
HOUSE BILL 1697

State of Washington

54th Legislature

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By Representatives Robertson, Tokuda, Lambert, Delvin, D. Schmidt, Costa, Scott, Thibaudeau, L. Thomas and Cooke

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1 AN ACT Relating to death investigations systems; amending RCW
2 46.61.5054, 43.103.030, 43.103.090, 66.08.180, 68.50.107, and
3 70.58.107; repealing 1994 c 275 s 44 (uncodified); and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.5054 and 1994 c 275 s 7 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1)(a) In addition to penalties set forth in RCW 46.61.5051 through
9 46.61.5053, a one hundred twenty-five dollar fee shall be assessed to
10 a person who is either convicted, sentenced to a lesser charge, or
11 given deferred prosecution, as a result of an arrest for violating RCW
12 46.61.502, 46.61.504, 46.61.520, or 46.61.522. This fee is for the
13 purpose of funding the Washington state toxicology laboratory and the
14 Washington state patrol breath test program.

15 (b) Upon a verified petition by the person assessed the fee, the
16 court may suspend payment of all or part of the fee if it finds that
17 the person does not have the ability to pay.

18 (c) When a minor has been adjudicated a juvenile offender for an
19 offense which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a violation

1 of RCW 46.61.502, 46.61.504, 46.61.520, or 46.61.522, the court shall
2 assess the one hundred twenty-five dollar fee under (a) of this
3 subsection. Upon a verified petition by a minor assessed the fee, the
4 court may suspend payment of all or part of the fee if it finds that
5 the minor does not have the ability to pay the fee.

6 (2) The fee assessed under subsection (1) of this section shall be
7 collected by the clerk of the court and distributed as follows:

8 (a) Forty percent shall be subject to distribution under RCW
9 3.46.120, 3.50.100, 35.20.220, 3.62.020, 3.62.040, or 10.82.070.

10 (b) (~~If the case involves a blood test by the state toxicology~~
11 ~~laboratory,~~) The remainder of the fee shall be forwarded to the state
12 treasurer (~~for~~) who shall deposit: Fifteen percent in the death
13 investigations account to be used solely for funding the state
14 toxicology laboratory blood or breath testing programs(~~(-~~

15 ~~(c) Otherwise, the remainder of the fee shall be forwarded to the~~
16 ~~state treasurer for deposit)); and eighty-five percent in the state
17 patrol highway account to be used solely for funding the Washington
18 state patrol breath test program.~~

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.103.030 and 1991 c 176 s 2 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 There is created the Washington state death investigations council.
22 The council shall oversee the state toxicology laboratory and, together
23 with the president of the University of Washington or the president's
24 designee, control the laboratory's operation. The council may also
25 study and recommend cost-efficient improvements to the death
26 investigation system in Washington and report its findings to the
27 legislature.

28 Further, the council shall, jointly with the chairperson of the
29 pathology department of the University of Washington's School of
30 Medicine, or the chairperson's designee, oversee the state forensic
31 pathology fellowship program, determine the budget for the program and
32 set the fellow's annual salary, and take those steps necessary to
33 administer the program.

34 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.103.090 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 16 s 9 are each
35 amended to read as follows:

36 The council has the following powers:

1 (1) To meet at such times and places as may be designated by a
2 majority vote of the council members or, if a majority cannot agree, by
3 the chairman;

4 (2) To adopt rules governing the council and the conduct of its
5 meetings;

6 (3) To require reports from the state toxicologist on matters
7 pertaining to the toxicology laboratory;

8 (4) To review and, if necessary, require changes in the budget
9 request of the toxicology laboratory((~~+~~)), and submit the budget
10 request to the office of financial management for inclusion in the
11 governor's budget documents under RCW 43.88.030;

12 (5) To do anything, necessary or convenient, which enables the
13 council to perform its duties and to exercise its powers;

14 (6) To appoint a toxicologist as state toxicologist to serve at the
15 pleasure of the council; and

16 (7) To set the salary for the state toxicologist.

17 **Sec. 4.** RCW 66.08.180 and 1987 c 458 s 10 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 Moneys in the liquor revolving fund shall be distributed by the
20 board at least once every three months in accordance with RCW
21 66.08.190, 66.08.200 and 66.08.210: PROVIDED, That the board shall
22 reserve from distribution such amount not exceeding five hundred
23 thousand dollars as may be necessary for the proper administration of
24 this title: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That all license fees, penalties and
25 forfeitures derived under this act from class H licenses or class H
26 licensees shall every three months be disbursed by the board as
27 follows:

28 (1) ~~((5.95 percent to the University of Washington and 3.97 percent~~
29 ~~to Washington State University for alcoholism and drug abuse research~~
30 ~~and for the dissemination of such research;~~

31 ~~(2) 1.75 percent, but in no event less than one))~~ Three hundred
32 ~~((fifty))~~ thousand dollars per biennium, to the ~~((University of~~
33 ~~Washington))~~ death investigations account for the death investigations
34 council to conduct the state toxicological laboratory pursuant to RCW
35 ~~((68.08.107))~~ 68.50.107;

36 ~~((3) 88.33))~~ (2) Of the remaining funds not used in subsection (1)
37 of this section:

1 (a) 6.06 percent to the University of Washington and 4.04 percent
2 to Washington State University for alcoholism and drug abuse research
3 and for the dissemination of such research; and

4 (b) 89.9 percent to the general fund to be used by the department
5 of social and health services solely to carry out the purposes of RCW
6 ((70.96.085, as now or hereafter amended)) 70.96A.050;

7 ~~((4))~~ (3) The first fifty-five dollars per license fee provided
8 in RCW 66.24.320 and 66.24.330 up to a maximum of one hundred fifty
9 thousand dollars annually shall be disbursed every three months by the
10 board to the general fund to be used for juvenile alcohol and drug
11 prevention programs for kindergarten through third grade to be
12 administered by the superintendent of public instruction;

13 ~~((5))~~ (4) Twenty percent of the remaining total amount derived
14 from license fees pursuant to RCW 66.24.320, 66.24.330, 66.24.340,
15 66.24.350, 66.24.360, and 66.24.370, shall be transferred to the
16 general fund to be used by the department of social and health services
17 solely to carry out the purposes of RCW ~~((70.96.085))~~ 70.96A.050; and

18 ~~((6))~~ (5) One-fourth cent per liter of the tax imposed by RCW
19 66.24.210 shall every three months be disbursed by the board to
20 Washington State University solely for wine and wine grape research,
21 extension programs related to wine and wine grape research, and
22 resident instruction in both wine grape production and the processing
23 aspects of the wine industry in accordance with RCW 28B.30.068. The
24 director of financial management shall prescribe suitable accounting
25 procedures to ensure that the funds transferred to the general fund to
26 be used by the department of social and health services and
27 appropriated are separately accounted for.

28 **Sec. 5.** RCW 68.50.107 and 1986 c 87 s 2 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

30 There shall be established at the University of Washington Medical
31 School under the authority of the state death investigations council a
32 state toxicological laboratory under the direction of the state
33 toxicologist whose duty it will be to perform all necessary toxicologic
34 procedures requested by all coroners, medical examiners, and
35 prosecuting attorneys. ~~((Annually the president of the University of~~
36 ~~Washington, with the consent of the state death investigations~~
37 ~~council,))~~ The state death investigations council shall appoint a
38 ~~((competent))~~ toxicologist as state toxicologist ~~((who shall serve a~~

1 one year term. The state toxicologist may be reappointed to as many
2 additional one year terms as the president of the university and the
3 death investigations council deem proper. The facilities of the police
4 school of the Washington State University and the services of its
5 professional staff shall be made available to coroners, medical
6 examiners, and prosecuting attorneys in their investigations under this
7 chapter. This)). The laboratory shall be funded by disbursement from
8 the class H license fees as provided in RCW 66.08.180 and by
9 appropriation from the death investigations account as provided in RCW
10 43.79.445.

11 **Sec. 6.** RCW 70.58.107 and 1991 c 3 s 343 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 The department of health shall charge a fee of ((eleven)) thirteen
14 dollars for certified copies of records and for copies or information
15 provided for research, statistical, or administrative purposes, and
16 eight dollars for a search of the files or records when no copy is
17 made. The department shall prescribe by regulation fees to be paid for
18 preparing sealed files and for opening sealed files.

19 No fee may be demanded or required for furnishing certified copies
20 of a birth, death, fetal death, marriage, divorce, annulment, or legal
21 separation record for use in connection with a claim for compensation
22 or pension pending before the veterans administration.

23 The department shall keep a true and correct account of all fees
24 received and turn the fees over to the state treasurer on a weekly
25 basis.

26 Local registrars shall charge the same fees as the state as
27 hereinabove provided and as prescribed by department regulation, except
28 that local registrars shall charge ((eleven)) thirteen dollars for the
29 first copy of a death certificate and ((six)) eight dollars for each
30 additional copy of the same death certificate when the additional
31 copies are ordered at the same time as the first copy. All such fees
32 collected, except for ((three)) five dollars of each fee for the
33 issuance of a certified copy, shall be paid to the jurisdictional
34 health department.

35 All local registrars in cities and counties shall keep a true and
36 correct account of all fees received under this section for the
37 issuance of certified copies and shall turn ((three)) five dollars of

1 the fee over to the state treasurer on or before the first day of
2 January, April, July, and October.

3 ((Three)) Five dollars of each fee imposed for the issuance of
4 certified copies, except for copies suitable for display issued under
5 RCW 70.58.085, at both the state and local levels shall be held by the
6 state treasurer in the death investigations account established by RCW
7 43.79.445.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** 1994 c 275 s 44 (uncodified) is repealed.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Section 7 of this act is necessary for the
10 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or
11 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,
12 and shall take effect immediately.

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