
HOUSE BILL 1905

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Lambert, Sherstad, Pelesky, Casada and Johnson

Read first time 02/14/95. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the blood supply through directed
2 donations; adding new sections to chapter 70.54 RCW; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that maintaining a fresh and stable blood
8 supply for patient transfusion is crucial to the health and safety of
9 the public. The legislature further finds that there is no substitute
10 for blood, and blood donations are a critical part of a patient's
11 lifeline. Natural disasters, large scale industrial accidents, or
12 other emergency events could create critical shortages in needed blood
13 supplies. In addition, routine shortages do occur when many patients
14 concurrently require transfusions of platelets, which can be stored
15 only three to five days. Allowing for directed blood donations could
16 increase or stabilize the regions blood supply and facilitate public
17 safety and health in the event of a severe blood shortage or routine
18 shortages. Direct blood donations between family members or friends of
19 pretested blood is an important component of patient choice and is a

1 currently used medically accepted procedure in various parts of the
2 United States.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 Any blood donor program receiving blood donations for medical or
6 health purposes shall establish a program and procedures to honor the
7 requests by donors to have the blood donations directed for use to
8 persons as specified by such donors. The blood donor program may keep
9 up to one-third of the donated blood to increase the general blood
10 supply for other nondirected patient transfusions. The blood donor
11 program may charge reasonable fees for such directed blood donations to
12 cover administrative costs.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 Designated donations shall be accepted only with the written
16 consent of the patient or legal guardian and the donor. Standard
17 written confidential direct blood donor consent forms shall be
18 available at the blood donation program site. The confidential direct
19 blood donor form shall be filled out only by the potential donor. The
20 blood donation program shall provide a private location in the blood
21 donation facility so the potential donor can fill out forms and discuss
22 the donation process with program staff in private and without the
23 presence of family members or friends. The confidential direct blood
24 donor consent form shall contain a check-off box that allows the
25 potential direct blood donor to indicate if any family member or friend
26 has placed undue pressure on the potential blood donor to submit to the
27 direct blood donation procedure. If the confidential consent form
28 filled out by the potential direct blood donor indicates that undue
29 pressure has been placed on the potential donor, the blood donor
30 program staff shall terminate the donation procedure privately and
31 confidentially, and provide the potential donor with a written
32 statement indicating that "the donation is currently incompatible for
33 purposes of this procedure."

34 All potential direct blood donors who have agreed in writing to the
35 testing and donating procedure shall be counseled privately by trained
36 program staff prior to the procedures to further insure that no undue
37 pressure has been placed on the potential donor by family members or

1 friends. Direct blood donors shall have the opportunity to have their
2 blood tested timely, confidentially, and privately.

3 Only blood types that are medically suitable shall be used for
4 donation.

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

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