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SENATE BILL 5008

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Swecker, Stevens, and Morton

Read first time 01/10/11. Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance.

1 AN ACT Relating to life insurance when an order regarding life  
2 sustaining treatment has been issued or implemented; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 48.23 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 48.24  
4 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 48.23 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) The issuing or implementation of a physician order for life  
9 sustaining treatment does not restrict, inhibit, or impair in any  
10 manner the sale, procurement, or issuance of any policy of life  
11 insurance, nor does it modify the terms of an existing policy of life  
12 insurance, notwithstanding any term of the policy to the contrary.

13 (2) For the purposes of this section "physician order for life  
14 sustaining treatment" means a document, commonly referred to as a do  
15 not resuscitate order, that is signed by a physician, summarizing the  
16 wishes of an individual regarding life-sustaining treatment through  
17 specific medical orders including an individual's preference for  
18 resuscitation, medical intervention, use of antibiotics, and  
19 artificially administered fluids and nutrition.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   A new section is added to chapter 48.24 RCW  
2   to read as follows:  
3        Section 1 of this act applies to group life insurance policies  
4   regulated under this chapter.

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