

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2273**

---

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** House Innovation, Technology & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Slatter and Irwin)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a study committee on human genome  
2 editing; adding a new section to chapter 70.220 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the increasing  
6 scientific knowledge of genetics and genomics has offered insights  
7 into fundamental biological processes and enabled accurate diagnosis,  
8 early intervention, and targeted therapies of genetic diseases. In  
9 addition, the science of human genome editing, a collection of  
10 technologies for creating changes in human genome, has advanced  
11 rapidly and demonstrated significant potential increases in  
12 efficiency and precision of achieving desired results while reducing  
13 unintended or harmful events. With these advances come many profound  
14 ethical questions about a wide range of potential applications that  
15 include not only treating but also preventing disease in this and  
16 future generations, or altering human traits unrelated to health  
17 concerns. Ensuring safe and ethically acceptable uses of these  
18 powerful tools and precluding irresponsible practices require  
19 establishing appropriate regulations based on rigorous discussions  
20 with the scientific community and diverse stakeholders about the  
21 health and societal benefits and risks of human genome editing.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 70.220  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) For the purpose of this section, "human genome editing" means  
4    any process, techniques, or technologies for making precise  
5    additions, deletions, and alterations to the human genome.

6        (2)(a) The Washington academy of sciences formed under this  
7    chapter must establish a study committee to examine scientific,  
8    ethical, and societal issues associated with human genome editing and  
9    to inform legislative approaches to safe and ethically responsible  
10    uses of human genome editing.

11        (b) The study committee must:

12        (i) Review existing scientific research on the safety and  
13    efficacy of human genome editing and evaluate potential health  
14    applications, benefits, and risks of human genome editing;

15        (ii) Examine the ethical, legal, and societal implications of  
16    using human genome editing;

17        (iii) Review existing regulatory infrastructure and processes for  
18    evaluating or funding human genome editing development and uses; and

19        (iv) Develop guiding principles for regulating human genome  
20    editing.

21        (c) The membership of the study committee is not limited to  
22    persons elected to the Washington academy of sciences and must  
23    include:

24        (i) Researchers and clinicians from relevant scientific  
25    disciplines;

26        (ii) Experts in the area of bioethics, ethics and public health,  
27    or ethics and the emerging biomedical technologies;

28        (iii) Scientific and technical experts in the biotechnology  
29    industry who have an understanding of human genome editing and gene  
30    therapies development; and

31        (iv) Representatives of the two largest caucuses of the senate  
32    and the house of representatives, appointed by the president of the  
33    senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, respectively,  
34    to serve on the study committee in a nonvoting observational  
35    capacity.

36        (d) In considering the issues described in (b) of this  
37    subsection, the study committee must solicit public participation and  
38    hold at least one meeting to provide a public forum for diverse  
39    perspectives about human genome editing.

1           (e) By October 1, 2021, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the  
2 study committee must submit to the relevant committees of the  
3 legislature a report that summarizes the activities and findings of  
4 the study committee and recommends the guiding principles for  
5 regulating human genome editing.

6           (3) This section expires June 30, 2022.

--- **END** ---