
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6540

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Prentice and Owen)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to the release of addicted infants from hospitals;
2 and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The department of health shall conduct a
5 study on the number of drug-exposed infants born into health care
6 facilities in the state. The study shall include the process for
7 assessing these infants, their average length of stay in major health
8 care facilities, the types of discharge plans used by hospitals, the
9 level of awareness in hospitals about the problem of treating and
10 caring for drug-affected infants, and the kind of insurance coverage
11 available. Information shall be compiled, in part, from interviews
12 with hospital staff including nurses, physicians, discharge planners,
13 social workers, and other staff who come in contact with drug-affected
14 infants. The report will include recommendations for settings, other
15 than hospitals, where babies going through withdrawal can safely be
16 treated. The study will also discuss the health effects of breast milk
17 on infants when the mother is addicted to drugs and make
18 recommendations on whether nursing should be prohibited under these
19 circumstances.

1 The report is due back to the legislature by July 1, 1997.

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