

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5809

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions, February 26, 2001

Title: An act relating to breastfeeding.

Brief Description: Supporting the practice of breastfeeding.

Sponsors: Senators Costa, Kohl-Welles, Fairley, Thibaudeau, Fraser, Patterson, Gardner and T. Sheldon.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions: 2/26/01 [DP-WM, DNP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Prentice, Chair; Gardner, Vice Chair; Fairley, Franklin, Patterson, Rasmussen, Regala, West and Winsley.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Honeyford.

Staff: Elizabeth Mitchell (786-7430)

Background: Thirteen states have enacted laws providing that breastfeeding is not indecent exposure.

Six states have enacted laws regarding expressing milk in the workplace. Texas law permits a business to use "mother-friendly" designations in promotional materials if it develops a qualified breastfeeding policy.

Summary of Bill: Breastfeeding is not indecent exposure.

An employer may use a "mother-friendly" designation in its promotional materials if it has a workplace breastfeeding policy approved by the Department of Health. The policy must address: (1) flexible work scheduling; (2) private locations other than a restroom for breastfeeding or expressing breast milk; (3) a water source for washing hands and equipment; and (4) a refrigerator for storing breast milk.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This bill will encourage employers to support the practice of breastfeeding, which is important for children's health.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Carolyn Logue, National Federation of Independent Business; Amber Balch, Association of Washington Business.