and that young  
7 children and babies are the most vulnerable to lead poisoning.

8 (2) In addition to the potential for exposure to lead from paint  
9 chips, contaminated soil and water, traditional remedies, and other  
10 pathways, a number of consumer products, including toys and candy, also  
11 have the potential to expose children and adults to lead. For many of  
12 these products, the presence of lead is not easily identified.

13 (3) Long-term exposure to even low levels of lead may cause  
14 irreversible learning difficulties, mental retardation, and delayed  
15 neurological and physical development. Most children and adults who  
16 have lead poisoning appear to be healthy with no obvious or distinctive  
17 symptoms.

18 (4) Testing for lead in children will help identify children that  
19 have been exposed and precipitate action to limit further exposure.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) By September 1, 2008, the department of  
2 health shall begin operation of a mobile lead testing unit to test  
3 children under six years old for elevated levels of lead in their  
4 bloodstream and to educate parents and children in lead poisoning  
5 prevention at mobile unit testing events.

6        (2) The mobile lead testing unit must employ state-of-the-art  
7 testing equipment to test children at risk for elevated blood lead  
8 levels. The equipment must be evaluated for purchase by the department  
9 of health by taking into account cost-effectiveness, efficiency of use,  
10 dependability, service life, ease of training in its use, and  
11 portability. The testing equipment must satisfy the following  
12 criteria:

13        (a) Use of the testing equipment must qualify for reimbursement by  
14 federal medicaid as a blood lead level test under the American medical  
15 association current procedural terminology code 83655;

16        (b) Requirements under the federal clinical laboratory improvement  
17 amendments of 1988 must have been waived for use of the equipment;

18        (c) The testing equipment must be able to provide accurate blood  
19 lead level results at the time of testing; and

20        (d) The testing equipment must be able to provide accurate blood  
21 lead level results without requiring a venous blood draw.

22        (3) The department of health shall conduct a mobile unit lead  
23 testing event in each county of the state annually.

24        (4) The schedule of dates and locations for mobile unit lead  
25 testing events must be coordinated with local public health officials,  
26 community health centers, public health clinics, school districts,  
27 federal women, infants, and children programs, and early childhood  
28 education and outreach programs located in the area planned for the  
29 event.

30        (5) Notification of mobile unit lead testing events must be made at  
31 least two weeks in advance to area doctor's offices, pediatricians,  
32 community health centers, public health clinics, hospitals, federal  
33 women, infant, and children program facilities, early childhood  
34 education and outreach program facilities, day care centers, and local  
35 schools. Notification must be publicized in the mass media in advance  
36 of testing in any given area to encourage the maximum participation of  
37 children.

1           (6) The department of health may, if resources are available, and  
2 at its discretion, provide a lead screening test for any person in the  
3 general public.

4           (7) All testing data collected must be included within the  
5 department's blood lead registry and reported to the United States  
6 centers for disease control and prevention.

7           NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of health shall attempt to  
8 recover costs for lead screening through federal medicaid, federal  
9 grants, and nongovernmental sources.

10           NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act constitute  
11 a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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