
HOUSE BILL 2497

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Robinson, Goodman, Caldier, Appleton, Jinkins, Zeiger, McBride, Gregerson, Stanford, and Scott

Read first time 01/14/16. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to the prevention, education, and treatment of
2 female genital mutilation; adding a new section to chapter 70.54 RCW;
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that over five
6 hundred thousand women in the United States are at risk of or have
7 undergone female genital mutilation. The existence, incidence, and
8 effects of female genital mutilation is often shrouded in secrecy.
9 Federal law prohibits the performance of female genital mutilation in
10 the United States. However, there are immigrants coming to the United
11 States that have already been subjected to female genital mutilation
12 and girls from communities that traditionally practice female genital
13 mutilation that are at risk of being subjected to it on vacation in
14 their parents' country of origin.

15 (2) The legislature finds that there is a general lack of
16 information in the United States about female genital mutilation and
17 its health and emotional effects in local communities, schools,
18 government, and health institutions. The legislature intends to
19 establish education and outreach initiatives to prevent female
20 genital mutilation, provide information and awareness on female

1 genital mutilation, and provide care for victims of female genital
2 mutilation.

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

5 (1) The department of health shall design a plan for the
6 prevention, education, and treatment of female genital mutilation by
7 November 30, 2016. In developing the plan, the department shall seek
8 the input of:

9 (a) The public;

10 (b) Community members from communities that traditionally
11 practice female genital mutilation;

12 (c) Women's health groups and organizations;

13 (d) Educators;

14 (e) Relevant state agencies that provide services to persons at
15 risk of female genital mutilation or persons who have been subjected
16 to female genital mutilation;

17 (f) Local health departments; and

18 (g) Health care providers of services to persons at risk of
19 female genital mutilation or persons who have been subjected to
20 female genital mutilation.

21 (2) The department shall develop criteria to identify the
22 communities described in subsection (1)(b) of this section.

23 (3) The plan must include implementation recommendations in the
24 following areas:

25 (a) Female genital mutilation prevention and treatment strategies
26 for groups at risk for female genital mutilation;

27 (b) Educational programs to promote public awareness about female
28 genital mutilation;

29 (c) Education curricula for appropriate health and health-related
30 providers covered by the uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130
31 RCW;

32 (d) Training courses for persons providing counseling to
33 individuals subjected to female genital mutilation; and

34 (e) Sources and availability of funding to implement the plan.

35 (4) The department shall submit the completed plan to the
36 legislature by November 30, 2016. The department shall implement the
37 plan no later than August 1, 2017. The department shall provide
38 progress reports to the legislature beginning November 30, 2017, and
39 every two years thereafter.

1 (5) For the purposes of this section, "female genital mutilation"
2 means the excision or infibulation of the labia majora, labia minora,
3 clitoris, or vulva, performed for nonmedical purposes.

4 (6) The department of health may adopt rules necessary to
5 implement this section.

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