

6723

Sponsor(s): Senator Thibaudeau

Brief Description: Improving patient safety practices.

SB 6723 - DIGEST

Finds that: (1) Thousands of patients are injured each year in the United States as a result of medical errors, and that a comprehensive approach is needed to effectively reduce the incidence of medical errors in our health care system. Implementation of proven patient safety strategies can reduce medical errors, and thereby potentially reduce the need for disciplinary actions against licensed health care professionals and facilities, and the frequency and severity of medical malpractice claims; and

(2) Health care providers, health care facilities, and health carriers can and should be supported in their efforts to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors by authorizing the sharing of successful quality improvement efforts, encouraging health care facilities and providers to work cooperatively in their patient safety efforts, and increasing funding available to implement proven patient safety strategies.

Declares an intent to positively influence the safety and quality of care provided in Washington state's health care system.

Establishes provisions for funding patient safety efforts.

Requires that, by December 1, 2007, the department shall report the following information to the governor and the health policy and fiscal committees of the legislature: (1) The amount of patient safety fees and set asides deposited to date in the patient safety account;

(2) The criteria for distribution of grants, loans, or other appropriate arrangements under this act; and

(3) A description of the medical error reduction and patient safety grants and loans distributed to date, including the stated performance measures, activities, timelines, and detailed information regarding outcomes for each project.