
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6513

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Environment (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Poulsen, Pridemore, Regala, Rockefeller, Kohl-Welles and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to biomonitoring; adding a new chapter to Title 70
2 RCW; creating a new section; making an appropriation; and providing an
3 effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) About seven out of every ten deaths in the United States are
7 attributable to chronic diseases. About one hundred twenty-five
8 million people have at least one chronic illness and sixty million
9 suffer from multiple chronic illnesses. About twenty million children
10 have at least one chronic health problem;

11 (b) Chronic illnesses impose enormous health care and other costs
12 upon Washington. For example, the estimated total cost of asthma in
13 the state is about four hundred million dollars annually. Special
14 education for the estimated one hundred twenty thousand children in the
15 state's schools with learning disabilities costs about four hundred
16 seventy million dollars each year;

17 (c) There are an estimated eighty-five thousand chemicals
18 registered for use today in the United States, with another two
19 thousand added each year. Toxicological screening data exists for only

1 seven percent of these chemicals, and more than ninety percent have
2 never been tested for their effects on human health. Large numbers of
3 these chemicals are found in cosmetics, personal care products,
4 pesticides, food dyes, cleaning products, fuels, and plastics. Because
5 of their ubiquity, Washington residents are commonly exposed to
6 multiple chemicals every day. Many of these chemicals persist in the
7 environment, accumulate and remain in body fat, and have been shown to
8 be toxic. Persistent, bioaccumulative, toxics have been targeted by
9 the state, the federal government, and other nations for actions to
10 reduce their impact on human health and the environment;

11 (d) Biomonitoring data supports public health by establishing
12 trends in chemical exposures, validating modeling and survey methods,
13 supporting epidemiological studies, identifying affected communities,
14 assisting in emergency health responses to unanticipated exposures,
15 assessing the effectiveness of current regulations, and helping to set
16 priorities for chemical exposure reduction strategies;

17 (e) A grant from the federal Centers for Disease Control enabled
18 the Washington department of health, through the assistance of an
19 advisory committee of public health professionals, to develop a
20 biomonitoring plan, completed in 2003, that identifies the highest
21 priorities for chemicals, environmental settings, and populations for
22 monitoring. However, Washington did not receive federal funding to
23 implement this plan, and to date funding has not been identified to
24 move forward with any portion of it;

25 (f) The Washington environmental public health tracking network is
26 working to improve information concerning environmental contaminants,
27 human exposure to hazards, and potentially related health outcomes.
28 The program is developing network infrastructure to integrate
29 environmental and public health information systems, improve the
30 completeness and timeliness of data systems monitoring health outcomes
31 attributable to environmental hazards and exposures, and improve access
32 to information in those systems.

33 (2) It is therefore the purpose of this chapter to authorize a
34 biomonitoring program in Washington as an integral part of the
35 environmental public health tracking network, to secure initial funding
36 for implementing the highest priorities of the program, and to identify
37 a long-term funding source for implementing other priorities identified
38 in 2003.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3 (1) "Department" means the department of health.

4 (2) "Biomonitoring" means the process by which the presence and
5 concentration of synthetic chemicals or their metabolites are
6 identified within a biospecimen to assess bodily exposure.

7 (3) "Biospecimen" means a sample taken from a biophysical
8 substance, that is reasonably available within a human body, for use as
9 a medium to measure the presence and concentration of toxic chemicals.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall conduct
11 biomonitoring as an element of its environmental health tracking
12 program, in collaboration with the department of ecology, local health
13 jurisdictions, and other public health agencies, to assist public
14 health agencies and policymakers in allocating resources to maximize
15 improvements in environmental health.

16 (2) The department shall adopt guidelines and model protocols to
17 guide state and local agencies conducting biomonitoring that are
18 consistent with the requirements and priorities of this chapter. The
19 guidelines and model protocols shall address, without limitation:

20 (a) Ensuring confidentiality and informed consent, and
21 communicating findings to participants, communities, and the general
22 public;

23 (b) Emphasizing that all aspects of the program are culturally
24 sensitive; and

25 (c) When communicating with participants regarding the purposes of
26 biomonitoring and the uses of biomonitoring results and data, providing
27 a clear explanation of the distinction between exposure data and
28 analysis of health effects that may occur from exposures.

29 (3) In selecting biomonitoring measurements, the department shall
30 accord a priority to:

31 (a) Measuring the prevalence of elevated levels of toxic substances
32 in a population group;

33 (b) Determining levels of exposure in population groups that may be
34 at increased risk of exposure;

35 (c) Providing information on levels of human exposure for studies
36 examining the relationship between exposure to a toxic substance and
37 adverse health effects;

1 (d) Tracking trends in levels of exposure of a population group to
2 specific toxic substances; and

3 (e) Assessing effectiveness of public health efforts to reduce
4 exposure of specific populations to toxic substances.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act constitute
6 a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** By September 30, 2006, the department of
8 health shall, in consultation with the department of ecology and local
9 health jurisdictions, provide recommendations to the governor and the
10 appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives for
11 funding the biomonitoring program. The recommendations shall provide
12 a proposed phase-in of the top ten highest priorities identified by the
13 department of health's 2003 biomonitoring plan, and shall include
14 recommendations for sharing costs among federal, state, local, and
15 nongovernmental entities. The department of health's implementation
16 recommendations shall include the objective of integrating with and
17 complementing nationwide monitoring programs.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act take effect
19 July 1, 2007.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as
21 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
22 ending June 30, 2007, from the state toxics control account to the
23 department of health for the purposes of this act.

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