
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5491

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Poulsen, Benson, Kastama and Deccio; by request of Department of Health)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to describing when the department of health may
2 collect a fee for infant screening services; amending RCW 70.83.040;
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.83.040 and 1999 c 76 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 When notified of positive screening tests, the state department of
8 health shall offer the use of its services and facilities, designed to
9 prevent mental retardation or physical defects in such children, to the
10 attending physician, or the parents of the newborn child if no
11 attending physician can be identified.

12 The services and facilities of the department, and other state and
13 local agencies cooperating with the department in carrying out programs
14 of detection and prevention of mental retardation and physical defects
15 shall be made available to the family and physician to the extent
16 required in order to carry out the intent of this chapter and within
17 the availability of funds. The department has the authority to collect
18 a reasonable fee, from the parents or other responsible party of each
19 infant screened to fund specialty clinics that provide treatment

1 services for hemoglobin diseases, phenylketonuria, congenital adrenal
2 hyperplasia, (~~and~~) congenital hypothyroidism, biotinidase deficiency,
3 galactosemia, homocystinuria, maple syrup urine disease, and medium
4 chain acyl co-A dehydrogenase deficiency. The fee may be collected
5 through the facility where the screening specimen is obtained.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of health shall conduct a
7 study of the funding mechanisms that support the treatment of disorders
8 defined by the board of health under RCW 70.83.020 and rules adopted
9 under RCW 70.83.050. The study shall include: An evaluation of the
10 current specialty clinic fee funding and collection method;
11 identification of funding gaps; identification and evaluation of
12 alternative funding and collection methods; and an assessment of the
13 availability of additional federal, state, or grant funding.

14 In conducting the study, the department shall convene an advisory
15 group which shall include one representative from the: Department of
16 health, University of Washington medical center, state board of health,
17 march of dimes, medical assistance administration, Washington health
18 plan association, and Washington state hospital association. The
19 findings of the study shall be presented to the appropriate committees
20 of the legislature by December 1, 2005. No changes to the fee may be
21 made until April 1, 2006.

--- END ---