

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5239**

Chapter 343, Laws of 1993

53rd Legislature  
1993 Regular Session

CENTRALIZATION OF POISON INFORMATION SERVICES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/25/93

Passed by the Senate March 11, 1993  
YEAS 48 NAYS 0

JOEL PRITCHARD  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 25, 1993  
YEAS 92 NAYS 0

BRIAN EBERSOLE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Approved May 15, 1993

MIKE LOWRY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Marty Brown, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5239** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

MARTY BROWN  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary**

FILED

May 15, 1993 - 10:44 a.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

---

SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5239

---

Passed Legislature - 1993 Regular Session

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Wojahn, Prentice, Moyer, Deccio, Talmadge, Hargrove, Winsley, West and Erwin)

Read first time 03/08/93.

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; creating a new section; 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.

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 and local agency programs concerned with poisons and poisonings,  
5 incidents involving exposures to potentially poisonous substances, and  
6 other toxicological matters to develop the most coordinated and  
7 consistent 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.**    If specific funding for the purposes of this  
31 act is not provided by June 30, 1993, this act shall be null and void.

Passed the Senate March 11, 1993.

Passed the House April 25, 1993.

Approved by the Governor May 15, 1993.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 15, 1993.