CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6302

Chapter 241, Laws of 1998

55th Legislature 1998 Regular Session

RISK-BASED CAPITAL STANDARDS FOR HEALTH CARE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/11/98

Passed by the Senate March 7, 1998 YEAS 47 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House February 27, 1998 YEAS 95 NAYS 0

CLYDE BALLARD

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved March 30, 1998

CERTIFICATE

I, Mike O Connell, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6302** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

MIKE O'CONNELL

Secretary

FILED

March 30, 1998 - 3:20 p.m.

GARY LOCKE

Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State State of Washington

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6302

Passed Legislature - 1998 Regular Session

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1998 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Financial Institutions, Insurance & Housing (originally sponsored by Senators Winsley and Prentice; by request of Insurance Commissioner)

Read first time 02/05/98.

1 AN ACT Relating to the risk-based capital of health carriers; 2 amending RCW 48.42.040; and adding new sections to chapter 48.43 RCW.

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

4 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 1. The definitions in this section apply 5 throughout sections 1 through 15 of this act unless the context 6 clearly requires otherwise.

7 (1) "Adjusted RBC report" means an RBC report that has been 8 adjusted by the commissioner in accordance with section 2(4) of this 9 act.

10 (2) "Corrective order" means an order issued by the commissioner 11 specifying corrective actions that the commissioner has determined are 12 required.

(3) "Domestic carrier" means any carrier domiciled in this state,
or any person or entity subject to chapter 48.42 RCW domiciled in this
state.

16 (4) "Foreign or alien carrier" means any carrier that is licensed 17 to do business in this state but is not domiciled in this state, or any 18 person or entity subject to chapter 48.42 RCW not domiciled in this 19 state.

1 (5) "NAIC" means the national association of insurance 2 commissioners.

3 (6) "Negative trend" means, with respect to a carrier, a negative 4 trend over a period of time, as determined in accordance with the 5 "trend test calculation" included in the RBC instructions.

6

(7) "RBC" means risk-based capital.

7 (8) "RBC instructions" means the RBC report including risk-based 8 capital instructions adopted by the NAIC, as such RBC instructions may 9 be amended by the NAIC from time to time in accordance with the 10 procedures adopted by the NAIC.

(9) "RBC level" means a carrier's company action level RBC, regulatory action level RBC, authorized control level RBC, or mandatory control level RBC where:

(a) "Company action level RBC" means, with respect to any carrier,the product of 2.0 and its authorized control level RBC;

16 (b) "Regulatory action level RBC" means the product of 1.5 and its 17 authorized control level RBC;

18 (c) "Authorized control level RBC" means the number determined 19 under the risk-based capital formula in accordance with the RBC 20 instructions;

(d) "Mandatory control level RBC" means the product of .70 and theauthorized control level RBC.

(10) "RBC plan" means a comprehensive financial plan containing the elements specified in section 3(2) of this act. If the commissioner rejects the RBC plan, and it is revised by the carrier, with or without the commissioner's recommendation, the plan shall be called the "revised RBC plan."

(11) "RBC report" means the report required in section 2 of thisact.

30 (12) "Total adjusted capital" means the sum of:

(a) Either a carrier's statutory capital and surplus or net worth, or both, as determined in accordance with statutory accounting applicable to the annual financial statements required to be filed with the commissioner; and

35 (b) Other items, if any, as the RBC instructions may provide.

36 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 2.** (1) Every domestic carrier shall, on or 37 prior to the filing date of March 1st, prepare and submit to the 38 commissioner a report of its RBC levels as of the end of the calendar 1 year just ended, in a form and containing such information as is 2 required by the RBC instructions. In addition, every domestic carrier 3 shall file its RBC report:

4 (a) With the NAIC in accordance with the RBC instructions; and 5 (b) With the insurance commissioner in any state in which the 6 carrier is authorized to do business, if the insurance commissioner has 7 notified the carrier of its request in writing, in which case the 8 carrier shall file its RBC report not later than the later of:

9 (i) Fifteen days from the receipt of notice to file its RBC report 10 with that state; or

11 (ii) The filing date.

12 (2) A carrier's RBC shall be determined in accordance with the 13 formula set forth in the RBC instructions. The formula shall take into 14 account (and may adjust for the covariance between):

15

(a) The risk with respect to the carrier's assets;

16 (b) The risk of adverse insurance experience with respect to the 17 carrier's liabilities and obligations;

18 (c) The interest rate risk with respect to the carrier's business; 19 and

(d) All other business risks and such other relevant risks as are
set forth in the RBC instructions; determined in each case by applying
the factors in the manner set forth in the RBC instructions.

23 (3) An excess of capital over the amount produced by the risk-based 24 capital requirements contained in sections 1 through 15 of this act and 25 the formulas, schedules, and instructions referenced in sections 1 26 through 15 of this act is desirable in the business of insurance. Accordingly, carriers should seek to maintain capital above the RBC 27 levels required by sections 1 through 15 of this act. Additional 28 29 capital is used and useful in the insurance business and helps to 30 secure a carrier against various risks inherent in, or affecting, the 31 business of insurance and not accounted for or only partially measured by the risk-based capital requirements contained in sections 1 through 32 15 of this act. 33

(4) If a domestic carrier files an RBC report that in the judgment of the commissioner is inaccurate, then the commissioner shall adjust the RBC report to correct the inaccuracy and shall notify the carrier of the adjustment. The notice shall contain a statement of the reason for the adjustment.

1 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 3. (1) "Company action level event" means any 2 of the following events:

3 (a) The filing of an RBC report by a carrier which indicates that:

4 (i) The carrier's total adjusted capital is greater than or equal 5 to its regulatory action level RBC but less than its company action 6 level RBC; or

7 (ii) The carrier has total adjusted capital which is greater than 8 or equal to its company action level RBC but less than the product of 9 its authorized control level RBC and 2.5 and has a negative trend;

10 (b) The notification by the commissioner to the carrier of an 11 adjusted RBC report that indicates an event in (a) of this subsection, 12 provided the carrier does not challenge the adjusted RBC report under 13 section 7 of this act; or

(c) If, under section 7 of this act, a carrier challenges an
adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection,
the notification by the commissioner to the carrier that the
commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the carrier's challenge.
(2) In the event of a company action level event, the carrier shall

19 prepare and submit to the commissioner an RBC plan that:

(a) Identifies the conditions that contribute to the company actionlevel event;

(b) Contains proposals of corrective actions that the carrier
 intends to take and would be expected to result in the elimination of
 the company action level event;

25 (c) Provides projections of the carrier's financial results in the 26 current year and at least the four succeeding years, both in the absence of proposed corrective actions and giving effect to the 27 proposed corrective actions, including projections of statutory 28 operating income, net income, capital, surplus, capital and surplus, 29 30 and net worth. The projections for both new and renewal business might include separate projections for each major line of business and 31 separately identify each significant income, expense, and benefit 32 33 component;

(d) Identifies the key assumptions impacting the carrier's
 projections and the sensitivity of the projections to the assumptions;
 and

(e) Identifies the quality of, and problems associated with, the
 carrier's business, including but not limited to its assets,
 anticipated business growth and associated surplus strain,

1 extraordinary exposure to risk, mix of business, and use of 2 reinsurance, if any, in each case.

3 (3) The RBC plan shall be submitted:

4 (a) Within forty-five days of the company action level event; or
5 (b) If the carrier challenges an adjusted RBC report under section
6 7 of this act, within forty-five days after notification to the carrier
7 that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the carrier's
8 challenge.

9 (4) Within sixty days after the submission by a carrier of an RBC 10 plan to the commissioner, the commissioner shall notify the carrier whether the RBC plan may be implemented or is, in the judgment of the 11 commissioner, unsatisfactory. If the commissioner determines the RBC 12 plan is unsatisfactory, the notification to the carrier shall set forth 13 the reasons for the determination, and may set forth proposed revisions 14 15 that will render the RBC plan satisfactory. Upon notification from the commissioner, the carrier shall prepare a revised RBC plan, that may 16 17 incorporate by reference any revisions proposed by the commissioner, 18 and shall submit the revised RBC plan to the commissioner:

(a) Within forty-five days after the notification from thecommissioner; or

(b) If the carrier challenges the notification from the commissioner under section 7 of this act, within forty-five days after a notification to the carrier that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the carrier's challenge.

(5) In the event of a notification by the commissioner to a carrier that the carrier's RBC plan or revised RBC plan is unsatisfactory, the commissioner may, subject to the carrier's rights to a hearing under section 7 of this act, specify in the notification that the notification constitutes a regulatory action level event.

30 (6) Every domestic carrier that files an RBC plan or revised RBC 31 plan with the commissioner shall file a copy of the RBC plan or revised 32 RBC plan with the insurance commissioner in any state in which the 33 carrier is authorized to do business if:

34 (a) Such state has an RBC provision substantially similar to35 section 8(1) of this act; and

36 (b) The insurance commissioner of that state has notified the 37 carrier of its request for the filing in writing, in which case the 38 carrier shall file a copy of the RBC plan or revised RBC plan in that 39 state no later than the later of:

(i) Fifteen days after the receipt of notice to file a copy of its
 RBC plan or revised plan with the state; or

3 (ii) The date on which the RBC plan or revised RBC plan is filed 4 under subsections (3) and (4) of this section.

5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 4. (1) "Regulatory action level event" means, 6 with respect to any carrier, any of the following events:

7 (a) The filing of an RBC report by the carrier which indicates that 8 the carrier's total adjusted capital is greater than or equal to its 9 authorized control level RBC but less than its regulatory action level 10 RBC;

(b) The notification by the commissioner to a carrier of an adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, provided the carrier does not challenge the adjusted RBC report under section 7 of this act;

(c) If, under section 7 of this act, the carrier challenges an adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, the notification by the commissioner to the carrier that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the carrier's challenge;

(d) The failure of the carrier to file an RBC report by the filing date, unless the carrier has provided an explanation for such failure that is satisfactory to the commissioner and has cured the failure within ten days after the filing date;

(e) The failure of the carrier to submit an RBC plan to the
commissioner within the time period set forth in section 3(3) of this
act;

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(f) Notification by the commissioner to the carrier that:

(i) The RBC plan or revised RBC plan submitted by the carrier is,in the judgment of the commissioner, unsatisfactory; and

(ii) The notification constitutes a regulatory action level event
 with respect to the carrier, provided the carrier has not challenged
 the determination under section 7 of this act;

(g) If, under section 7 of this act, the carrier challenges a determination by the commissioner under (f) of this subsection, the notification by the commissioner to the carrier that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the challenge;

(h) Notification by the commissioner to the carrier that the
 carrier has failed to adhere to its RBC plan or revised RBC plan, but
 only if such failure has a substantial adverse effect on the ability of

1 the carrier to eliminate the company action level event in accordance 2 with its RBC plan or revised RBC plan and the commissioner has so 3 stated in the notification, provided the carrier has not challenged the 4 determination under section 7 of this act; or

5 (i) If, under section 7 of this act, the carrier challenges a 6 determination by the commissioner under (h) of this subsection, the 7 notification by the commissioner to the carrier that the commissioner 8 has, after a hearing, rejected the challenge.

9 (2) In the event of a regulatory action level event the 10 commissioner shall:

(a) Require the carrier to prepare and submit an RBC plan or, ifapplicable, a revised RBC plan;

(b) Perform the examination or analysis the commissioner deems
necessary of the assets, liabilities, and operations of the carrier
including a review of its RBC plan or revised RBC plan; and

16 (c) Subsequent to the examination or analysis, issue an order 17 specifying those corrective actions the commissioner determines are 18 required.

19 (3) In determining corrective actions, the commissioner may take 20 into account those factors deemed relevant with respect to the carrier 21 based upon the commissioner's examination or analysis of the assets, 22 liabilities, and operations of the carrier, including, but not limited 23 to, the results of any sensitivity tests undertaken pursuant to the RBC 24 instructions. The RBC plan or revised RBC plan shall be submitted:

(a) Within forty-five days after the occurrence of the regulatoryaction level event;

(b) If the carrier challenges an adjusted RBC report under section 7 of this act and the challenge is not frivolous in the judgment of the commissioner within forty-five days after the notification to the carrier that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the carrier's challenge; or

32 (c) If the carrier challenges a revised RBC plan under section 7 of 33 this act and the challenge is not frivolous in the judgment of the 34 commissioner, within forty-five days after the notification to the 35 carrier that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the 36 carrier's challenge.

(4) The commissioner may retain actuaries and investment experts
 and other consultants as may be necessary in the judgment of the
 commissioner to review the carrier's RBC plan or revised RBC plan,

examine or analyze the assets, liabilities, and operations of the
 carrier and formulate the corrective order with respect to the carrier.
 The fees, costs, and expenses relating to consultants shall be borne by
 the affected carrier or other party as directed by the commissioner.

5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 5. (1) "Authorized control level event" means 6 any of the following events:

7 (a) The filing of an RBC report by the carrier which indicates that 8 the carrier's total adjusted capital is greater than or equal to its 9 mandatory control level RBC but less than its authorized control level 10 RBC;

(b) The notification by the commissioner to the carrier of an adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, provided the carrier does not challenge the adjusted RBC report under section 7 of this act;

(c) If, under section 7 of this act, the carrier challenges an adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, notification by the commissioner to the carrier that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the carrier's challenge;

(d) The failure of the carrier to respond, in a manner satisfactory
to the commissioner, to a corrective order, provided the carrier has
not challenged the corrective order under section 7 of this act; or

(e) If the carrier has challenged a corrective order under section 7 of this act and the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the challenge or modified the corrective order, the failure of the carrier to respond, in a manner satisfactory to the commissioner, to the corrective order subsequent to rejection or modification by the commissioner.

(2) In the event of an authorized control level event with respectto a carrier, the commissioner shall:

(a) Take those actions required under section 4 of this act
 regarding a carrier with respect to which a regulatory action level
 event has occurred; or

(b) If the commissioner deems it to be in the best interests of either the policyholders or subscribers, or both, and creditors of the carrier and of the public, take those actions necessary to cause the carrier to be placed under regulatory control under chapter 48.31 RCW. In the event the commissioner takes such actions, the authorized control level event is sufficient grounds for the commissioner to take

1 action under chapter 48.31 RCW, and the commissioner shall have the 2 rights, powers, and duties with respect to the carrier as are set forth 3 in chapter 48.31 RCW. In the event the commissioner takes actions 4 under this subsection (2)(b) pursuant to an adjusted RBC report, the 5 carrier is entitled to those protections afforded to carriers under the 6 provisions of RCW 48.31.121 pertaining to summary proceedings.

7 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 6. (1) "Mandatory control level event" means 8 any of the following events:

9 (a) The filing of an RBC report which indicates that the carrier's 10 total adjusted capital is less than its mandatory control level RBC; 11 (b) Notification by the commissioner to the carrier of an adjusted 12 RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, provided 13 the carrier does not challenge the adjusted RBC report under section 7 14 of this act; or

(c) If, under section 7 of this act, the carrier challenges an adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, notification by the commissioner to the carrier that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the carrier's challenge.

19 (2) In the event of a mandatory control level event, with respect to a carrier, the commissioner shall take those actions necessary to 20 place the carrier under regulatory control under chapter 48.31 RCW. In 21 that event, the mandatory control level event is sufficient grounds for 22 23 the commissioner to take action under chapter 48.31 RCW, and the 24 commissioner shall have the rights, powers, and duties with respect to 25 the carrier as are set forth in chapter 48.31 RCW. If the commissioner takes actions pursuant to an adjusted RBC report, the carrier is 26 27 entitled to the protections of RCW 48.31.121 pertaining to summary proceedings. However, the commissioner may forego action for up to 28 29 ninety days after the mandatory control level event if the commissioner 30 finds there is a reasonable expectation that the mandatory control level event may be eliminated within the ninety-day period. 31

32 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 7.** (1) Upon notification to a carrier by the 33 commissioner of any of the following, the carrier shall have the right 34 to a hearing, in accordance with chapters 48.04 and 34.05 RCW, at which 35 the carrier may challenge any determination or action by the 36 commissioner:

37 (a) Of an adjusted RBC report; or

1 (b)(i) That the carrier's RBC plan or revised RBC plan is 2 unsatisfactory; and

3 (ii) The notification constitutes a regulatory action level event4 with respect to such carrier; or

5 (c) That the carrier has failed to adhere to its RBC plan or 6 revised RBC plan and that such failure has a substantial adverse effect 7 on the ability of the carrier to eliminate the company action level 8 event with respect to the carrier in accordance with its RBC plan or 9 revised RBC plan; or

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(d) Of a corrective order with respect to the carrier.

(2) The carrier shall notify the commissioner of its request for a hearing within five days after the notification by the commissioner under this section. Upon receipt of the carrier's request for a hearing, the commissioner shall set a date for the hearing. The date shall be no less than ten nor more than thirty days after the date of the carrier's request.

Sec. 8. (1) All RBC reports, to the extent the 17 NEW SECTION. 18 information therein is not required to be set forth in a publicly available annual statement schedule, and RBC plans, including the 19 results or report of any examination or analysis of a carrier and any 20 corrective order issued by the commissioner, with respect to any 21 22 domestic carrier or foreign carrier that are filed with the 23 commissioner constitute information that might be damaging to the 24 carrier if made available to its competitors, and therefore shall be 25 kept confidential by the commissioner. This information shall not be made public or be subject to subpoena, other than by the commissioner 26 27 and then only for the purpose of enforcement actions taken by the commissioner. 28

29 (2) The comparison of a carrier's total adjusted capital to any of 30 its RBC levels is a regulatory tool that may indicate the need for possible corrective action with respect to the carrier, and is not a 31 means to rank carriers generally. Therefore, except as otherwise 32 required under the provisions of sections 1 through 15 of this act, the 33 34 making, publishing, disseminating, circulating, or placing before the public, or causing, directly or indirectly, to be made, published, 35 36 disseminated, circulated, or placed before the public, in a newspaper, magazine, or other publication, or in the form of a notice, circular, 37 pamphlet, letter, or poster, or over any radio or television station, 38

or in any other way, an advertisement, announcement, or statement 1 2 containing an assertion, representation, or statement with regard to the RBC levels of any carrier, or of any component derived in the 3 4 calculation, by any carrier, agent, broker, or other person engaged in 5 any manner in the insurance business would be misleading and is therefore prohibited. However, if any materially false statement with 6 respect to the comparison regarding a carrier's total adjusted capital 7 8 to its RBC levels (or any of them) or an inappropriate comparison of 9 any other amount to the carrier's RBC levels is published in any 10 written publication and the carrier is able to demonstrate to the commissioner with substantial proof the falsity of such statement, or 11 the inappropriateness, as the case may be, then the carrier may publish 12 13 an announcement in a written publication if the sole purpose of the announcement is to rebut the materially false statement. 14

15 (3) The RBC instructions, RBC reports, adjusted RBC reports, RBC plans, and revised RBC plans are intended solely for use by the 16 17 commissioner in monitoring the solvency of carriers and the need for possible corrective action with respect to carriers and shall not be 18 19 used by the commissioner for ratemaking nor considered or introduced as 20 evidence in any rate proceeding nor used by the commissioner to calculate or derive any elements of an appropriate premium level or 21 rate of return for any line of insurance that a carrier or any 22 23 affiliate is authorized to write.

24 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 9. (1) The provisions of sections 1 through 15 25 of this act are supplemental to any other provisions of the laws and 26 rules of this state, and shall not preclude or limit any other powers 27 or duties of the commissioner under such laws and rules, including, but 28 not limited to, chapter 48.31 RCW.

(2) The commissioner may adopt reasonable rules necessary for theimplementation of sections 1 through 15 of this act.

31 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 10. (1) Any foreign or alien carrier shall, 32 upon the written request of the commissioner, submit to the 33 commissioner an RBC report as of the end of the calendar year just 34 ended by the later of:

(a) The date an RBC report would be required to be filed by adomestic carrier under sections 1 through 15 of this act; or

1 (b) Fifteen days after the request is received by the foreign or 2 alien carrier. Any foreign or alien carrier shall, at the written 3 request of the commissioner, promptly submit to the commissioner a copy 4 of any RBC plan that is filed with the insurance commissioner of any 5 other state.

(2) In the event of a company action level event, regulatory action 6 7 level event, or authorized control level event with respect to any 8 foreign or alien carrier as determined under the RBC statute applicable 9 in the state of domicile of the carrier or, if no RBC statute is in 10 force in that state, under the provisions of sections 1 through 15 of this act, if the insurance commissioner of the state of domicile of the 11 foreign or alien carrier fails to require the foreign or alien carrier 12 13 to file an RBC plan in the manner specified under that state's RBC statute or, if no RBC statute is in force in that state, under section 14 15 3 of this act, the commissioner may require the foreign or alien 16 carrier to file an RBC plan with the commissioner. In this event, the 17 failure of the foreign or alien carrier to file an RBC plan with the commissioner is grounds to order the carrier to cease and desist from 18 19 writing new insurance business in this state.

20 (3) In the event of a mandatory control level event with respect to any foreign or alien carrier, if no domiciliary receiver has been 21 appointed with respect to the foreign or alien carrier under the 22 rehabilitation and liquidation statute applicable in the state of 23 24 domicile of the foreign or alien carrier, the commissioner may apply 25 for an order under RCW 48.31.080 or 48.31.090 to conserve the assets 26 within this state of foreign or alien carriers, and the occurrence of 27 the mandatory control level event is considered adequate grounds for the application. 28

29 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 11. There is no liability on the part of, and 30 no cause of action shall arise against, the commissioner or insurance 31 department or its employees or agents for any action taken by them in 32 the performance of their powers and duties under sections 1 through 15 33 of this act.

34 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 12. All notices by the commissioner to a 35 carrier that may result in regulatory action are effective upon 36 dispatch if transmitted by registered or certified mail, or in the case

of any other transmission, are effective upon the carrier's receipt of
 such notice.

3 NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. For RBC reports to be filed by carriers commencing operations after the effective date of this act, those 4 carriers shall calculate the initial RBC levels using financial 5 projections, considering managed care arrangements, for its first full 6 7 year in operation. Such projections, including the risk-based capital requirement, must be included as part of a comprehensive business plan 8 9 that is submitted as part of the application for registration under RCW 48.44.040 and 48.46.030. The resulting RBC requirement shall be 10 11 reported in the first RBC report submitted under section 2 of this act. 12 For subsequent reports, the RBC results using actual financial data shall be included. 13

14 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 14. The first RBC report required under section 15 2 of this act shall be filed on or prior to March 1, 1999, for the 1998 16 calendar year.

17 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 15.** Sections 1 through 15 of this act shall not 18 apply to a carrier which is subject to the provisions of RCW 48.05.430 19 through 48.05.490.

20 **Sec. 16.** RCW 48.42.040 and 1983 c 36 s 4 are each amended to read 21 as follows:

Any person or entity unable to show that it is subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of another agency of this state, any subdivision thereof, or the federal government, shall be subject to all appropriate provisions of this title regarding the conduct of its business <u>including</u>, but not limited to, sections 1 through 15 of this <u>act</u>.

28 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 17. If any provision of this act or its 29 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the 30 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other 31 persons or circumstances is not affected.

32 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 18. Sections 1 through 15 of this act are each 33 added to chapter 48.43 RCW.

SSB 6302.SL

Passed the Senate March 7, 1998. Passed the House February 27, 1998. Approved by the Governor March 30, 1998. Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 30, 1998.