
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1221

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives G. Cole, Ballard, Flemming, Jacobsen, Voloria, Cothorn, Dellwo, Thibaudeau, Appelwick, Johanson, Orr, Scott, Ballasiotes, Silver, Lisk, Leonard, Cooke, J. Kohl, L. Johnson, Mielke and Kremen)

Read first time 03/03/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to poison information centers; amending RCW
2 18.76.010, 18.76.030, and 18.76.060; adding new sections to chapter
3 18.76 RCW; creating a new section; repealing RCW 18.76.040; providing
4 an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

8 The legislature finds that accidental and purposeful exposure to
9 drugs, poisons, and ((poisonous)) toxic substances continues to be a
10 severe health problem in the state of Washington. It further finds
11 that a significant reduction in the consequences of such accidental
12 exposures ((have)) has occurred as a result of the services provided by
13 poison information centers.

14 The purpose of this chapter is to reduce morbidity and mortality
15 associated with overdose and poisoning incidents by providing emergency
16 telephone assistance and treatment referral to victims of such
17 incidents, by providing immediate treatment information to health care
18 professionals, and public education and prevention programs. Further,

1 the purpose is to improve utilization of drugs by providing information
2 to health professionals relating to appropriate therapeutic drug use.

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

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

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

22 (1) Twenty-four hour emergency telephone management and treatment
23 referral of victims of poisoning and overdose incidents, to include
24 determining whether treatment can be accomplished at the scene of the
25 incident or transport to an emergency treatment or other facility is
26 required, and carrying out telephone follow-up to assure that adequate
27 care is provided;

28 (2) Providing information to health professionals involved in
29 management of poisoning and overdose victims;

30 (3) Coordination and development of community education programs
31 designed to inform the public and members of the health professions of
32 poison prevention and treatment methods~~((; and~~

33 ~~((4) Information to health professionals regarding appropriate~~
34 ~~therapeutic use of medications, their compatibility and stability, and~~
35 ~~adverse drug reactions and interactions))~~ and to improve awareness of
36 poisoning and overdose problems, occupational risks, and environmental
37 exposures; and

1 (4) Coordination of outreach units whose primary functions shall be
2 to inform the public about poison problems and prevention methods, how
3 to utilize the poison center, and other toxicology issues.

4 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 18.76 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The department shall establish a system for consulting with other
7 state and local agency programs concerned with poisons and poisonings,
8 incidents involving exposures to potentially poisonous substances, and
9 other toxicological matters to develop the most coordinated and
10 consistent response to such situations as is reasonably possible.

11 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.76.060 and 1987 c 214 s 21 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (1) A person may not act as a poison center medical director or
14 perform the duties of poison information specialists of a poison
15 information center without being certified by the secretary under this
16 chapter.

17 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if a poison
18 center medical director terminates certification or is decertified,
19 that poison center medical director's authority may be delegated by the
20 department to any other person licensed to practice medicine and
21 surgery under chapter 18.71 RCW or osteopathy and surgery under chapter
22 18.57 RCW for a period of thirty days, or until a new poison center
23 medical director is certified, whichever comes first.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 18.76 RCW
25 to read as follows:

26 The center may receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or
27 private sources that may be made from time to time, in trust or
28 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the center and
29 spend gifts, grants, or endowments or any income from the public or
30 private sources according to their terms.

31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. RCW 18.76.040 and 1987 c 214 s 18 & 1980 c
32 178 s 3 are each repealed.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
2 act, referencing this act by bill number, is not provided by June 30,
3 1993, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and void.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
5 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
6 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
7 effect July 1, 1993.

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