
HOUSE BILL 2469

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representative Lambert

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

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. If the blood
11 center, in consultation with the hospital transfusion services
12 department, determines that the unused directed donated blood is no
13 longer needed for the directed blood recipient, the blood may be
14 returned to the blood center and used in the general blood supply if
15 the directed donated blood meets all the applicable state and federal
16 standards for quality and safety. The blood donor program may charge
17 reasonable fees for directed blood donations to cover administrative
18 costs.

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

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

1 All potential direct blood donors who have agreed in writing to the
2 testing and donating procedure shall be counseled privately by trained
3 program staff prior to the procedures to further insure that no undue
4 pressure has been placed on the potential donor by family members or
5 friends. Direct blood donors shall have the opportunity to have their
6 blood tested timely, confidentially, and privately.

7 Only blood types that are medically suitable shall be used for
8 donation.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
10 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
11 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
12 immediately.

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