
SENATE BILL 6031

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senators West, Johnson and Wojahn

Read first time 01/13/92. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to poison information centers; amending RCW
2 18.76.010, 18.76.030, and 18.76.060; adding new sections to chapter
3 18.76 RCW; and repealing RCW 18.76.040.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.76.010 and 1987 c 214 s 16 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The legislature finds that accidental and purposeful exposure to
8 drugs, poisons, and ((poisonous)) toxic substances continues to be a
9 severe health problem in the state of Washington. It further finds
10 that a significant reduction in the consequences of such accidental
11 exposures ((have)) has occurred as a result of the services provided by
12 poison information centers, and that, by further enhancing these
13 services for occupational, industrial, and environmental exposures,
14 serious illness and injury can be even further reduced.

1 The purpose of this chapter is to reduce morbidity and mortality
2 associated with overdose and poisoning incidents by providing emergency
3 telephone assistance and treatment referral to victims of such
4 incidents, by providing immediate treatment information to health care
5 professionals, and public education and prevention programs. Further,
6 the purpose is to improve utilization of drugs by providing information
7 to health professionals relating to appropriate therapeutic drug use.

8 The legislature recognizes that enhanced cooperation between the
9 emergency medical system and poison control centers will aid in
10 responding to emergencies resulting from exposure to drugs, poisons,
11 and ((poisonous)) toxic substances, and that, by providing telephone
12 assistance to individuals with possible exposure to these chemicals,
13 the need for emergency room and professional office visits will be
14 reduced. As a result the cost of health care to those who may have
15 exposures to drugs, poisons, and toxic substances will be decreased and
16 appropriate treatment will be assured.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.76.030 and 1987 c 214 s 17 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 The department shall, in a manner consistent with this chapter,
20 provide support for the state-wide program of poison and drug
21 information services ~~((conducted by poison information centers located~~
22 ~~in the cities of Seattle and Spokane and satellite units located in the~~
23 ~~cities of Tacoma and Yakima))~~. These services shall, no later than
24 June 30, 1993, be centralized in and coordinated by a single nonprofit
25 center to be located in a place determined by the secretary. The
26 services of this ((program)) center shall be:

27 (1) Twenty-four hour emergency telephone management and treatment
28 referral of victims of poisoning and overdose incidents, to include
29 determining whether treatment can be accomplished at the scene of the

1 incident or transport to an emergency treatment or other facility is
2 required, and carrying out telephone follow-up to assure that adequate
3 care is provided;

4 (2) Providing information to health professionals involved in
5 management of poisoning and overdose victims;

6 (3) Community education programs designed to inform the public and
7 members of the health professions of poison prevention and treatment
8 methods(; and

9 ~~(4) Information to health professionals regarding appropriate~~
10 ~~therapeutic use of medications, their compatibility and stability, and~~
11 ~~adverse drug reactions and interactions))~~ and to improve awareness of
12 poisoning and overdose problems, occupational risks, and environmental
13 exposures; and

14 (4) Coordination of outreach units whose primary functions shall be
15 to inform the public about poison problems and prevention methods, how
16 to utilize the poison center, and other toxicology issues.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 18.76 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 The department shall establish a system for consulting with other
20 state agency programs concerned with poisons and poisonings, incidents
21 involving exposures to potentially poisonous substances, and other
22 toxicological matters to develop the most coordinated and consistent
23 response to such situations as is reasonably possible.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.76.060 and 1987 c 214 s 21 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (1) A person may not act as a poison center medical director or
27 perform the duties of poison information specialists of a poison

1 information center without being certified by the secretary under this
2 chapter.

3 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if a poison
4 center medical director terminates certification or is decertified,
5 that poison center medical director's authority may be delegated by the
6 department to any other person licensed to practice medicine and
7 surgery under chapter 18.71 RCW or osteopathy and surgery under chapter
8 18.57 RCW for a period of thirty days, or until a new poison center
9 medical director is certified, whichever comes first.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 18.76 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 The center may receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or
13 private sources that may be made from time to time, in trust or
14 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the center and
15 spend gifts, grants, or endowments or any income from the public or
16 private sources according to their terms.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.76.040 and 1987 c 214 s 18 & 1980
18 c 178 s 3 are each repealed.