

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 5532

As Passed House:
April 8, 2015

Title: An act relating to Washington's gift of life award.

Brief Description: Modifying certain Washington gift of life award provisions.

Sponsors: Senators Rolfes, Bailey and Kohl-Welles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government: 3/12/15, 3/19/15 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 4/8/15, 96-1.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Makes changes to the provisions of the Washington Gift of Life award.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives S. Hunt, Chair; Bergquist, Vice Chair; Holy, Ranking Minority Member; Van Werven, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Gregory and Hawkins.

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

Established in 1998, the Washington Gift of Life award recognizes the special kindness of those who donate their organs. An organ procurement organization may nominate six individuals or persons to represent all those who have donated organs. Only one award may be presented to the family of an organ donor. The Governor's office presents the awards to the families of donors on an annual basis in coordination with the organ procurement organization. The Washington Gift of Life award consists of the seal of Washington and is inscribed with the words: "For the greatest act of kindness in donating organs to enhance the lives of others."

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

Organ procurement organizations may nominate individuals to represent all those who have donated organs during the previous calendar year. The Governor's office must present the awards on an annual basis to each eligible organ donor's family. Organ procurement organizations must seek permission from the families of organ donors selected to receive the Gift of Life award so that the name of the organ donors may be released to the Governor's office for printing of a Gift of Life Certificate and be used at Gift of Life ceremonies and events. The Washington Gift of Life award is inscribed with the words: "For the greatest act of kindness in donating organs to save the lives of others."

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Last year 197 people gave the gift of life through organ donations, but only six people were honored. This bill would allow all families to be honored. Organ donations fulfill the wishes of the donor to help give the opportunity to life to others. Organ donation is a heroic act that has a tremendous positive impact on the lives of others.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Senator Rolfes, prime sponsor; Jennifer Ziegler, LifeCenter Northwest; and Arlene Milterholzer.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.