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SENATE BILL 6567

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Swecker, Roach and McCaslin

Read first time 01/19/2000. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to fluoridation of public water systems; amending  
2 RCW 70.119A.060; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that maintaining the  
5 purity of the state's public water systems is critical to the health  
6 and safety of the public and the environment, and that prohibiting any  
7 additives that compromise that purity is good public policy. The  
8 legislature further finds that ingesting fluoride through water  
9 fluoridation imposes dangers on the public and on wildlife that are not  
10 widely understood. Some studies have found that fluoride accumulation  
11 in bones over time can cause increased susceptibility to osteoporosis,  
12 while other studies have linked fluoride to increased incidences of  
13 cancer, damage to the human immune system, worsening of arthritis, and  
14 dental fluorosis in children. The legislature declares that fluoride  
15 additives to water are toxic and that an immediate moratorium be placed  
16 on adding any fluoride to additional public water systems.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.119A.060 and 1995 c 376 s 3 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

1 (1) In order to assure safe and reliable public drinking water and  
2 to protect the public health, public water systems shall:

3 (a) Protect the water sources used for drinking water, including  
4 imposing a moratorium on fluoridation in any form in public water  
5 systems that do not currently have fluoride additives;

6 (b) Provide treatment adequate to assure that the public health is  
7 protected;

8 (c) Provide and effectively operate and maintain public water  
9 system facilities;

10 (d) Plan for future growth and assure the availability of safe and  
11 reliable drinking water;

12 (e) Provide the department with the current names, addresses, and  
13 telephone numbers of the owners, operators, and emergency contact  
14 persons for the system, including any changes to this information, and  
15 provide to users the name and twenty-four hour telephone number of an  
16 emergency contact person; and

17 (f) Take whatever investigative or corrective action is necessary  
18 to assure that a safe and reliable drinking water supply is  
19 continuously available to users.

20 (2) No new public water system may be approved or created unless:

21 (a) It is owned or operated by a satellite system management agency  
22 established under RCW 70.116.134 and the satellite system management  
23 system complies with financial viability requirements of the  
24 department; or (b) a satellite management system is not available and  
25 it is determined that the new system has sufficient management and  
26 financial resources to provide safe and reliable service. The approval  
27 of any new system that is not owned by a satellite system management  
28 agency shall be conditioned upon future management or ownership by a  
29 satellite system management agency, if such management or ownership can  
30 be made with reasonable economy and efficiency, or upon periodic review  
31 of the system's operational history to determine its ability to meet  
32 the department's financial viability and other operating requirements.  
33 The department and local health jurisdictions shall enforce this  
34 requirement under authority provided under this chapter, chapter  
35 70.116, or 70.05 RCW, or other authority governing the approval of new  
36 water systems by the department or a local jurisdiction.

37 (3) The department and local health jurisdictions shall carry out  
38 the rules and regulations of the state board of health adopted pursuant

1 to RCW 43.20.050(2)(a) and other rules adopted by the department  
2 relating to public water systems.

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