
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6298

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senate Health Care (originally sponsored by Senators Becker, Holmquist Newbry, Brown, Rivers, Keiser, and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the breastfeeding-friendly Washington
2 designation; and adding a new section to chapter 70.54 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department of health shall create the breastfeeding-
7 friendly Washington designation, a voluntary program to recognize
8 hospitals that effectively support and encourage breastfeeding.

9 (2) Beginning July 1, 2014, a hospital may use the breastfeeding-
10 friendly Washington designation provided in subsection (3) of this
11 section on promotional materials if the hospital achieves criteria
12 defined by the department of health based on the following ten steps:

13 (a) Have a written breastfeeding policy that is routinely
14 communicated to all health care staff;

15 (b) Train all health care staff in skills necessary to implement
16 this policy;

17 (c) Inform all pregnant women about the benefits and management of
18 breastfeeding;

19 (d) Help mothers initiate breastfeeding within one hour of birth;

1 (e) Show mothers how to breastfeed and how to maintain lactation,
2 even if they are separated from their infants;

3 (f) Encourage breast milk over alternatives, but may provide
4 guidance on formula supplementation or bottle feeding, if preferred by
5 the mother or medically indicated;

6 (g) Practice rooming in by allowing mothers and infants to remain
7 together twenty-four hours a day;

8 (h) Encourage breastfeeding on demand;

9 (i) Give no pacifiers or artificial nipples to breastfeeding
10 infants; or

11 (j) Foster the establishment of breastfeeding support groups and
12 refer mothers to them on discharge from the hospital or clinic.

13 (3)(a) A hospital seeking to use the breastfeeding-friendly
14 Washington designation must submit its breastfeeding policy and
15 supporting documentation with its application to the department of
16 health for approval. The department shall review and approve those
17 policies and supporting documents that meet the requirements of this
18 section and issue a designation based on the number of steps met by the
19 hospital.

20 (b) The department shall issue two types of breastfeeding-friendly
21 Washington designations based on the number of steps met by a hospital:

22 (i) A designation recognizing a hospital that meets the criteria for
23 five steps or more; and (ii) a designation recognizing a hospital that
24 meets all the criteria for all ten steps.

25 (4) The department of health must submit a report to the
26 legislature by December 31, 2016, on the levels of achievement by and
27 locations of participating hospitals and with recommendations to
28 improve or expand the program.

29 (5) For the purposes of this section, "hospital" means the
30 maternity or newborn service of a facility licensed under chapter 70.41
31 RCW and includes "birthing center" or "childbirth center" as defined in
32 RCW 18.46.010.

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