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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5814**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (originally sponsored by Senators Cleveland, Dhingra, Keiser, Lovelett, Lovick, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing funding for medical evaluations of  
2 suspected victims of child abuse; adding new sections to chapter 7.68  
3 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the crime  
6 victims' compensation fund was established in 1973 to cover medical  
7 bills and other costs associated with being the victim of a crime.  
8 The legislature finds that state law requires the crime victims'  
9 compensation fund to pay the costs of sexual assault examinations of  
10 minors when they are performed to gather evidence for possible  
11 prosecution. The legislature finds that in 2015, the legislature  
12 passed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5897 to provide funding for medical  
13 evaluations of suspected child victims of physical abuse. The  
14 legislature finds that this law expired June 30, 2019, and was not  
15 extended in the omnibus operating appropriations act. The legislature  
16 recognizes that while sexual assault examinations are currently  
17 provided for by the crime victims' compensation fund, examinations  
18 for child victims of physical assault are not provided for. The  
19 legislature finds that medical examinations are important for  
20 children who may be victims of physical abuse. The legislature finds  
21 that contributing to the cost of these examinations will incentivize

1 timely evaluations, lead to early identification of abuse, and  
2 potentially prevent a child from further traumatization or injury.  
3 The legislature therefore resolves to reenact the provision of  
4 medical examinations of children who may be victims of physical  
5 abuse.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 7.68 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) No costs incurred by an institution as defined in RCW  
9 26.44.020 for the examination of a suspected victim of assault of a  
10 child under chapter 9A.36 RCW may be billed or charged directly or  
11 indirectly to the suspected victim of the assault. Subject to the  
12 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the  
13 department must pay all costs incurred by an institution as defined  
14 in RCW 26.44.020 for the examination of a suspected victim of assault  
15 of a child, provided that the cost of the examination would not  
16 otherwise be covered by the department.

17 (2) The department must notify the office of financial management  
18 and the fiscal committees of the legislature if it projects that the  
19 cost of services provided under this section exceeds the amount of  
20 funding provided by the legislature solely for the purposes of this  
21 section.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 7.68 RCW  
23 to read as follows:

24 By November 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, and in compliance  
25 with RCW 43.01.036, the department must submit a report to the  
26 legislature and governor with the following information: The number  
27 of requests to pay for physical abuse exams for child victims of  
28 physical assault pursuant to section 2 of this act, how many of these  
29 requests are approved and denied including the reasons for denial,  
30 how many of the exams are covered for another reason, and any other  
31 information the department believes is beneficial.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
33 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
34 provided by June 30, 2022, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
35 act is null and void.

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