
SENATE BILL 6066

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senator Franklin

Read first time 03/01/2005. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying breastfeeding women in the workplace in
2 Washington state; creating new sections; and providing an expiration
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that breastfeeding
6 provides a range of benefits for the infant's growth, immunity, and
7 development. Breastfeeding improves maternal health and contributes
8 economic benefits to the family, health care system, and workplace.
9 Employers benefit when their employees breastfeed. Breastfed infants
10 are sick less often; therefore maternal absenteeism from work is lower
11 in companies with established lactation programs. Additionally,
12 employee medical costs are lower and employee productivity is higher.
13 Nine other states, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois,
14 Minnesota, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Texas, have laws relating to
15 breastfeeding in the workplace. Whether employers should be required
16 to accommodate breastfeeding mothers is a matter of debate.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A study shall be conducted by a joint task
18 force comprised of the following: Two senators to be appointed by the

1 majority leader of the senate; two senators to be appointed by the
2 minority leader of the senate; two representatives to be appointed by
3 the speaker of the house of representatives; and two representatives to
4 be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.
5 The task force shall be governed by cochair, one to be selected by the
6 majority leader of the senate, and the other to be selected by the
7 speaker of the house of representatives. The joint task force shall
8 consult with an advisory committee consisting of specialists from: The
9 department of health; the department of labor and industries; the
10 employment security department; and such private sector and labor
11 representatives as the task force shall select.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The joint task force shall study the
13 prevalence of breastfeeding women in the workplace. The study should
14 address:

- 15 (1) The number of breastfeeding women currently in the workplace;
16 (2) How the employers accommodate these women's needs to breastfeed
17 or express breastmilk;
18 (3) The number of employers that have lactation policies and what
19 the policies consist of;
20 (4) The types of facilities provided by employers who accommodate
21 lactating women;
22 (5) The cost of accommodating lactating women in the workplace; and
23 (6) The employer benefits, if any, that the accommodation of
24 lactating women yielded.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The joint task force is to report its
26 findings to the legislature by December 1, 2005.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act expire
28 January 1, 2006.

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