
SENATE BILL 5239

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Wojahn, Prentice, Moyer, Deccio, Talmadge, Hargrove, Winsley, West and Erwin

Read first time 01/19/93. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

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; repealing RCW 18.76.040; and declaring an emergency.

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.

13 The purpose of this chapter is to reduce morbidity and mortality
14 associated with overdose and poisoning incidents by providing emergency
15 telephone assistance and treatment referral to victims of such
16 incidents, by providing immediate treatment information to health care
17 professionals, and public education and prevention programs. Further,
18 the purpose is to improve utilization of drugs by providing information
19 to health professionals relating to appropriate therapeutic drug use.

1 The legislature recognizes that enhanced cooperation between the
2 emergency medical system and poison control centers will aid in
3 responding to emergencies resulting from exposure to drugs, poisons,
4 and ~~((poisonous))~~ toxic substances, and that, by providing telephone
5 assistance to individuals with possible exposure to these substances,
6 the need for emergency room and professional office visits will be
7 reduced. As a result the cost of health care to those who may have
8 exposures to drugs, poisons, and toxic substances will be avoided and
9 appropriate treatment will be assured.

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

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

20 (1) Twenty-four hour emergency telephone management and treatment
21 referral of victims of poisoning and overdose incidents, to include
22 determining whether treatment can be accomplished at the scene of the
23 incident or transport to an emergency treatment or other facility is
24 required, and carrying out telephone follow-up to assure that adequate
25 care is provided;

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

28 (3) Coordination and development of community education programs
29 designed to inform the public and members of the health professions of
30 poison prevention and treatment methods~~((; and~~

31 ~~((4) Information to health professionals regarding appropriate~~
32 ~~therapeutic use of medications, their compatibility and stability, and~~
33 ~~adverse drug reactions and interactions))~~ and to improve awareness of
34 poisoning and overdose problems, occupational risks, and environmental
35 exposures; and

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

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.76 RCW
2 to read as follows:

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

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

10 (1) A person may not act as a poison center medical director or
11 perform the duties of poison information specialists of a poison
12 information center without being certified by the secretary under this
13 chapter.

14 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if a poison
15 center medical director terminates certification or is decertified,
16 that poison center medical director's authority may be delegated by the
17 department to any other person licensed to practice medicine and
18 surgery under chapter 18.71 RCW or osteopathy and surgery under chapter
19 18.57 RCW for a period of thirty days, or until a new poison center
20 medical director is certified, whichever comes first.

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

23 The center may receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or
24 private sources that may be made from time to time, in trust or
25 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the center and
26 spend gifts, grants, or endowments or any income from the public or
27 private sources according to their terms.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.76.040 and 1987 c 214 s 18 & 1980 c
29 178 s 3 are each repealed.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act is necessary for the immediate
31 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
32 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
33 effect immediately.

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