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SENATE BILL 5188

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Thibaudeau, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Kline, Rasmussen, Fairley, Jacobsen and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/17/2005. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

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 director of the department of ecology or  
16 designee; the director 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 director  
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, 2005,  
4 and December 1, 2006, 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, 2007.

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