
HOUSE BILL 1412

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Skinner, Linville, Benson, Nixon, Conway, Jarrett, Kagi, Chase, Cody, Darneille and Kenney

Read first time 01/24/2003. Referred to Committee on Fisheries, Ecology & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to the children's environmental health and
2 protection advisory council; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children in the
6 state face many preventable exposures to environmental hazards in their
7 schools, homes, and communities. In certain cases children are at
8 greater risk than adults for exposure to and possible illness from
9 environmental hazards. This is due in part to their behaviors but also
10 to their decreased ability to detoxify certain substances due to the
11 immaturity of their body organs and immune systems.

12 The legislature further finds that higher rates of poverty place
13 children of ethnic and minority communities at disproportionate risk
14 for environmental exposures due to inadequate housing, poor nutrition,
15 and limited access to health care. Solutions to complex environmental
16 health problems require the ongoing communication, collaboration, and
17 cooperation of affected communities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** As used in this act, "environmental hazard"
2 means one or a group of toxic chemical, biological, or physical agents
3 in the environment, resulting from human activities or natural
4 processes, that may impact the health of exposed children, including
5 such pollutants as lead, pesticides, air pollutants, contaminated
6 drinking water, polluted waters, toxic waste, polychlorinated
7 biphenyls, secondhand tobacco smoke, and industrial and home chemicals.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The children's environmental health and
9 protection advisory council is created.

10 (2) Membership of the advisory council shall consist of fifteen
11 members. The president of the senate shall appoint one member of the
12 majority party and one member of the minority party. The speaker of
13 the house of representatives shall appoint one member from each party.
14 The other members shall include: The secretary of the department of
15 health or designee; the secretary of the department of ecology or
16 designee; the secretary of the department of agriculture or designee;
17 the superintendent of public instruction or designee; the secretary of
18 the department of social and health services or designee; the secretary
19 of the department of labor and industries or designee; one member of
20 the state board of health; one tribal representative, appointed by the
21 governor; one licensed pediatric health care provider with expertise in
22 the field of children's environmental health, appointed by the
23 governor; one parent or guardian whose child has been clinically
24 diagnosed with exposure to an environmental health hazard, appointed by
25 the governor; and an expert in the field of environmental toxicology,
26 appointed by the governor.

27 (3) Members of the advisory council shall serve without
28 compensation.

29 (4) The board of health shall provide staff support and
30 administrative assistance to the advisory council.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The advisory council shall:

32 (1) Meet at least four times a year;

33 (2) Review and comment on existing laws, rules, regulations, and
34 standards to ensure that they adequately protect the health of children
35 from environmental hazards;

1 (3) Work collaboratively with state agencies and others without
2 duplicating current work in this area; and

3 (4) Report to the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2004,
4 and December 1, 2005, with recommendations on changes in regulation
5 that would reduce children's exposure to environmental hazards and
6 recommendations for collaborative approaches to public education.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The state board of health may solicit,
8 accept, and spend gifts, grants, bequests, devises, and other funds
9 from public and private sources to fund the activities of the
10 children's environmental health and protection advisory council created
11 under section 3 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act expires June 30, 2006.

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