
SENATE BILL 5885

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, Patterson, Prentice, Kohl, Heavey, Brown, Fraser and Winsley

Read first time 02/18/97. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to infant breast-feeding; and adding a new section
2 to chapter 49.12 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 49.12 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that breast-feeding of an infant is an
7 important and basic act of nurture which must be encouraged in the
8 interests of maternal and child health and of family values. The
9 legislature recognizes that workplace policies protecting a woman's
10 right to choose to breast-feed her child will further these important
11 goals.

12 (2) A woman may breast-feed her infant child in any public or
13 private location at her place of employment where the woman is
14 otherwise authorized to be.

15 (3)(a) An employer may use the designation "baby-friendly" on its
16 promotional materials if the employer has an approved workplace breast-
17 feeding policy addressing at least the following:

1 (i) Flexible work scheduling, including scheduling breaks and
2 permitting work patterns that provide time for expression of breast
3 milk;

4 (ii) Accessible locations allowing privacy for breast-feeding or
5 expressing breast milk;

6 (iii) An accessible clean and safe water source with facilities for
7 washing hands and rinsing breast-pumping equipment; and

8 (iv) An accessible hygienic storage alternative in the workplace
9 for the mother's breast milk.

10 (b) Employers seeking approval of a workplace breast-feeding policy
11 shall submit the policy to the department of health. The department
12 shall review and approve those policies that meet the requirements of
13 this section.

14 (4) For the purposes of this section:

15 (a) "Infant child" means a child under the age of two years.

16 (b) "Employer" includes those employers defined in RCW 49.12.005
17 and also includes the state, state institutions, state agencies,
18 political subdivisions of the state, and municipal corporations or
19 quasi-municipal corporations.

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