

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5814

Chapter 171, Laws of 2022

67th Legislature
2022 Regular Session

SUSPECTED VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE—MEDICAL EVALUATION FUNDING

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 9, 2022

Passed by the Senate February 11,
2022

Yeas 49 Nays 0

DENNY HECK

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 3, 2022

Yeas 98 Nays 0

Laurie Jinkins

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Approved March 24, 2022 9:30 AM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5814** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

SARAH BANNISTER

Secretary

FILED

March 24, 2022

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5814

Passed Legislature - 2022 Regular Session

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.

Passed by the Senate February 11, 2022.
Passed by the House March 3, 2022.

Approved by the Governor March 24, 2022.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 24, 2022.

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