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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1737**

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**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Cody, Clibborn, Fromhold, Bailey, Woods, Moeller, Darneille and Haler)

READ FIRST TIME 03/04/05.

1            AN ACT Relating to public health improvement; and creating new  
2 sections.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5            (1) The public health system as defined in RCW 43.70.575 is  
6 essential to fulfilling the state's constitutional responsibility to  
7 protect the health and safety of its citizens.

8            (2) The population-based services provided by the public health  
9 system are cost-effective and are critical in improving the value of  
10 public investments in all types of health services and in controlling  
11 health care costs.

12           (3) Our state public health system lacks the capacity to fulfill  
13 its critical functions with respect to well understood health threats  
14 such as impure air and water, unsanitary living conditions, unsafe  
15 food, and inadequate rates of immunization.

16           (4) The public health system lacks the capacity to address the  
17 emerging health threats of the 21st century including bioterrorism and  
18 other emergencies, health disparities, the spread of drug-resistant  
19 tuberculosis, HIV, SARS, West Nile virus, and other infectious

1 diseases, and the predictable increases of heart disease, cancer,  
2 diabetes, and other diseases that will result from tobacco and other  
3 drug addiction, poor diet, and inadequate exercise.

4 (5) According to the provisions of chapter 43.70 RCW the department  
5 of health has developed a public health improvement plan, in  
6 consultation with local health jurisdictions, the state board of  
7 health, and other state agencies, health services providers, and  
8 citizens concerned about public health.

9 (6) The public health improvement plan includes standards for all  
10 elements of the public health system and provides a detailed accounting  
11 of both performance and funding deficits in the current system,  
12 suggesting ways in which additional funds could be used to improve that  
13 system.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is hereby established the public  
15 health financing task force. Its members shall include one member from  
16 each caucus from the committee on health and the principal fiscal  
17 committee of the house of representatives and senate. In addition, one  
18 representative of the office of the governor and one representative of  
19 the department of health, one representative of the association of  
20 counties, one representative of the association of local public health  
21 officials, one representative of the state board of health, and other  
22 public health partners as requested by the chairs shall also serve as  
23 nonvoting members. The task force shall appoint an executive committee  
24 not to exceed four members from among its voting members and may  
25 appoint such subcommittees, advisory groups, or other bodies as it sees  
26 fit. Staffing assistance shall be provided by the house of  
27 representatives office of program research, senate committee services,  
28 and the joint legislative audit and review committee. The department  
29 of health and the office of the governor shall provide such staffing  
30 assistance as may be reasonably required within their existing  
31 resources.

32 (2) The task force shall recommend a source and level of dedicated  
33 funding the legislature should provide for public health services. The  
34 recommendation shall include methods to ensure that such funding does  
35 not supplant existing federal, state, and local funds received by any  
36 element of the public health system.

1           (3) The task force shall complete a report to the governor and the  
2 legislature by July 1, 2006.

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