
HOUSE BILL 2016

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Cole, Ballard, Scott, Leonard, Mielke, May, Moyer, Morris, Sprenkle, Paris, Winsley, Mitchell, P. Johnson and Miller.

Read first time February 19, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to poison information centers; amending RCW
2 18.76.010, 18.76.030, and 18.76.060; adding a new section to chapter
3 18.76 RCW; and repealing RCW 18.76.040.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.76.010 and 1987 c 214 s 16 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The legislature finds that accidental and purposeful exposure to
8 drugs, poisons, and ((poisonous)) toxic substances continues to be a
9 severe health problem in the state of Washington. It further finds
10 that a significant reduction in the consequences of such accidental
11 exposures ((have)) has occurred as a result of the services provided by
12 poison information centers, and that, by further enhancing these
13 services for occupational, industrial, and environmental exposures,
14 serious illness and injury can be even further reduced.

1 The purpose of this chapter is to reduce morbidity and mortality
2 associated with overdose and poisoning incidents by providing emergency
3 telephone assistance and treatment referral to victims of such
4 incidents, by providing immediate treatment information to health care
5 professionals, and public education and prevention programs. Further,
6 the purpose is to improve utilization of drugs by providing information
7 to health professionals relating to appropriate therapeutic drug use.

8 The legislature recognizes that enhanced cooperation between the
9 emergency medical system and poison control centers will aid in
10 responding to emergencies resulting from exposure to drugs, poisons,
11 and ((poisonous)) toxic substances, and that, by providing telephone
12 assistance to individuals with possible exposure to these chemicals,
13 the need for emergency room and professional office visits will be
14 reduced. As a result the cost of health care to those who may have
15 exposures to drugs, poisons, and toxic substances will be decreased and
16 appropriate treatment will be assured.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.76.030 and 1987 c 214 s 17 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 The department shall, in a manner consistent with this chapter,
20 provide support for the state-wide program of poison and drug
21 information services ~~((conducted by poison information centers located~~
22 ~~in the cities of Seattle and Spokane and satellite units located in the~~
23 ~~cities of Tacoma and Yakima))~~. These services shall, no later than
24 June 30, 1993, be centralized in and coordinated by a single nonprofit
25 center to be located in a place determined by the secretary. The
26 services of this ((program)) center shall be:

27 (1) Twenty-four hour emergency telephone management and treatment
28 referral of victims of poisoning and overdose incidents, to include
29 determining whether treatment can be accomplished at the scene of the

1 incident or transport to an emergency treatment or other facility is
2 required, and carrying out telephone follow-up to assure that adequate
3 care is provided;

4 (2) Coordination of state agency programs concerned with poisons
5 and poisonings, incidents involving exposures to potentially poisonous
6 substances, and other toxicological matters;

7 (3) Information to health professionals involved in management of
8 poisoning and overdose victims;

9 ~~((3))~~ (4) Community education programs designed to inform the
10 public and members of the health professions of poison prevention and
11 treatment methods~~((; and~~

12 ~~(4) Information to health professionals regarding appropriate~~
13 ~~therapeutic use of medications, their compatibility and stability, and~~
14 ~~adverse drug reactions and interactions)) and to improve awareness of~~

15 poisoning and overdose problems, occupational risks, and environmental
16 exposures;

17 (5) Consultation with businesses on avoiding poison-related
18 injuries and accidents; and

19 (6) Coordination of outreach units whose primary functions shall be
20 to inform the public about poison problems and prevention methods, how
21 to utilize the poison center, and other toxicology issues.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.76.060 and 1987 c 214 s 21 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 (1) A person may not act as a poison center medical director or
25 perform the duties of poison information specialists of a poison
26 information center without being certified by the secretary under this
27 chapter.

28 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if a poison
29 center medical director terminates certification or is decertified,

1 that poison center medical director's authority may be delegated by the
2 department to any other person licensed to practice medicine and
3 surgery under chapter 18.71 RCW or osteopathy and surgery under chapter
4 18.57 RCW for a period of thirty days, or until a new poison center
5 medical director is certified, whichever comes first.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.76 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 The center may receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or
9 private sources that may be made from time to time, in trust or
10 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the center and
11 spend gifts, grants, or endowments or any income from the public or
12 private sources according to their terms.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.76.040 and 1987 c 214 s 18 & 1980
14 c 178 s 3 are each repealed.