HOUSE BILL 1531

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Bronoske, Berry, Ramel, Reed, Duerr, Kloba, Macri, Parshley, Peterson, Ormsby, Pollet, Scott, Doglio, Hill, and Simmons

Read first time 01/23/25. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

AN ACT Relating to preserving the ability of public officials to address communicable diseases using scientifically proven measures to control the spread of such diseases; adding a new section to chapter 70.54 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 70.54 7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) It is the policy of the state that public health responses to 9 address communicable diseases be guided by the best available science 10 on the safety and efficacy of evidence-based measures to control the 11 spread of such diseases, including immunizations and vaccines.

12 (2) Consistent with the policy in subsection (1) of this section, 13 the state and local health officials must, within available 14 resources, implement and promote evidence-based, appropriate measures 15 to control the spread of communicable diseases, including vaccines. 16 The state and its political subdivisions may not enact statutes, 17 ordinances, rules, or policies that prohibit the implementation and 18 promotion of such measures. Any such statute, ordinance, rule, or policy in place on the effective date of this section is hereby 19 declared null and void. 20

1 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate 2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of 3 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes 4 effect immediately.

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