
SENATE BILL 5814

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Cleveland, Dhingra, Keiser, Lovelett, Lovick, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/11/22. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing funding for medical evaluations of
2 suspected victims of child abuse; adding new sections to chapter 7.68
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the crime
6 victims' compensation fund was established in 1973 to cover medical
7 bills and other costs associated with being the victim of a crime.
8 The legislature finds that state law requires the crime victims'
9 compensation fund to pay the costs of sexual assault examinations of
10 minors when they are performed to gather evidence for possible
11 prosecution. The legislature finds that in 2015, the legislature
12 passed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5897 to provide funding for medical
13 evaluations of suspected child victims of physical abuse. The
14 legislature finds that this law expired June 30, 2019, and was not
15 extended in the omnibus operating appropriations act. The legislature
16 recognizes that while sexual assault examinations are currently
17 provided for by the crime victims' compensation fund, examinations
18 for child victims of felony-level physical assault are not provided
19 for. The legislature finds that medical examinations are important
20 for children who may be victims of felony-level physical abuse. The
21 legislature finds that contributing to the cost of these examinations

1 will incentivize timely evaluations, lead to early identification of
2 abuse, and potentially prevent a child from further traumatization or
3 injury. The legislature therefore resolves to reenact the provision
4 of medical examinations of children who may be victims of felony-
5 level physical abuse.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 7.68 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) No costs incurred by an institution as defined in RCW
9 26.44.020 for the examination of a suspected victim of felony assault
10 of a child under chapter 9A.36 RCW may be billed or charged directly
11 or indirectly to the suspected victim of the felony assault. Subject
12 to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific
13 purpose, the department must pay all costs incurred by an institution
14 as defined in RCW 26.44.020 for the examination of a suspected victim
15 of felony assault of a child, provided that the cost of the
16 examination would not otherwise be covered by the department.

17 (2) The department must notify the office of financial management
18 and the fiscal committees of the legislature if it projects that the
19 cost of services provided under this section exceeds the amount of
20 funding provided by the legislature solely for the purposes of this
21 section.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 7.68 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 By November 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, and in compliance
25 with RCW 43.01.036, the department must submit a report to the
26 legislature and governor with the following information: The number
27 of requests to pay for physical abuse exams for child victims of
28 felony-level physical assault pursuant to section 2 of this act, how
29 many of these requests are approved and denied including the reasons
30 for denial, how many of the exams are covered for another reason, and
31 any other information the department believes is beneficial.

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