
SENATE BILL 5279

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Fairley, Kohl-Welles, Rasmussen, Regala, Keiser and Jacobsen

Read first time 01/15/2007. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the children's environmental health and
2 protection advisory council; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children in the
6 state face many preventable exposures to environmental hazards in their
7 schools, homes, and communities. In certain cases children are at
8 greater risk than adults for exposure to and possible illness from
9 environmental hazards. This is due in part to their behaviors but also
10 to their decreased ability to detoxify certain substances due to the
11 immaturity of their body organs and immune systems.

12 The legislature further finds that higher rates of poverty place
13 children of ethnic and minority communities at disproportionate risk
14 for environmental exposures due to inadequate housing, poor nutrition,
15 and limited access to health care. Solutions to complex environmental
16 health problems require the ongoing communication, collaboration, and
17 cooperation of affected communities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** As used in this act, "environmental hazard"
2 means one or a group of toxic chemical, biological, or physical agents
3 in the environment, resulting from human activities or natural
4 processes, that may impact the health of exposed children, including
5 such pollutants as lead, pesticides, air pollutants, contaminated
6 drinking water, polluted waters, toxic waste, polychlorinated
7 biphenyls, secondhand tobacco smoke, and industrial and home chemicals.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The children's environmental health and
9 protection advisory council is created.

10 (2) Membership of the advisory council shall consist of fifteen
11 members. The president of the senate shall appoint one member of the
12 majority party and one member of the minority party. The speaker of
13 the house of representatives shall appoint one member from each party.
14 If an appointed member of either the senate or the house of
15 representatives is unable to attend an advisory council meeting, that
16 member may send a designee in his or her place. The other members
17 shall include: The secretary of the department of health or designee;
18 the director of the department of ecology or designee; the director of
19 the department of agriculture or designee; the superintendent of public
20 instruction or designee; the secretary of the department of social and
21 health services or designee; the director of the department of labor
22 and industries or designee; one member of the state board of health;
23 one tribal representative, appointed by the governor; one licensed
24 pediatric health care provider with expertise in the field of
25 children's environmental health, appointed by the governor; one parent
26 or guardian whose child has been clinically diagnosed with exposure to
27 an environmental health hazard, appointed by the governor; and an
28 expert in the field of human toxicology, appointed by the governor.

29 (3) Members of the advisory council shall serve without
30 compensation.

31 (4) The board of health shall provide staff support and
32 administrative assistance to the advisory council.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The advisory council shall:

- 34 (1) Meet at least four times a year;
35 (2) Review and comment on existing laws, rules, regulations, and

1 standards to ensure that they adequately protect the health of children
2 from environmental hazards;

3 (3) Work collaboratively with state agencies and others without
4 duplicating current work in this area; and

5 (4) Report to the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2007,
6 and December 1, 2008, with recommendations on changes in regulation
7 that would reduce children's exposure to environmental hazards and
8 recommendations for collaborative approaches to public education.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The state board of health may solicit,
10 accept, and spend gifts, grants, bequests, devises, and other funds
11 from public and private sources to fund the activities of the
12 children's environmental health and protection advisory council created
13 under section 3 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act expires June 30, 2009.

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