
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2366

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Carlson, Pennington, Radcliff, Mielke, Mulliken, Boldt, Gardner, Sheahan, Bush, Anderson, Mitchell, Dyer, Schoesler and McDonald)

Read first time 02/03/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to providing infectious disease testing for good
2 samaritans; adding a new section to chapter 70.05 RCW; creating a new
3 section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that citizens who
6 assist individuals in emergency situations perform a needed and
7 valuable role that deserves recognition and support. The legislature
8 further finds that emergency assistance in the form of mouth to mouth
9 resuscitation or other emergency medical procedures resulting in the
10 exchange of bodily fluids significantly increases the odds of being
11 exposed to a deadly infectious disease. Some of the more life-
12 threatening diseases that can be transferred during an emergency
13 procedure where bodily fluids are exchanged include hepatitis A, B, and
14 C, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The legislature further
15 finds that a number of good samaritans who perform life-saving
16 emergency procedures such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation are unable
17 to pay for the tests necessary for detecting infectious diseases that
18 could have been transmitted during the emergency procedure. It is the
19 purpose of this act to provide infectious disease testing at no cost to

1 good samaritans who request testing for infectious diseases after
2 rendering emergency assistance that has brought them into contact with
3 a bodily fluid.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.05 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 A person rendering emergency care or transportation, commonly known
7 as a "good Samaritan," as described in RCW 4.24.300 and 4.24.310, may
8 request and receive appropriate infectious disease testing free of
9 charge from the local health department of the county of her or his
10 residence, if: (1) While rendering emergency care she or he came into
11 contact with bodily fluids; and (2) she or he does not have health
12 insurance that covers the testing. Nothing in this section requires a
13 local health department to provide health care services beyond testing.
14 The department shall adopt rules implementing this section.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
16 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
17 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
18 immediately.

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