
SENATE BILL 5532

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Rolfes, Bailey, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/23/15. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & State Security.

1 AN ACT Relating to Washington's gift of life award; amending RCW
2 1.50.010, 1.50.030, and 1.50.040; and adding a new section to chapter
3 1.50 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 1.50 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that eighty-four people died waiting
8 for an organ transplant in Washington state in 2013. The legislature
9 further finds that more than two thousand six hundred people are
10 currently waiting for a life-saving organ transplant in Washington
11 state. Forty of those patients waiting are under the age of eighteen
12 and more than two hundred of those patients have been waiting for
13 more than five years for their life-saving gift. The legislature
14 further finds that organ donation is a very rare and precious gift.
15 Less than one percent of all people who die are eligible to donate
16 their organs due to the unique circumstances needed at death to
17 donate organs. Every donor is a critical donation to those waiting.

18 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to update the gift of life
19 award to recognize all Washington citizens who have donated critical
20 life-saving organs.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 1.50.010 and 2008 c 139 s 25 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
4 this section apply throughout this chapter.

5 (1) "Organ donor" means an individual who makes an anatomical
6 gift ~~((as specified in))~~ of an organ under chapter 68.64 RCW.

7 (2) "Organ procurement organization" has the same meaning as in
8 RCW 68.64.010.

9 ~~((3) "Person" means a person specified in RCW 68.64.080.))~~

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 1.50.030 and 1999 c 264 s 2 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 (1) The governor's office shall annually present the Washington
13 gift of life award to ~~((six eligible))~~ families ~~((or persons per year~~
14 under the following*)) of donors who have donated organs in
15 accordance with chapter 68.64 RCW.

16 ~~((1) The))~~ Organ procurement organizations may nominate the
17 ~~((six))~~ individuals ~~((or persons))~~ eligible under this section to
18 represent all those who have donated organs during the previous
19 calendar year and may submit documentation supporting the eligibility
20 of the individuals ~~((or person))~~ to the governor's office. If more
21 than one organ procurement organization is involved, they shall
22 coordinate in harmony to designate by consensus the organ procurement
23 organization among them to have primary administrative responsibility
24 under this chapter.

25 (2) The governor's office shall present the awards on an annual
26 basis to each eligible organ donor's family in coordination with the
27 organ procurement organization. Only one award may be presented to
28 the family of an organ donor.

29 (3) Organ procurement organizations shall seek permission from
30 the family of organ donors selected to receive the gift of life award
31 to release the name of the organ donor to the governor's office for
32 printing of a gift of life certificate and use at any gift of life
33 ceremonies or events.

34 **Sec. 4.** RCW 1.50.040 and 1999 c 264 s 3 are each amended to read
35 as follows:

36 The Washington gift of life award shall consist of the seal of
37 the state of Washington and be inscribed with the words: "For the

1 greatest act of kindness in donating organs to ((~~enhance~~)) save the
2 lives of others."

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