
THIRD SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1601

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By House Select Committee on Environmental Health (originally sponsored by Representatives Rolfes, Campbell, Chase, Hudgins, Hunt, Morrell, Upthegrove, McCoy, Santos, Dickerson, Hasegawa, Sells, Schual-Berke, Wood, and Simpson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/18/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to the children's environmental health and
2 protection advisory council; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children in the
6 state face many preventable exposures to environmental hazards in their
7 schools, homes, and communities. In certain cases children are at
8 greater risk than adults for exposure to and possible illness from
9 environmental hazards. This is due in part to their behaviors but also
10 to their decreased ability to detoxify certain substances due to the
11 immaturity of their body organs and immune systems.

12 The legislature further finds that higher rates of poverty place
13 children of ethnic and minority communities at disproportionate risk
14 for environmental exposures due to inadequate housing, poor nutrition,
15 and limited access to health care. Solutions to complex environmental
16 health problems require the ongoing communication, collaboration, and
17 cooperation of affected communities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** As used in this act, "environmental hazard"
2 means one or a group of toxic chemical, biological, or physical agents
3 in the environment, resulting from human activities or natural
4 processes, that may impact the health of exposed children, including
5 such pollutants as lead, pesticides, air pollutants, contaminated
6 drinking water, polluted waters, toxic waste, polychlorinated
7 biphenyls, secondhand tobacco smoke, and industrial and home chemicals.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The children's environmental health and
9 protection advisory council is created.

10 (2) Membership of the advisory council shall consist of fifteen
11 members. The president of the senate shall appoint one member of the
12 majority party and one member of the minority party. The speaker of
13 the house of representatives shall appoint one member from each party.
14 If an appointed member of either the senate or the house of
15 representatives is unable to attend an advisory council meeting, that
16 member may send a designee in his or her place. The other members
17 shall include: The secretary of the department of health or designee;
18 the director of the department of ecology or designee; the director of
19 the department of agriculture or designee; the superintendent of public
20 instruction or designee; the director of the Washington poison control
21 center; one member of the state board of health; one tribal
22 representative, appointed by the governor; one licensed pediatric
23 health care provider with expertise in the field of children's
24 environmental health, appointed by the governor; one representative
25 from the academic community involved in research on environmental
26 toxins and human exposure, appointed by the governor; a board certified
27 human toxicologist, appointed by the governor; and a board certified
28 environmental toxicologist, appointed by the governor.

29 (3) Members of the advisory council shall serve without
30 compensation.

31 (4) The board of health shall provide staff support and
32 administrative assistance to the advisory council.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The advisory council shall:

34 (1) Review and comment on existing laws, rules, regulations, and
35 standards to ensure that they adequately protect the health of children
36 from environmental hazards;

1 (2) Review existing laws, rules, regulations, and standards of
2 other states that relate to the protection of the health of children
3 from environmental hazards;

4 (3) Review current research on environmental toxins and exposures,
5 children's environmental health, and other research relevant to the
6 protection of the health of children from environmental hazards;

7 (4) Work collaboratively with state agencies and others, including
8 the Washington association of school business officials and the
9 Washington association of maintenance and operation administrators,
10 without duplicating current work in this area; and

11 (5) Report to the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2008,
12 and December 1, 2009, with recommendations on changes in regulation
13 that would reduce children's exposure to environmental hazards and
14 recommendations for collaborative approaches to public education.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The advisory council shall collaborate with
16 and coordinate the activities set forth in section 4 of this act with
17 the pesticide incident reporting and tracking review panel created in
18 RCW 70.104.070 through 70.104.100 to ensure that the panel's
19 investigations, reporting, and education activities are not duplicated
20 by the advisory council.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The state board of health may solicit,
22 accept, and spend gifts, grants, bequests, devises, and other funds
23 from public and private sources to fund the activities of the
24 children's environmental health and protection advisory council created
25 under section 3 of this act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act expires June 30, 2010.

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