

# Title 70

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

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*Asbestos, regulation of use: Chapter 49.26 RCW.*

*Autopsies, coroner cooperation with procurement organizations: Chapter 68.64 RCW.*

*Board of health and bureau of vital statistics authorized: State Constitution Art. 20 § 1.*

*Child labor: Chapter 49.12 RCW.*

*Civil defense: Chapter 38.52 RCW.*

*Control of pet animals infected with diseases communicable to humans: Chapter 16.70 RCW.*

*Council for children and families: Chapter 43.121 RCW.*

*Dangerous caustic and corrosive substances: Chapter 69.36 RCW.*

*Department of social and health services: Chapter 43.20A RCW.*

*Electricians and electrical installations: Chapter 19.28 RCW.*

*Fire protection board, state: Chapter 43.44 RCW.*

*Food processing act: Chapter 69.07 RCW.*

*Health care service contractors: Chapter 48.44 RCW.*

*Health measures in public schools: Chapter 28A.210 RCW, RCW 28A.210.300.*

*Immunization program, local health department participation: RCW 28A.210.060 through 28A.210.170.*

*Industrial safety and health: Chapter 49.17 RCW.*

*Inhaling toxic fumes: Chapter 9.47A RCW.*

*Milk and milk products for animal food: Chapter 15.37 RCW.*

*Public bodies may retain collection agencies to collect public debts—Fees: RCW 19.16.500.*

*Regulation of passenger watercraft for hire: Chapter 88.04 RCW.*

*Rural public hospital districts: RCW 70.44.450.*

*Safety in coal mines: Title 78 RCW.*

*Safety with respect to electrical construction: Chapter 19.29 RCW.*

*Sale or gift of tobacco to minor is gross misdemeanor: RCW 26.28.080.*

*Sanitary control of shellfish: Chapter 69.30 RCW.*

*Social and health services, department of: Chapter 43.20A RCW.*

*State board of health: Chapter 43.20 RCW.*

*State coordinator of search and rescue operations: RCW 38.52.030.*

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## Chapter 70.01 RCW GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Sections

70.01.010	Cooperation with federal government—Construction.
70.01.020	Donation of blood by person eighteen or over without parental consent authorized.
70.01.030	Health care fees and charges—Estimate.
70.01.040	Provider-based clinics that charge a facility fee—Posting of required notice—Reporting requirements.

**70.01.010 Cooperation with federal government—Construction.** In furtherance of the policy of this state to cooperate with the federal government in the public health programs, the department of health, the state board of health, and the health care authority shall adopt such rules as may become necessary to entitle this state to participate in federal funds unless expressly prohibited by law. Any section or provision of the public health laws of this state which may be susceptible to more than one construction shall be interpreted

in favor of the construction most likely to satisfy federal laws entitling this state to receive federal funds for the various programs of public health. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 81; 2011 c 27 § 3; 1985 c 213 § 14; 1969 ex.s. c 25 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 102 § 12.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.01.020 Donation of blood by person eighteen or over without parental consent authorized.** Any person of the age of eighteen years or over shall be eligible to donate blood in any voluntary and noncompensatory blood program without the necessity of obtaining parental permission or authorization. [1969 c 51 § 1.]

**70.01.030 Health care fees and charges—Estimate.**

(1) Health care providers licensed under Title 18 RCW and health care facilities licensed under Title 70 RCW shall provide the following to a patient upon request:

(a) An estimate of fees and charges related to a specific service, visit, or stay; and

(b) Information regarding other types of fees or charges a patient may receive in conjunction with their visit to the provider or facility. Hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW may fulfill this requirement by providing a statement and contact information as described in RCW 70.41.400.

(2) Providers and facilities listed in subsection (1) of this section may, after disclosing estimated charges and fees to a patient, refer the patient to the patient's insurer, if applicable, for specific information on the insurer's charges and fees, any cost-sharing responsibilities required of the patient, and the network status of ancillary providers who may or may not share the same network status as the provider or facility.

(3) Except for hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, providers and facilities listed in subsection (1) of this section shall post a sign in patient registration areas containing at least the following language: "Information about the estimated charges of your health services is available upon request. Please do not hesitate to ask for information." [2009 c 529 § 1.]

**70.01.040 Provider-based clinics that charge a facility fee—Posting of required notice—Reporting requirements.**

(1) Prior to the delivery of nonemergency services, a provider-based clinic that charges a facility fee shall provide a notice to any patient that the clinic is licensed as part of the hospital and the patient may receive a separate charge or billing for the facility component, which may result in a higher out-of-pocket expense.

(2) Each health care facility must post prominently in locations easily accessible to and visible by patients, including its web site, a statement that the provider-based clinic is licensed as part of the hospital and the patient may receive a separate charge or billing for the facility, which may result in a higher out-of-pocket expense.

(3) Nothing in this section applies to laboratory services, imaging services, or other ancillary health services not provided by staff employed by the health care facility.

(4) As part of the year-end financial reports submitted to the department of health pursuant to RCW 43.70.052, all hos-

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pitals with provider-based clinics that bill a separate facility fee shall report:

(a) The number of provider-based clinics owned or operated by the hospital that charge or bill a separate facility fee;

(b) The number of patient visits at each provider-based clinic for which a facility fee was charged or billed for the year;

(c) The revenue received by the hospital for the year by means of facility fees at each provider-based clinic; and

(d) The range of allowable facility fees paid by public or private payers at each provider-based clinic.

(5) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Facility fee" means any separate charge or billing by a provider-based clinic in addition to a professional fee for physicians' services that is intended to cover building, electronic medical records systems, billing, and other administrative and operational expenses.

(b) "Provider-based clinic" means the site of an off-campus clinic or provider office located at least two hundred fifty yards from the main hospital buildings or as determined by the centers for medicare and medicaid services, that is owned by a hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW or a health system that operates one or more hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, is licensed as part of the hospital, and is primarily engaged in providing diagnostic and therapeutic care including medical history, physical examinations, assessment of health status, and treatment monitoring. This does not include clinics exclusively designed for and providing laboratory, x-ray, testing, therapy, pharmacy, or educational services and does not include facilities designated as rural health clinics. [2012 c 184 § 1.]

**Effective date—2012 c 184:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2013." [2012 c 184 § 2.]

**Chapter 70.02 RCW**

**MEDICAL RECORDS—HEALTH CARE INFORMATION ACCESS AND DISCLOSURE**

Sections

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70.02.010	Definitions ( <i>as amended by 2014 c 225</i> ).
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70.02.300	Sexually transmitted diseases—Required statement upon disclosure.
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70.02.905	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Record retention by hospitals: RCW 70.41.190.*

### **70.02.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Health care information is personal and sensitive information that if improperly used or released may do significant harm to a patient's interests in privacy, health care, or other interests.

(2) Patients need access to their own health care information as a matter of fairness to enable them to make informed decisions about their health care and correct inaccurate or incomplete information about themselves.

(3) In order to retain the full trust and confidence of patients, health care providers have an interest in assuring that health care information is not improperly disclosed and in having clear and certain rules for the disclosure of health care information.

(4) Persons other than health care providers obtain, use, and disclose health record information in many different contexts and for many different purposes. It is the public policy of this state that a patient's interest in the proper use and disclosure of the patient's health care information survives even when the information is held by persons other than health care providers.

(5) The movement of patients and their health care information across state lines, access to and exchange of health care information from automated data banks, and the emergence of multistate health care providers creates a compelling need for uniform law, rules, and procedures governing the use and disclosure of health care information. [1991 c 335 § 101.]

**70.02.010 Definitions (as amended by 2014 c 220). (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Admission" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(2) "Audit" means an assessment, evaluation, determination, or investigation of a health care provider by a person not employed by or affiliated with the provider to determine compliance with:

- (a) Statutory, regulatory, fiscal, medical, or scientific standards;
- (b) A private or public program of payments to a health care provider;

or

- (c) Requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification.
- (3) "Commitment" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.
- (4) "Custody" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(5) "Deidentified" means health information that does not identify an individual and with respect to which there is no reasonable basis to believe that the information can be used to identify an individual.

(6) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(7) "Designated mental health professional" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020 or 71.34.020, as applicable.

(8) "Detention" or "detain" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(9) "Directory information" means information disclosing the presence, and for the purpose of identification, the name, location within a health care facility, and the general health condition of a particular patient who is a patient in a health care facility or who is currently receiving emergency health care in a health care facility.

(10) "Discharge" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(11) "Evaluation and treatment facility" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020 or 71.34.020, as applicable.

(12) "Federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities" means an officer of any agency or authority in the United States, a state, a tribe, a territory, or a political subdivision of a state, a tribe, or a territory who is empowered by law to: (a) Investigate or conduct an official inquiry into a potential criminal violation of law; or (b) prosecute or otherwise conduct a criminal proceeding arising from an alleged violation of law.

(13) "General health condition" means the patient's health status described in terms of "critical," "poor," "fair," "good," "excellent," or terms denoting similar conditions.

(14) "Health care" means any care, service, or procedure provided by a health care provider:

(a) To diagnose, treat, or maintain a patient's physical or mental condition; or

(b) That affects the structure or any function of the human body.

(15) "Health care facility" means a hospital, clinic, nursing home, laboratory, office, or similar place where a health care provider provides health care to patients.

(16) "Health care information" means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of a patient and directly relates to the patient's health care, including a patient's deoxyribonucleic acid and identified sequence of chemical base pairs. The term includes any required accounting of disclosures of health care information.

(17) "Health care operations" means any of the following activities of a health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor to the extent that the activities are related to functions that make an entity a health care provider, a health care facility, or a third-party payor:

(a) Conducting: Quality assessment and improvement activities, including outcomes evaluation and development of clinical guidelines, if the obtaining of generalizable knowledge is not the primary purpose of any studies resulting from such activities; population-based activities relating to improving health or reducing health care costs, protocol development, case management and care coordination, contacting of health care providers and patients with information about treatment alternatives; and related functions that do not include treatment;

(b) Reviewing the competence or qualifications of health care professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance and third-party payor performance, conducting training programs in which students, trainees, or practitioners in areas of health care learn under supervision to practice or improve their skills as health care providers, training of nonhealth care professionals, accreditation, certification, licensing, or credentialing activities;

(c) Underwriting, premium rating, and other activities relating to the creation, renewal, or replacement of a contract of health insurance or health benefits, and ceding, securing, or placing a contract for reinsurance of risk relating to claims for health care, including stop-loss insurance and excess of loss insurance, if any applicable legal requirements are met;

(d) Conducting or arranging for medical review, legal services, and auditing functions, including fraud and abuse detection and compliance programs;

(e) Business planning and development, such as conducting cost-management and planning-related analyses related to managing and operating the health care facility or third-party payor, including formulary development and administration, development, or improvement of methods of payment or coverage policies; and

(f) Business management and general administrative activities of the health care facility, health care provider, or third-party payor including, but not limited to:

(i) Management activities relating to implementation of and compliance with the requirements of this chapter;

(ii) Customer service, including the provision of data analyses for policy holders, plan sponsors, or other customers, provided that health care information is not disclosed to such policy holder, plan sponsor, or customer;

(iii) Resolution of internal grievances;

(iv) The sale, transfer, merger, or consolidation of all or part of a health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor with another health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor or an entity that following such activity will become a health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor, and due diligence related to such activity; and

(v) Consistent with applicable legal requirements, creating deidentified health care information or a limited dataset for the benefit of the health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor.

(18) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized by the law of this state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

(19) "Human immunodeficiency virus" or "HIV" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.24.017.

(20) "Imminent" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(21) "Information and records related to mental health services" means a type of health care information that relates to all information and records (~~including mental health treatment records~~;) compiled, obtained, or maintained in the course of providing services by a mental health service agency (~~as defined in this section~~) or mental health professional to persons who are receiving or have received services for mental illness. The term includes mental health information contained in a medical bill, registration records, as defined in RCW 71.05.020, and all other records regarding the person maintained by the department, by regional support networks and their staff, and by treatment facilities. ((This may)) The term further includes documents of legal proceedings under chapter 71.05, 71.34, or 10.77 RCW, or somatic health care information. For health care information maintained by a hospital as defined in RCW 70.41.020 or a health care facility or health care provider that participates with a hospital in an organized health care arrangement defined under federal law, "information and records related to mental health services" is limited to information and records of services provided by a mental health professional or information and records of services created by a hospital-operated community mental health program as defined in \*RCW 71.24.025(6). The term does not include psychotherapy notes.

(22) "Information and records related to sexually transmitted diseases" means a type of health care information that relates to the identity of any person upon whom an HIV antibody test or other sexually transmitted infection test is performed, the results of such tests, and any information relating to diagnosis of or treatment for any confirmed sexually transmitted infections.

(23) "Institutional review board" means any board, committee, or other group formally designated by an institution, or authorized under federal or state law, to review, approve the initiation of, or conduct periodic review of research programs to assure the protection of the rights and welfare of human research subjects.

(24) "Legal counsel" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(25) "Local public health officer" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.24.017.

(26) "Maintain," as related to health care information, means to hold, possess, preserve, retain, store, or control that information.

(27) "Mental health professional" (~~has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020~~) means a psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, psychiatric nurse, or social worker, and such other mental health professionals as may be defined by rules adopted by the secretary of social and health services under chapter 71.05 RCW, whether that person works in a private or public setting.

(28) "Mental health service agency" means a public or private agency that provides services to persons with mental disorders as defined under RCW 71.05.020 or 71.34.020 and receives funding from public sources. This includes evaluation and treatment facilities as defined in RCW 71.34.020, community mental health service delivery systems, or community mental health programs, as defined in \*RCW 71.24.025, and facilities conducting competency evaluations and restoration under chapter 10.77 RCW.

(29) (~~"Mental health treatment records" include registration records, as defined in RCW 71.05.020, and all other records concerning persons who are receiving or who at any time have received services for mental illness, which are maintained by the department, by regional support networks and their staff, and by treatment facilities. "Mental health treatment records" include mental health information contained in a medical bill including, but not limited to, mental health drugs, a mental health diagnosis, provider name, and dates of service stemming from a medical service. "Mental health treatment records" do not include notes or records maintained for personal use by a person providing treatment services for the department, regional support~~

~~networks, or a treatment facility if the notes or records are not available to others.~~

~~(30))~~ "Minor" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.34.020.

~~((31))~~ (30) "Parent" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.34.020.

~~((32))~~ (31) "Patient" means an individual who receives or has received health care. The term includes a deceased individual who has received health care.

~~((33))~~ (32) "Payment" means:

(a) The activities undertaken by:

(i) A third-party payor to obtain premiums or to determine or fulfill its responsibility for coverage and provision of benefits by the third-party payor; or

(ii) A health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor, to obtain or provide reimbursement for the provision of health care; and

(b) The activities in (a) of this subsection that relate to the patient to whom health care is provided and that include, but are not limited to:

(i) Determinations of eligibility or coverage, including coordination of benefits or the determination of cost-sharing amounts, and adjudication or subrogation of health benefit claims;

(ii) Risk adjusting amounts due based on enrollee health status and demographic characteristics;

(iii) Billing, claims management, collection activities, obtaining payment under a contract for reinsurance, including stop-loss insurance and excess of loss insurance, and related health care data processing;

(iv) Review of health care services with respect to medical necessity, coverage under a health plan, appropriateness of care, or justification of charges;

(v) Utilization review activities, including precertification and preauthorization of services, and concurrent and retrospective review of services; and

(vi) Disclosure to consumer reporting agencies of any of the following health care information relating to collection of premiums or reimbursement:

(A) Name and address;

(B) Date of birth;

(C) Social security number;

(D) Payment history;

(E) Account number; and

(F) Name and address of the health care provider, health care facility, and/or third-party payor.

~~((34))~~ (33) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision or agency, or any other legal or commercial entity.

~~((35))~~ (34) "Professional person" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

~~((36))~~ (35) "Psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

~~((37))~~ (36) "Psychotherapy notes" means notes recorded, in any medium, by a mental health professional documenting or analyzing the contents of conversations during a private counseling session or group, joint, or family counseling session, and that are separated from the rest of the individual's medical record. The term excludes mediation prescription and monitoring, counseling session start and stop times, the modalities and frequencies of treatment furnished, results of clinical tests, and any summary of the following items: Diagnosis, functional status, the treatment plan, symptoms, prognosis, and progress to date.

(37) "Reasonable fee" means the charges for duplicating or searching the record, but shall not exceed sixty-five cents per page for the first thirty pages and fifty cents per page for all other pages. In addition, a clerical fee for searching and handling may be charged not to exceed fifteen dollars. These amounts shall be adjusted biennially in accordance with changes in the consumer price index, all consumers, for Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan statistical area as determined by the secretary of health. However, where editing of records by a health care provider is required by statute and is done by the provider personally, the fee may be the usual and customary charge for a basic office visit.

(38) "Release" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(39) "Resource management services" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(40) "Serious violent offense" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(41) "Sexually transmitted infection" or "sexually transmitted disease" has the same meaning as "sexually transmitted disease" in RCW 70.24.017.

(42) "Test for a sexually transmitted disease" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.24.017.

(43) "Third-party payor" means an insurer regulated under Title 48 RCW authorized to transact business in this state or other jurisdiction,

including a health care service contractor, and health maintenance organization; or an employee welfare benefit plan, excluding fitness or wellness plans; or a state or federal health benefit program.

(44) "Treatment" means the provision, coordination, or management of health care and related services by one or more health care providers or health care facilities, including the coordination or management of health care by a health care provider or health care facility with a third party; consultation between health care providers or health care facilities relating to a patient; or the referral of a patient for health care from one health care provider or health care facility to another. [2014 c 220 § 4; 2013 c 200 § 1; 2006 c 235 § 2; 2005 c 468 § 1; 2002 c 318 § 1; 1993 c 448 § 1; 1991 c 335 § 102.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 71.24.025 was amended by 2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 501, deleting the definition of "community mental health program."

(2) For charges or fees under subsection (37) of this section as adjusted by the secretary of health, see chapter 246-08 WAC.

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**70.02.010 Definitions (as amended by 2014 c 225). (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Admission" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.
- (2) "Audit" means an assessment, evaluation, determination, or investigation of a health care provider by a person not employed by or affiliated with the provider to determine compliance with:
  - (a) Statutory, regulatory, fiscal, medical, or scientific standards;
  - (b) A private or public program of payments to a health care provider;
- or
- (c) Requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification.
- (3) "Commitment" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.
- (4) "Custody" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.
- (5) "Deidentified" means health information that does not identify an individual and with respect to which there is no reasonable basis to believe that the information can be used to identify an individual.
- (6) "Department" means the department of social and health services.
- (7) "Designated mental health professional" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020 or 71.34.020, as applicable.
- (8) "Detention" or "detain" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.
- (9) "Directory information" means information disclosing the presence, and for the purpose of identification, the name, location within a health care facility, and the general health condition of a particular patient who is a patient in a health care facility or who is currently receiving emergency health care in a health care facility.
- (10) "Discharge" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.
- (11) "Evaluation and treatment facility" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020 or 71.34.020, as applicable.
- (12) "Federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities" means an officer of any agency or authority in the United States, a state, a tribe, a territory, or a political subdivision of a state, a tribe, or a territory who is empowered by law to: (a) Investigate or conduct an official inquiry into a potential criminal violation of law; or (b) prosecute or otherwise conduct a criminal proceeding arising from an alleged violation of law.
- (13) "General health condition" means the patient's health status described in terms of "critical," "poor," "fair," "good," "excellent," or terms denoting similar conditions.
- (14) "Health care" means any care, service, or procedure provided by a health care provider:
  - (a) To diagnose, treat, or maintain a patient's physical or mental condition; or
  - (b) That affects the structure or any function of the human body.
- (15) "Health care facility" means a hospital, clinic, nursing home, laboratory, office, or similar place where a health care provider provides health care to patients.
- (16) "Health care information" means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of a patient and directly relates to the patient's health care, including a patient's deoxyribonucleic acid and identified sequence of chemical base pairs. The term includes any required accounting of disclosures of health care information.
- (17) "Health care operations" means any of the following activities of a health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor to the extent that the activities are related to functions that make an entity a health care provider, a health care facility, or a third-party payor:
  - (a) Conducting: Quality assessment and improvement activities, including outcomes evaluation and development of clinical guidelines, if the

obtaining of generalizable knowledge is not the primary purpose of any studies resulting from such activities; population-based activities relating to improving health or reducing health care costs, protocol development, case management and care coordination, contacting of health care providers and patients with information about treatment alternatives; and related functions that do not include treatment;

(b) Reviewing the competence or qualifications of health care professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance and third-party payor performance, conducting training programs in which students, trainees, or practitioners in areas of health care learn under supervision to practice or improve their skills as health care providers, training of nonhealth care professionals, accreditation, certification, licensing, or credentialing activities;

(c) Underwriting, premium rating, and other activities relating to the creation, renewal, or replacement of a contract of health insurance or health benefits, and ceding, securing, or placing a contract for reinsurance of risk relating to claims for health care, including stop-loss insurance and excess of loss insurance, if any applicable legal requirements are met;

(d) Conducting or arranging for medical review, legal services, and auditing functions, including fraud and abuse detection and compliance programs;

(e) Business planning and development, such as conducting cost-management and planning-related analyses related to managing and operating the health care facility or third-party payor, including formulary development and administration, development, or improvement of methods of payment or coverage policies; and

(f) Business management and general administrative activities of the health care facility, health care provider, or third-party payor including, but not limited to:

(i) Management activities relating to implementation of and compliance with the requirements of this chapter;

(ii) Customer service, including the provision of data analyses for policy holders, plan sponsors, or other customers, provided that health care information is not disclosed to such policy holder, plan sponsor, or customer;

(iii) Resolution of internal grievances;

(iv) The sale, transfer, merger, or consolidation of all or part of a health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor with another health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor or an entity that following such activity will become a health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor, and due diligence related to such activity; and

(v) Consistent with applicable legal requirements, creating deidentified health care information or a limited dataset for the benefit of the health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor.

(18) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized by the law of this state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

(19) "Human immunodeficiency virus" or "HIV" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.24.017.

(20) "Imminent" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(21) "Information and records related to mental health services" means a type of health care information that relates to all information and records, including mental health treatment records, compiled, obtained, or maintained in the course of providing services by a mental health service agency, as defined in this section. This may include documents of legal proceedings under chapter 71.05, 71.34, or 10.77 RCW, or somatic health care information. For health care information maintained by a hospital as defined in RCW 70.41.020 or a health care facility or health care provider that participates with a hospital in an organized health care arrangement defined under federal law, "information and records related to mental health services" is limited to information and records of services provided by a mental health professional or information and records of services created by a hospital-operated community mental health program as defined in \*RCW 71.24.025(8).

(22) "Information and records related to sexually transmitted diseases" means a type of health care information that relates to the identity of any person upon whom an HIV antibody test or other sexually transmitted infection test is performed, the results of such tests, and any information relating to diagnosis of or treatment for any confirmed sexually transmitted infections.

(23) "Institutional review board" means any board, committee, or other group formally designated by an institution, or authorized under federal or state law, to review, approve the initiation of, or conduct periodic review of research programs to assure the protection of the rights and welfare of human research subjects.

(24) "Legal counsel" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(25) "Local public health officer" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.24.017.

(26) "Maintain," as related to health care information, means to hold, possess, preserve, retain, store, or control that information.

(27) "Mental health professional" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(28) "Mental health service agency" means a public or private agency that provides services to persons with mental disorders as defined under RCW 71.05.020 or 71.34.020 and receives funding from public sources. This includes evaluation and treatment facilities as defined in RCW 71.34.020, community mental health service delivery systems, or community mental health programs, as defined in \*RCW 71.24.025, and facilities conducting competency evaluations and restoration under chapter 10.77 RCW.

(29) "Mental health treatment records" include registration records, as defined in RCW 71.05.020, and all other records concerning persons who are receiving or who at any time have received services for mental illness, which are maintained by the department, by ~~((regional support networks))~~ behavioral health organizations and their staffs, and by treatment facilities. "Mental health treatment records" include mental health information contained in a medical bill including, but not limited to, mental health drugs, a mental health diagnosis, provider name, and dates of service stemming from a medical service. "Mental health treatment records" do not include notes or records maintained for personal use by a person providing treatment services for the department, ~~((regional support networks))~~ behavioral health organizations, or a treatment facility if the notes or records are not available to others.

(30) "Minor" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.34.020.

(31) "Parent" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.34.020.

(32) "Patient" means an individual who receives or has received health care. The term includes a deceased individual who has received health care.

(33) "Payment" means:

(a) The activities undertaken by:

(i) A third-party payor to obtain premiums or to determine or fulfill its responsibility for coverage and provision of benefits by the third-party payor; or

(ii) A health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor, to obtain or provide reimbursement for the provision of health care; and

(b) The activities in (a) of this subsection that relate to the patient to whom health care is provided and that include, but are not limited to:

(i) Determinations of eligibility or coverage, including coordination of benefits or the determination of cost-sharing amounts, and adjudication or subrogation of health benefit claims;

(ii) Risk adjusting amounts due based on enrollee health status and demographic characteristics;

(iii) Billing, claims management, collection activities, obtaining payment under a contract for reinsurance, including stop-loss insurance and excess of loss insurance, and related health care data processing;

(iv) Review of health care services with respect to medical necessity, coverage under a health plan, appropriateness of care, or justification of charges;

(v) Utilization review activities, including precertification and preauthorization of services, and concurrent and retrospective review of services; and

(vi) Disclosure to consumer reporting agencies of any of the following health care information relating to collection of premiums or reimbursement:

(A) Name and address;

(B) Date of birth;

(C) Social security number;

(D) Payment history;

(E) Account number; and

(F) Name and address of the health care provider, health care facility, and/or third-party payor.

(34) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision or agency, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(35) "Professional person" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(36) "Psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(37) "Reasonable fee" means the charges for duplicating or searching the record, but shall not exceed sixty-five cents per page for the first thirty pages and fifty cents per page for all other pages. In addition, a clerical fee for searching and handling may be charged not to exceed fifteen dollars. These amounts shall be adjusted biennially in accordance with changes in the consumer price index, all consumers, for Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan statistical area as determined by the secretary of health. However, where editing of records by a health care provider is required by statute and is done by the

provider personally, the fee may be the usual and customary charge for a basic office visit.

(38) "Release" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(39) "Resource management services" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(40) "Serious violent offense" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(41) "Sexually transmitted infection" or "sexually transmitted disease" has the same meaning as "sexually transmitted disease" in RCW 70.24.017.

(42) "Test for a sexually transmitted disease" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.24.017.

(43) "Third-party payor" means an insurer regulated under Title 48 RCW authorized to transact business in this state or other jurisdiction, including a health care service contractor, and health maintenance organization; or an employee welfare benefit plan, excluding fitness or wellness plans; or a state or federal health benefit program.

(44) "Treatment" means the provision, coordination, or management of health care and related services by one or more health care providers or health care facilities, including the coordination or management of health care by a health care provider or health care facility with a third party; consultation between health care providers or health care facilities relating to a patient; or the referral of a patient for health care from one health care provider or health care facility to another. [2014 c 225 § 70; 2013 c 200 § 1; 2006 c 235 § 2; 2005 c 468 § 1; 2002 c 318 § 1; 1993 c 448 § 1; 1991 c 335 § 102.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 71.24.025 was amended by 2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 501, deleting the definition of "community mental health program."

(2) RCW 70.02.010 was amended twice during the 2014 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

(3) For charges or fees under subsection (37) of this section as adjusted by the secretary of health, see chapter 246-08 WAC.

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** "Except for section 5 of this act, this act takes effect July 1, 2014." [2013 c 200 § 35.]

**Purpose—Effective date—2006 c 235:** See notes following RCW 70.02.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.02.010 Definitions. (Effective April 1, 2018.)** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Admission" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(2) "Audit" means an assessment, evaluation, determination, or investigation of a health care provider by a person not employed by or affiliated with the provider to determine compliance with:

(a) Statutory, regulatory, fiscal, medical, or scientific standards;

(b) A private or public program of payments to a health care provider; or

(c) Requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(3) "Commitment" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(4) "Custody" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(5) "Deidentified" means health information that does not identify an individual and with respect to which there is no reasonable basis to believe that the information can be used to identify an individual.

(6) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(7) "Designated crisis responder" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020 or 71.34.020, as applicable.

(8) "Detention" or "detain" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(9) "Directory information" means information disclosing the presence, and for the purpose of identification, the name, location within a health care facility, and the general health condition of a particular patient who is a patient in a health care facility or who is currently receiving emergency health care in a health care facility.

(10) "Discharge" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(11) "Evaluation and treatment facility" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020 or 71.34.020, as applicable.

(12) "Federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities" means an officer of any agency or authority in the United States, a state, a tribe, a territory, or a political subdivision of a state, a tribe, or a territory who is empowered by law to: (a) Investigate or conduct an official inquiry into a potential criminal violation of law; or (b) prosecute or otherwise conduct a criminal proceeding arising from an alleged violation of law.

(13) "General health condition" means the patient's health status described in terms of "critical," "poor," "fair," "good," "excellent," or terms denoting similar conditions.

(14) "Health care" means any care, service, or procedure provided by a health care provider:

(a) To diagnose, treat, or maintain a patient's physical or mental condition; or

(b) That affects the structure or any function of the human body.

(15) "Health care facility" means a hospital, clinic, nursing home, laboratory, office, or similar place where a health care provider provides health care to patients.

(16) "Health care information" means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of a patient and directly relates to the patient's health care, including a patient's deoxyribonucleic acid and identified sequence of chemical base pairs. The term includes any required accounting of disclosures of health care information.

(17) "Health care operations" means any of the following activities of a health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor to the extent that the activities are related to functions that make an entity a health care provider, a health care facility, or a third-party payor:

(a) Conducting: Quality assessment and improvement activities, including outcomes evaluation and development of clinical guidelines, if the obtaining of generalizable knowledge is not the primary purpose of any studies resulting from such activities; population-based activities relating to improving health or reducing health care costs, protocol development, case management and care coordination, contacting of health care providers and patients with information about treatment alternatives; and related functions that do not include treatment;

(b) Reviewing the competence or qualifications of health care professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance and third-party payor performance, conducting training programs in which students, trainees, or practitioners in areas of health care learn under supervision to practice or improve their skills as health care providers, training of non-

health care professionals, accreditation, certification, licensing, or credentialing activities;

(c) Underwriting, premium rating, and other activities relating to the creation, renewal, or replacement of a contract of health insurance or health benefits, and ceding, securing, or placing a contract for reinsurance of risk relating to claims for health care, including stop-loss insurance and excess of loss insurance, if any applicable legal requirements are met;

(d) Conducting or arranging for medical review, legal services, and auditing functions, including fraud and abuse detection and compliance programs;

(e) Business planning and development, such as conducting cost-management and planning-related analyses related to managing and operating the health care facility or third-party payor, including formulary development and administration, development, or improvement of methods of payment or coverage policies; and

(f) Business management and general administrative activities of the health care facility, health care provider, or third-party payor including, but not limited to:

(i) Management activities relating to implementation of and compliance with the requirements of this chapter;

(ii) Customer service, including the provision of data analyses for policy holders, plan sponsors, or other customers, provided that health care information is not disclosed to such policy holder, plan sponsor, or customer;

(iii) Resolution of internal grievances;

(iv) The sale, transfer, merger, or consolidation of all or part of a health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor with another health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor or an entity that following such activity will become a health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor, and due diligence related to such activity; and

(v) Consistent with applicable legal requirements, creating deidentified health care information or a limited dataset for the benefit of the health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor.

(18) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized by the law of this state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

(19) "Human immunodeficiency virus" or "HIV" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.24.017.

(20) "Imminent" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(21) "Information and records related to mental health services" means a type of health care information that relates to all information and records compiled, obtained, or maintained in the course of providing services by a mental health service agency or mental health professional to persons who are receiving or have received services for mental illness. The term includes mental health information contained in a medical bill, registration records, as defined in RCW 71.05.020, and all other records regarding the person maintained by the department, by regional support networks and their staff, and by treatment facilities. The term further includes documents of legal proceedings under chapter 71.05, 71.34, or 10.77 RCW, or somatic health care information. For health care information maintained by a hospital as defined in RCW 70.41.020 or a health care facility or health care provider that

participates with a hospital in an organized health care arrangement defined under federal law, "information and records related to mental health services" is limited to information and records of services provided by a mental health professional or information and records of services created by a hospital-operated behavioral health program as defined in RCW 71.24.025. The term does not include psychotherapy notes.

(22) "Information and records related to sexually transmitted diseases" means a type of health care information that relates to the identity of any person upon whom an HIV antibody test or other sexually transmitted infection test is performed, the results of such tests, and any information relating to diagnosis of or treatment for any confirmed sexually transmitted infections.

(23) "Institutional review board" means any board, committee, or other group formally designated by an institution, or authorized under federal or state law, to review, approve the initiation of, or conduct periodic review of research programs to assure the protection of the rights and welfare of human research subjects.

(24) "Legal counsel" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(25) "Local public health officer" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.24.017.

(26) "Maintain," as related to health care information, means to hold, possess, preserve, retain, store, or control that information.

(27) "Mental health professional" means a psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, psychiatric nurse, or social worker, and such other mental health professionals as may be defined by rules adopted by the secretary of social and health services under chapter 71.05 RCW, whether that person works in a private or public setting.

(28) "Mental health service agency" means a public or private agency that provides services to persons with mental disorders as defined under RCW 71.05.020 or 71.34.020 and receives funding from public sources. This includes evaluation and treatment facilities as defined in RCW 71.34.020, community mental health service delivery systems, or behavioral health programs, as defined in RCW 71.24.025, and facilities conducting competency evaluations and restoration under chapter 10.77 RCW.

(29) "Minor" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.34.020.

(30) "Parent" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.34.020.

(31) "Patient" means an individual who receives or has received health care. The term includes a deceased individual who has received health care.

(32) "Payment" means:

(a) The activities undertaken by:

(i) A third-party payor to obtain premiums or to determine or fulfill its responsibility for coverage and provision of benefits by the third-party payor; or

(ii) A health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor, to obtain or provide reimbursement for the provision of health care; and

(b) The activities in (a) of this subsection that relate to the patient to whom health care is provided and that include, but are not limited to:

(i) Determinations of eligibility or coverage, including coordination of benefits or the determination of cost-sharing amounts, and adjudication or subrogation of health benefit claims;

(ii) Risk adjusting amounts due based on enrollee health status and demographic characteristics;

(iii) Billing, claims management, collection activities, obtaining payment under a contract for reinsurance, including stop-loss insurance and excess of loss insurance, and related health care data processing;

(iv) Review of health care services with respect to medical necessity, coverage under a health plan, appropriateness of care, or justification of charges;

(v) Utilization review activities, including precertification and preauthorization of services, and concurrent and retrospective review of services; and

(vi) Disclosure to consumer reporting agencies of any of the following health care information relating to collection of premiums or reimbursement:

(A) Name and address;

(B) Date of birth;

(C) Social security number;

(D) Payment history;

(E) Account number; and

(F) Name and address of the health care provider, health care facility, and/or third-party payor.

(33) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision or agency, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(34) "Professional person" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(35) "Psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(36) "Psychotherapy notes" means notes recorded, in any medium, by a mental health professional documenting or analyzing the contents of conversations during a private counseling session or group, joint, or family counseling session, and that are separated from the rest of the individual's medical record. The term excludes mediation prescription and monitoring, counseling session start and stop times, the modalities and frequencies of treatment furnished, results of clinical tests, and any summary of the following items: Diagnosis, functional status, the treatment plan, symptoms, prognosis, and progress to date.

(37) "Reasonable fee" means the charges for duplicating or searching the record, but shall not exceed sixty-five cents per page for the first thirty pages and fifty cents per page for all other pages. In addition, a clerical fee for searching and handling may be charged not to exceed fifteen dollars. These amounts shall be adjusted biennially in accordance with changes in the consumer price index, all consumers, for Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan statistical area as determined by the secretary of health. However, where editing of records by a health care provider is required by statute and is done by the provider personally, the fee may be the usual and customary charge for a basic office visit.

(38) "Release" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(39) "Resource management services" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(40) "Serious violent offense" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.05.020.

(41) "Sexually transmitted infection" or "sexually transmitted disease" has the same meaning as "sexually transmitted disease" in RCW 70.24.017.

(42) "Test for a sexually transmitted disease" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.24.017.

(43) "Third-party payor" means an insurer regulated under Title 48 RCW authorized to transact business in this state or other jurisdiction, including a health care service contractor, and health maintenance organization; or an employee welfare benefit plan, excluding fitness or wellness plans; or a state or federal health benefit program.

(44) "Treatment" means the provision, coordination, or management of health care and related services by one or more health care providers or health care facilities, including the coordination or management of health care by a health care provider or health care facility with a third party; consultation between health care providers or health care facilities relating to a patient; or the referral of a patient for health care from one health care provider or health care facility to another. [2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 416. Prior: 2014 c 225 § 70; 2014 c 220 § 4; 2013 c 200 § 1; 2006 c 235 § 2; 2005 c 468 § 1; 2002 c 318 § 1; 1993 c 448 § 1; 1991 c 335 § 102.]

**Reviser's note:** For charges or fees under subsection (37) of this section as adjusted by the secretary of health, see chapter 246-08 WAC.

**Effective dates—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See note following RCW 71.05.760.

**Short title—Right of action—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 71.05.010.

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** "Except for section 5 of this act, this act takes effect July 1, 2014." [2013 c 200 § 35.]

**Purpose—Effective date—2006 c 235:** See notes following RCW 70.02.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.02.020 Disclosure by health care provider.** (1) Except as authorized elsewhere in this chapter, a health care provider, an individual who assists a health care provider in the delivery of health care, or an agent and employee of a health care provider may not disclose health care information about a patient to any other person without the patient's written authorization. A disclosure made under a patient's written authorization must conform to the authorization.

(2) A patient has a right to receive an accounting of disclosures of health care information made by a health care provider or a health care facility in the six years before the date on which the accounting is requested, except for disclosures:

(a) To carry out treatment, payment, and health care operations;

(b) To the patient of health care information about him or her;

(c) Incident to a use or disclosure that is otherwise permitted or required;

(d) Pursuant to an authorization where the patient authorized the disclosure of health care information about himself or herself;

(e) Of directory information;

(f) To persons involved in the patient's care;

(g) For national security or intelligence purposes if an accounting of disclosures is not permitted by law;

(h) To correctional institutions or law enforcement officials if an accounting of disclosures is not permitted by law; and

(i) Of a limited data set that excludes direct identifiers of the patient or of relatives, employers, or household members of the patient. [2014 c 220 § 5; 2013 c 200 § 2; 2005 c 468 § 2; 1993 c 448 § 2; 1991 c 335 § 201.]

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.02.030 Patient authorization of disclosure.** (1) A patient may authorize a health care provider or health care facility to disclose the patient's health care information. A health care provider or health care facility shall honor an authorization and, if requested, provide a copy of the recorded health care information unless the health care provider or health care facility denies the patient access to health care information under RCW 70.02.090.

(2) A health care provider or health care facility may charge a reasonable fee for providing the health care information and is not required to honor an authorization until the fee is paid.

(3) To be valid, a disclosure authorization to a health care provider or health care facility shall:

(a) Be in writing, dated, and signed by the patient;

(b) Identify the nature of the information to be disclosed;

(c) Identify the name and institutional affiliation of the person or class of persons to whom the information is to be disclosed;

(d) Identify the provider or class of providers who are to make the disclosure;

(e) Identify the patient; and

(f) Contain an expiration date or an expiration event that relates to the patient or the purpose of the use or disclosure.

(4) Unless disclosure without authorization is otherwise permitted under RCW 70.02.050 or the federal health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 and its implementing regulations, an authorization may permit the disclosure of health care information to a class of persons that includes:

(a) Researchers if the health care provider or health care facility obtains the informed consent for the use of the patient's health care information for research purposes; or

(b) Third-party payors if the information is only disclosed for payment purposes.

(5) Except as provided by this chapter, the signing of an authorization by a patient is not a waiver of any rights a patient has under other statutes, the rules of evidence, or common law.

(6) When an authorization permits the disclosure of health care information to a financial institution or an employer of the patient for purposes other than payment, the authorization as it pertains to those disclosures shall expire

one year after the signing of the authorization, unless the authorization is renewed by the patient.

(7) A health care provider or health care facility shall retain the original or a copy of each authorization or revocation in conjunction with any health care information from which disclosures are made.

(8) Where the patient is under the supervision of the department of corrections, an authorization signed pursuant to this section for health care information related to mental health or drug or alcohol treatment expires at the end of the term of supervision, unless the patient is part of a treatment program that requires the continued exchange of information until the end of the period of treatment. [2014 c 220 § 15; 2005 c 468 § 3; 2004 c 166 § 19; 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 741; 1993 c 448 § 3; 1991 c 335 § 202.]

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.02.040 Patient's revocation of authorization for disclosure.** A patient may revoke in writing a disclosure authorization to a health care provider at any time unless disclosure is required to effectuate payments for health care that has been provided or other substantial action has been taken in reliance on the authorization. A patient may not maintain an action against the health care provider for disclosures made in good-faith reliance on an authorization if the health care provider had no actual notice of the revocation of the authorization. [1991 c 335 § 203.]

**70.02.045 Third-party payor release of information.** Third-party payors shall not release health care information disclosed under this chapter, except as required by chapter 43.371 RCW and to the extent that health care providers are authorized to do so under RCW 70.02.050, 70.02.200, and 70.02.210. [2015 c 289 § 1; 2014 c 223 § 18; 2000 c 5 § 2.]

**Effective date—2015 c 289:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 18, 2015]." [2015 c 289 § 2.]

**Finding—2014 c 223:** See note following RCW 41.05.800.

**Intent—Purpose—2000 c 5:** See RCW 48.43.500.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.02.050 Disclosure without patient's authorization—Need-to-know basis.** (1) A health care provider or health care facility may disclose health care information, except for information and records related to sexually transmitted diseases which are addressed in RCW 70.02.220, about a patient without the patient's authorization to the extent a recipient needs to know the information, if the disclosure is:

(a) To a person who the provider or facility reasonably believes is providing health care to the patient;

(b) To any other person who requires health care information for health care education, or to provide planning, quality assurance, peer review, or administrative, legal, financial, actuarial services to, or other health care operations for or on behalf of the health care provider or health care facility; or for assisting the health care provider or health care facility in the delivery of health care and the health care pro-

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vider or health care facility reasonably believes that the person:

(i) Will not use or disclose the health care information for any other purpose; and

(ii) Will take appropriate steps to protect the health care information;

(c) To any person if the health care provider or health care facility reasonably believes that disclosure will avoid or minimize an imminent danger to the health or safety of the patient or any other individual, however there is no obligation under this chapter on the part of the provider or facility to so disclose. The fact of admission to a provider for mental health services and all information and records compiled, obtained, or maintained in the course of providing mental health services to either voluntary or involuntary recipients of services at public or private agencies is not subject to disclosure unless disclosure is permitted in RCW 70.02.230; or

(d) For payment, including information necessary for a recipient to make a claim, or for a claim to be made on behalf of a recipient for aid, insurance, or medical assistance to which he or she may be entitled.

(2) A health care provider shall disclose health care information, except for information and records related to sexually transmitted diseases, unless otherwise authorized in RCW 70.02.220, about a patient without the patient's authorization if the disclosure is:

(a) To federal, state, or local public health authorities, to the extent the health care provider is required by law to report health care information; when needed to determine compliance with state or federal licensure, certification or registration rules or laws, or to investigate unprofessional conduct or ability to practice with reasonable skill and safety under chapter 18.130 RCW. Any health care information obtained under this subsection is exempt from public inspection and copying pursuant to chapter 42.56 RCW; or

(b) When needed to protect the public health. [2014 c 220 § 6; 2013 c 200 § 3; 2007 c 156 § 12; 2006 c 235 § 3; 2005 c 468 § 4; 1998 c 158 § 1; 1993 c 448 § 4; 1991 c 335 § 204.]

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**Purpose—2006 c 235:** "The purpose of this act is to aid law enforcement in combating crime through the rapid identification of all persons who require medical treatment as a result of a criminal act and to assist in the rapid identification of human remains." [2006 c 235 § 1.]

**Effective date—2006 c 235:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 27, 2006]." [2006 c 235 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.02.060 Discovery request or compulsory process.** (1) Before service of a discovery request or compulsory process on a health care provider for health care information, an attorney shall provide advance notice to the health care provider and the patient or the patient's attorney involved through service of process or first-class mail, indicating the health care provider from whom the information is sought, what health care information is sought, and the date by which a protective order must be obtained to prevent the health care provider from complying. Such date shall give the patient and the health care provider adequate time to seek a protective

order, but in no event be less than fourteen days since the date of service or delivery to the patient and the health care provider of the foregoing. Thereafter the request for discovery or compulsory process shall be served on the health care provider.

(2) Without the written consent of the patient, the health care provider may not disclose the health care information sought under subsection (1) of this section if the requestor has not complied with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section. In the absence of a protective order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction forbidding compliance, the health care provider shall disclose the information in accordance with this chapter. In the case of compliance, the request for discovery or compulsory process shall be made a part of the patient record.

(3) Production of health care information under this section, in and of itself, does not constitute a waiver of any privilege, objection, or defense existing under other law or rule of evidence or procedure. [1991 c 335 § 205.]

**70.02.070 Certification of record.** Upon the request of the person requesting the record, the health care provider or facility shall certify the record furnished and may charge for such certification in accordance with RCW 36.18.016(5). No record need be certified until the fee is paid. The certification shall be affixed to the record and disclose:

- (1) The identity of the patient;
- (2) The kind of health care information involved;
- (3) The identity of the person to whom the information is being furnished;
- (4) The identity of the health care provider or facility furnishing the information;
- (5) The number of pages of the health care information;
- (6) The date on which the health care information is furnished; and
- (7) That the certification is to fulfill and meet the requirements of this section. [1995 c 292 § 20; 1991 c 335 § 206.]

**70.02.080 Patient's examination and copying—Requirements.** (1) Upon receipt of a written request from a patient to examine or copy all or part of the patient's recorded health care information, a health care provider, as promptly as required under the circumstances, but no later than fifteen working days after receiving the request shall:

- (a) Make the information available for examination during regular business hours and provide a copy, if requested, to the patient;
- (b) Inform the patient if the information does not exist or cannot be found;
- (c) If the health care provider does not maintain a record of the information, inform the patient and provide the name and address, if known, of the health care provider who maintains the record;
- (d) If the information is in use or unusual circumstances have delayed handling the request, inform the patient and specify in writing the reasons for the delay and the earliest date, not later than twenty-one working days after receiving the request, when the information will be available for examination or copying or when the request will be otherwise disposed of; or

(e) Deny the request, in whole or in part, under RCW 70.02.090 and inform the patient.

(2) Upon request, the health care provider shall provide an explanation of any code or abbreviation used in the health care information. If a record of the particular health care information requested is not maintained by the health care provider in the requested form, the health care provider is not required to create a new record or reformulate an existing record to make the health care information available in the requested form. The health care provider may charge a reasonable fee for providing the health care information and is not required to permit examination or copying until the fee is paid. [1993 c 448 § 5; 1991 c 335 § 301.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.02.090 Patient's request—Denial of examination and copying.** (1) Subject to any conflicting requirement in the public records act, chapter 42.56 RCW, a health care provider may deny access to health care information by a patient if the health care provider reasonably concludes that:

- (a) Knowledge of the health care information would be injurious to the health of the patient;
- (b) Knowledge of the health care information could reasonably be expected to lead to the patient's identification of an individual who provided the information in confidence and under circumstances in which confidentiality was appropriate;
- (c) Knowledge of the health care information could reasonably be expected to cause danger to the life or safety of any individual;
- (d) The health care information was compiled and is used solely for litigation, quality assurance, peer review, or administrative purposes; or
- (e) Access to the health care information is otherwise prohibited by law.

(2) If a health care provider denies a request for examination and copying under this section, the provider, to the extent possible, shall segregate health care information for which access has been denied under subsection (1) of this section from information for which access cannot be denied and permit the patient to examine or copy the disclosable information.

(3) If a health care provider denies a patient's request for examination and copying, in whole or in part, under subsection (1)(a) or (c) of this section, the provider shall permit examination and copying of the record by another health care provider, selected by the patient, who is licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized under the laws of this state to treat the patient for the same condition as the health care provider denying the request. The health care provider denying the request shall inform the patient of the patient's right to select another health care provider under this subsection. The patient shall be responsible for arranging for compensation of the other health care provider so selected. [2005 c 274 § 331; 1991 c 335 § 302.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.02.100 Correction or amendment of record.** (1) For purposes of accuracy or completeness, a patient may request in writing that a health care provider correct or amend

its record of the patient's health care information to which a patient has access under RCW 70.02.080.

(2) As promptly as required under the circumstances, but no later than ten days after receiving a request from a patient to correct or amend its record of the patient's health care information, the health care provider shall:

(a) Make the requested correction or amendment and inform the patient of the action;

(b) Inform the patient if the record no longer exists or cannot be found;

(c) If the health care provider does not maintain the record, inform the patient and provide the patient with the name and address, if known, of the person who maintains the record;

(d) If the record is in use or unusual circumstances have delayed the handling of the correction or amendment request, inform the patient and specify in writing, the earliest date, not later than twenty-one days after receiving the request, when the correction or amendment will be made or when the request will otherwise be disposed of; or

(e) Inform the patient in writing of the provider's refusal to correct or amend the record as requested and the patient's right to add a statement of disagreement. [1991 c 335 § 401.]

**70.02.110 Correction or amendment or statement of disagreement—Procedure.** (1) In making a correction or amendment, the health care provider shall:

(a) Add the amending information as a part of the health record; and

(b) Mark the challenged entries as corrected or amended entries and indicate the place in the record where the corrected or amended information is located, in a manner practicable under the circumstances.

(2) If the health care provider maintaining the record of the patient's health care information refuses to make the patient's proposed correction or amendment, the provider shall:

(a) Permit the patient to file as a part of the record of the patient's health care information a concise statement of the correction or amendment requested and the reasons therefor; and

(b) Mark the challenged entry to indicate that the patient claims the entry is inaccurate or incomplete and indicate the place in the record where the statement of disagreement is located, in a manner practicable under the circumstances.

(3) A health care provider who receives a request from a patient to amend or correct the patient's health care information, as provided in RCW 70.02.100, shall forward any changes made in the patient's health care information or health record, including any statement of disagreement, to any third-party payor or insurer to which the health care provider has disclosed the health care information that is the subject of the request. [2000 c 5 § 3; 1991 c 335 § 402.]

**Intent—Purpose—2000 c 5:** See RCW 48.43.500.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.02.120 Notice of information practices—Display conspicuously.** (1) A health care provider who provides health care at a health care facility that the provider operates and who maintains a record of a patient's health care informa-

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tion shall create a "notice of information practices" that contains substantially the following:

NOTICE

"We keep a record of the health care services we provide you. You may ask us to see and copy that record. You may also ask us to correct that record. We will not disclose your record to others unless you direct us to do so or unless the law authorizes or compels us to do so. You may see your record or get more information about it at . . . ."

(2) The health care provider shall place a copy of the notice of information practices in a conspicuous place in the health care facility, on a consent form or with a billing or other notice provided to the patient. [1991 c 335 § 501.]

**70.02.130 Consent by others—Health care representatives.**

(1) A person authorized to consent to health care for another may exercise the rights of that person under this chapter to the extent necessary to effectuate the terms or purposes of the grant of authority. If the patient is a minor and is authorized to consent to health care without parental consent under federal and state law, only the minor may exercise the rights of a patient under this chapter as to information pertaining to health care to which the minor lawfully consented. In cases where parental consent is required, a health care provider may rely, without incurring any civil or criminal liability for such reliance, on the representation of a parent that he or she is authorized to consent to health care for the minor patient regardless of whether:

(a) The parents are married, unmarried, or separated at the time of the representation;

(b) The consenting parent is, or is not, a custodial parent of the minor;

(c) The giving of consent by a parent is, or is not, full performance of any agreement between the parents, or of any order or decree in any action entered pursuant to chapter 26.09 RCW.

(2) A person authorized to act for a patient shall act in good faith to represent the best interests of the patient. [1991 c 335 § 601.]

**70.02.140 Representative of deceased patient.**

A personal representative of a deceased patient may exercise all of the deceased patient's rights under this chapter. If there is no personal representative, or upon discharge of the personal representative, a deceased patient's rights under this chapter may be exercised by persons who would have been authorized to make health care decisions for the deceased patient when the patient was living under RCW 7.70.065. [1991 c 335 § 602.]

**70.02.150 Security safeguards.** A health care provider shall effect reasonable safeguards for the security of all health care information it maintains.

Reasonable safeguards shall include affirmative action to delete outdated and incorrect facsimile transmission or other telephone transmittal numbers from computer, facsimile, or other databases. When health care information is transmitted electronically to a recipient who is not regularly trans-

mitted health care information from the health care provider, the health care provider shall verify that the number is accurate prior to transmission. [2001 c 16 § 2; 1991 c 335 § 701.]

**70.02.160 Retention of record.** A health care provider shall maintain a record of existing health care information for at least one year following receipt of an authorization to disclose that health care information under RCW 70.02.040, and during the pendency of a request for examination and copying under RCW 70.02.080 or a request for correction or amendment under RCW 70.02.100. [1991 c 335 § 702.]

**70.02.170 Civil remedies.** (1) A person who has complied with this chapter may maintain an action for the relief provided in this section against a health care provider or facility who has not complied with this chapter.

(2) The court may order the health care provider or other person to comply with this chapter. Such relief may include actual damages, but shall not include consequential or incidental damages. The court shall award reasonable attorneys' fees and all other expenses reasonably incurred to the prevailing party.

(3) Any action under this chapter is barred unless the action is commenced within two years after the cause of action is discovered.

(4) A violation of this chapter shall not be deemed a violation of the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. [1991 c 335 § 801.]

**70.02.180 Licensees under chapter 18.225 RCW—Subject to chapter.** Mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW are subject to this chapter. [2001 c 251 § 34.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.02.200 Disclosure without patient's authorization—Permitted and mandatory disclosures.** (1) In addition to the disclosures authorized by RCW 70.02.050 and 70.02.210, a health care provider or health care facility may disclose health care information, except for information and records related to sexually transmitted diseases and information related to mental health services which are addressed by RCW 70.02.220 through 70.02.260, about a patient without the patient's authorization, to:

(a) Any other health care provider or health care facility reasonably believed to have previously provided health care to the patient, to the extent necessary to provide health care to the patient, unless the patient has instructed the health care provider or health care facility in writing not to make the disclosure;

(b) Immediate family members of the patient, including a patient's state registered domestic partner, or any other individual with whom the patient is known to have a close personal relationship, if made in accordance with good medical or other professional practice, unless the patient has instructed the health care provider or health care facility in writing not to make the disclosure;

(c) A health care provider or health care facility who is the successor in interest to the health care provider or health care facility maintaining the health care information;

(d) A person who obtains information for purposes of an audit, if that person agrees in writing to:

(i) Remove or destroy, at the earliest opportunity consistent with the purpose of the audit, information that would enable the patient to be identified; and

(ii) Not to disclose the information further, except to accomplish the audit or report unlawful or improper conduct involving fraud in payment for health care by a health care provider or patient, or other unlawful conduct by the health care provider;

(e) Provide directory information, unless the patient has instructed the health care provider or health care facility not to make the disclosure;

(f) Fire, police, sheriff, or other public authority, that brought, or caused to be brought, the patient to the health care facility or health care provider if the disclosure is limited to the patient's name, residence, sex, age, occupation, condition, diagnosis, estimated or actual discharge date, or extent and location of injuries as determined by a physician, and whether the patient was conscious when admitted;

(g) Federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities and the health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor believes in good faith that the health care information disclosed constitutes evidence of criminal conduct that occurred on the premises of the health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor;

(h) Another health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor for the health care operations of the health care provider, health care facility, or third-party payor that receives the information, if each entity has or had a relationship with the patient who is the subject of the health care information being requested, the health care information pertains to such relationship, and the disclosure is for the purposes described in RCW 70.02.010(17) (a) and (b);

(i) An official of a penal or other custodial institution in which the patient is detained; and

(j) Any law enforcement officer, corrections officer, or guard supplied by a law enforcement or corrections agency who is accompanying a patient pursuant to RCW 10.110.020, only to the extent the disclosure is incidental to the fulfillment of the role of the law enforcement officer, corrections officer, or guard under RCW 10.110.020.

(2) In addition to the disclosures required by RCW 70.02.050 and 70.02.210, a health care provider shall disclose health care information, except for information related to sexually transmitted diseases and information related to mental health services which are addressed by RCW 70.02.220 through 70.02.260, about a patient without the patient's authorization if the disclosure is:

(a) To federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities to the extent the health care provider is required by law;

(b) To federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities, upon receipt of a written or oral request made to a nursing supervisor, administrator, or designated privacy official, in a case in which the patient is being treated or has been treated for a bullet wound, gunshot wound, powder burn, or other injury arising from or caused by the discharge of a firearm, or an injury caused by a knife, an ice pick, or any other sharp or pointed instrument which federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities reasonably believe to have been intentionally inflicted upon a person, or a blunt force injury

that federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities reasonably believe resulted from a criminal act, the following information, if known:

- (i) The name of the patient;
  - (ii) The patient's residence;
  - (iii) The patient's sex;
  - (iv) The patient's age;
  - (v) The patient's condition;
  - (vi) The patient's diagnosis, or extent and location of injuries as determined by a health care provider;
  - (vii) Whether the patient was conscious when admitted;
  - (viii) The name of the health care provider making the determination in (b)(v), (vi), and (vii) of this subsection;
  - (ix) Whether the patient has been transferred to another facility; and
  - (x) The patient's discharge time and date;
- (c) Pursuant to compulsory process in accordance with RCW 70.02.060. [2015 c 267 § 7; 2014 c 220 § 7; 2013 c 200 § 4.]

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.210 Disclosure without patient's authorization—Research.** (1)(a) A health care provider or health care facility may disclose health care information about a patient without the patient's authorization to the extent a recipient needs to know the information, if the disclosure is for use in a research project that an institutional review board has determined:

- (i) Is of sufficient importance to outweigh the intrusion into the privacy of the patient that would result from the disclosure;
- (ii) Is impracticable without the use or disclosure of the health care information in individually identifiable form;
- (iii) Contains reasonable safeguards to protect the information from redisclosure;
- (iv) Contains reasonable safeguards to protect against identifying, directly or indirectly, any patient in any report of the research project; and
- (v) Contains procedures to remove or destroy at the earliest opportunity, consistent with the purposes of the project, information that would enable the patient to be identified, unless an institutional review board authorizes retention of identifying information for purposes of another research project.

(b) Disclosure under (a) of this subsection may include health care information and records of treatment programs related to chemical dependency addressed in \*chapter 70.96A RCW and as authorized by federal law.

(2) In addition to the disclosures required by RCW 70.02.050 and 70.02.200, a health care provider or health care facility shall disclose health care information about a patient without the patient's authorization if:

- (a) The disclosure is to county coroners and medical examiners for the investigations of deaths;
- (b) The disclosure is to a procurement organization or person to whom a body part passes for the purpose of examination necessary to assure the medical suitability of the body part; or
- (c) The disclosure is to a person subject to the jurisdiction of the federal food and drug administration in regards to

a food and drug administration-regulated product or activity for which that person has responsibility for quality, safety, or effectiveness of activities. [2014 c 220 § 8; 2013 c 200 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 70.96A RCW was repealed and/or recodified in its entirety pursuant to 2016 1st sp.s. c 29 §§ 301, effective April 1, 2018, 601, and 701.

**Effective date—2014 c 220 § 8:** "Section 8 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 4, 2014]." [2014 c 220 § 18.]

**Effective date—2013 c 200 § 5:** "Section 5 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 10, 2013]." [2013 c 200 § 36.]

**70.02.220 Sexually transmitted diseases—Permitted and mandatory disclosures.** (1) No person may disclose or be compelled to disclose the identity of any person who has investigated, considered, or requested a test or treatment for a sexually transmitted disease, except as authorized by this section, RCW 70.02.210, or chapter 70.24 RCW.

(2) No person may disclose or be compelled to disclose information and records related to sexually transmitted diseases, except as authorized by this section, RCW 70.02.210, or chapter 70.24 RCW. A person may disclose information related to sexually transmitted diseases about a patient without the patient's authorization, to the extent a recipient needs to know the information, if the disclosure is to:

(a) The subject of the test or the subject's legal representative for health care decisions in accordance with RCW 7.70.065, with the exception of such a representative of a minor fourteen years of age or over and otherwise competent;

(b) The state public health officer as defined in RCW 70.24.017, a local public health officer, or the centers for disease control of the United States public health service in accordance with reporting requirements for a diagnosed case of a sexually transmitted disease;

(c) A health facility or health care provider that procures, processes, distributes, or uses: (i) A human body part, tissue, or blood from a deceased person with respect to medical information regarding that person; (ii) semen, including that was provided prior to March 23, 1988, for the purpose of artificial insemination; or (iii) blood specimens;

(d) Any state or local public health officer conducting an investigation pursuant to RCW 70.24.024, so long as the record was obtained by means of court-ordered HIV testing pursuant to RCW 70.24.340 or 70.24.024;

(e) A person allowed access to the record by a court order granted after application showing good cause therefor. In assessing good cause, the court shall weigh the public interest and the need for disclosure against the injury to the patient, to the physician-patient relationship, and to the treatment services. Upon the granting of the order, the court, in determining the extent to which any disclosure of all or any part of the record of any such test is necessary, shall impose appropriate safeguards against unauthorized disclosure. An order authorizing disclosure must: (i) Limit disclosure to those parts of the patient's record deemed essential to fulfill the objective for which the order was granted; (ii) limit disclosure to those persons whose need for information is the basis for the order; and (iii) include any other appropriate measures to keep disclosure to a minimum for the protection

of the patient, the physician-patient relationship, and the treatment services;

(f) Persons who, because of their behavioral interaction with the infected individual, have been placed at risk for acquisition of a sexually transmitted disease, as provided in RCW 70.24.022, if the health officer or authorized representative believes that the exposed person was unaware that a risk of disease exposure existed and that the disclosure of the identity of the infected person is necessary;

(g) A law enforcement officer, firefighter, health care provider, health care facility staff person, department of correction's staff person, jail staff person, or other persons as defined by the board of health in rule pursuant to RCW 70.24.340(4), who has requested a test of a person whose bodily fluids he or she has been substantially exposed to, pursuant to RCW 70.24.340(4), if a state or local public health officer performs the test;

(h) Claims management personnel employed by or associated with an insurer, health care service contractor, health maintenance organization, self-funded health plan, state administered health care claims payer, or any other payer of health care claims where such disclosure is to be used solely for the prompt and accurate evaluation and payment of medical or related claims. Information released under this subsection must be confidential and may not be released or available to persons who are not involved in handling or determining medical claims payment; and

(i) A department of social and health services worker, a child placing agency worker, or a guardian ad litem who is responsible for making or reviewing placement or case-planning decisions or recommendations to the court regarding a child, who is less than fourteen years of age, has a sexually transmitted disease, and is in the custody of the department of social and health services or a licensed child placing agency. This information may also be received by a person responsible for providing residential care for such a child when the department of social and health services or a licensed child placing agency determines that it is necessary for the provision of child care services.

(3) No person to whom the results of a test for a sexually transmitted disease have been disclosed pursuant to subsection (2) of this section may disclose the test results to another person except as authorized by that subsection.

(4) The release of sexually transmitted disease information regarding an offender or detained person, except as provided in subsection (2)(d) of this section, is governed as follows:

(a) The sexually transmitted disease status of a department of corrections offender who has had a mandatory test conducted pursuant to RCW 70.24.340(1), 70.24.360, or 70.24.370 must be made available by department of corrections health care providers and local public health officers to the department of corrections health care administrator or infection control coordinator of the facility in which the offender is housed. The information made available to the health care administrator or the infection control coordinator under this subsection (4)(a) may be used only for disease prevention or control and for protection of the safety and security of the staff, offenders, and the public. The information may be submitted to transporting officers and receiving facilities, including facilities that are not under the department of

corrections' jurisdiction according to the provisions of (d) and (e) of this subsection.

(b) The sexually transmitted disease status of a person detained in a jail who has had a mandatory test conducted pursuant to RCW 70.24.340(1), 70.24.360, or 70.24.370 must be made available by the local public health officer to a jail health care administrator or infection control coordinator. The information made available to a health care administrator under this subsection (4)(b) may be used only for disease prevention or control and for protection of the safety and security of the staff, offenders, detainees, and the public. The information may be submitted to transporting officers and receiving facilities according to the provisions of (d) and (e) of this subsection.

(c) Information regarding the sexually transmitted disease status of an offender or detained person is confidential and may be disclosed by a correctional health care administrator or infection control coordinator or local jail health care administrator or infection control coordinator only as necessary for disease prevention or control and for protection of the safety and security of the staff, offenders, and the public. Unauthorized disclosure of this information to any person may result in disciplinary action, in addition to the penalties prescribed in RCW 70.24.080 or any other penalties as may be prescribed by law.

(d) Notwithstanding the limitations on disclosure contained in (a), (b), and (c) of this subsection, whenever any member of a jail staff or department of corrections staff has been substantially exposed to the bodily fluids of an offender or detained person, then the results of any tests conducted pursuant to RCW 70.24.340(1), 70.24.360, or 70.24.370, must be immediately disclosed to the staff person in accordance with the Washington Administrative Code rules governing employees' occupational exposure to blood-borne pathogens. Disclosure must be accompanied by appropriate counseling for the staff member, including information regarding follow-up testing and treatment. Disclosure must also include notice that subsequent disclosure of the information in violation of this chapter or use of the information to harass or discriminate against the offender or detainee may result in disciplinary action, in addition to the penalties prescribed in RCW 70.24.080, and imposition of other penalties prescribed by law.

(e) The staff member must also be informed whether the offender or detained person had any other communicable disease, as defined in RCW 72.09.251(3), when the staff person was substantially exposed to the offender's or detainee's bodily fluids.

(f) The test results of voluntary and anonymous HIV testing or HIV-related condition, as defined in RCW 70.24.017, may not be disclosed to a staff person except as provided in this section and RCW \*70.02.050(1)(e) and 70.24.340(4). A health care administrator or infection control coordinator may provide the staff member with information about how to obtain the offender's or detainee's test results under this section and RCW \*70.02.050(1)(e) and 70.24.340(4).

(5) The requirements of this section do not apply to the customary methods utilized for the exchange of medical information among health care providers in order to provide health care services to the patient, nor do they apply within

health care facilities where there is a need for access to confidential medical information to fulfill professional duties.

(6) Upon request of the victim, disclosure of test results under this section to victims of sexual offenses under chapter 9A.44 RCW must be made if the result is negative or positive. The county prosecuting attorney shall notify the victim of the right to such disclosure. The disclosure must be accompanied by appropriate counseling, including information regarding follow-up testing.

(7) A person, including a health care facility or health care provider, shall disclose the identity of any person who has investigated, considered, or requested a test or treatment for a sexually transmitted disease and information and records related to sexually transmitted diseases to federal, state, or local public health authorities, to the extent the health care provider is required by law to report health care information; when needed to determine compliance with state or federal certification or registration rules or laws; or when needed to protect the public health. Any health care information obtained under this subsection is exempt from public inspection and copying pursuant to chapter 42.56 RCW. [2013 c 200 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 70.02.050 was amended by 2014 c 220 § 6, changing subsection (1)(e) to subsection (1)(d).

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.230 Mental health services, confidentiality of records—Permitted disclosures. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) Except as provided in this section, RCW 70.02.050, 71.05.445, \*70.96A.150, 74.09.295, 70.02.210, 70.02.240, 70.02.250, and 70.02.260, or pursuant to a valid authorization under RCW 70.02.030, the fact of admission to a provider for mental health services and all information and records compiled, obtained, or maintained in the course of providing mental health services to either voluntary or involuntary recipients of services at public or private agencies must be confidential.

(2) Information and records related to mental health services, other than those obtained through treatment under chapter 71.34 RCW, may be disclosed only:

(a) In communications between qualified professional persons to meet the requirements of chapter 71.05 RCW, in the provision of services or appropriate referrals, or in the course of guardianship proceedings if provided to a professional person:

- (i) Employed by the facility;
- (ii) Who has medical responsibility for the patient's care;
- (iii) Who is a designated mental health professional;
- (iv) Who is providing services under chapter 71.24 RCW;
- (v) Who is employed by a state or local correctional facility where the person is confined or supervised; or
- (vi) Who is providing evaluation, treatment, or follow-up services under chapter 10.77 RCW;

(b) When the communications regard the special needs of a patient and the necessary circumstances giving rise to such needs and the disclosure is made by a facility providing services to the operator of a facility in which the patient resides or will reside;

(c)(i) When the person receiving services, or his or her guardian, designates persons to whom information or records

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may be released, or if the person is a minor, when his or her parents make such a designation;

(ii) A public or private agency shall release to a person's next of kin, attorney, personal representative, guardian, or conservator, if any:

(A) The information that the person is presently a patient in the facility or that the person is seriously physically ill;

(B) A statement evaluating the mental and physical condition of the patient, and a statement of the probable duration of the patient's confinement, if such information is requested by the next of kin, attorney, personal representative, guardian, or conservator; and

(iii) Other information requested by the next of kin or attorney as may be necessary to decide whether or not proceedings should be instituted to appoint a guardian or conservator;

(d)(i) To the courts as necessary to the administration of chapter 71.05 RCW or to a court ordering an evaluation or treatment under chapter 10.77 RCW solely for the purpose of preventing the entry of any evaluation or treatment order that is inconsistent with any order entered under chapter 71.05 RCW.

(ii) To a court or its designee in which a motion under chapter 10.77 RCW has been made for involuntary medication of a defendant for the purpose of competency restoration.

(iii) Disclosure under this subsection is mandatory for the purpose of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act;

(e)(i) When a mental health professional is requested by a representative of a law enforcement or corrections agency, including a police officer, sheriff, community corrections officer, a municipal attorney, or prosecuting attorney to undertake an investigation or provide treatment under RCW 71.05.150, 10.31.110, or 71.05.153, the mental health professional shall, if requested to do so, advise the representative in writing of the results of the investigation including a statement of reasons for the decision to detain or release the person investigated. The written report must be submitted within seventy-two hours of the completion of the investigation or the request from the law enforcement or corrections representative, whichever occurs later.

(ii) Disclosure under this subsection is mandatory for the purposes of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act;

(f) To the attorney of the detained person;

(g) To the prosecuting attorney as necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the office under RCW 71.05.330(2), 71.05.340(1)(b), and 71.05.335. The prosecutor must be provided access to records regarding the committed person's treatment and prognosis, medication, behavior problems, and other records relevant to the issue of whether treatment less restrictive than inpatient treatment is in the best interest of the committed person or others. Information must be disclosed only after giving notice to the committed person and the person's counsel;

(h)(i) To appropriate law enforcement agencies and to a person, when the identity of the person is known to the public or private agency, whose health and safety has been threatened, or who is known to have been repeatedly harassed, by the patient. The person may designate a representative to receive the disclosure. The disclosure must be made by the

professional person in charge of the public or private agency or his or her designee and must include the dates of commitment, admission, discharge, or release, authorized or unauthorized absence from the agency's facility, and only any other information that is pertinent to the threat or harassment. The agency or its employees are not civilly liable for the decision to disclose or not, so long as the decision was reached in good faith and without gross negligence.

(ii) Disclosure under this subsection is mandatory for the purposes of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act;

(i)(i) To appropriate corrections and law enforcement agencies all necessary and relevant information in the event of a crisis or emergent situation that poses a significant and imminent risk to the public. The mental health service agency or its employees are not civilly liable for the decision to disclose or not so long as the decision was reached in good faith and without gross negligence.

(ii) Disclosure under this subsection is mandatory for the purposes of the health insurance portability and accountability act;

(j) To the persons designated in RCW 71.05.425 for the purposes described in those sections;

(k) Upon the death of a person. The person's next of kin, personal representative, guardian, or conservator, if any, must be notified. Next of kin who are of legal age and competent must be notified under this section in the following order: Spouse, parents, children, brothers and sisters, and other relatives according to the degree of relation. Access to all records and information compiled, obtained, or maintained in the course of providing services to a deceased patient are governed by RCW 70.02.140;

(l) To mark headstones or otherwise memorialize patients interred at state hospital cemeteries. The department of social and health services shall make available the name, date of birth, and date of death of patients buried in state hospital cemeteries fifty years after the death of a patient;

(m) To law enforcement officers and to prosecuting attorneys as are necessary to enforce \*\*RCW 9.41.040(2)(a)(ii). The extent of information that may be released is limited as follows:

(i) Only the fact, place, and date of involuntary commitment, an official copy of any order or orders of commitment, and an official copy of any written or oral notice of ineligibility to possess a firearm that was provided to the person pursuant to RCW 9.41.047(1), must be disclosed upon request;

(ii) The law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys may only release the information obtained to the person's attorney as required by court rule and to a jury or judge, if a jury is waived, that presides over any trial at which the person is charged with violating \*\*RCW 9.41.040(2)(a)(ii);

(iii) Disclosure under this subsection is mandatory for the purposes of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act;

(n) When a patient would otherwise be subject to the provisions of this section and disclosure is necessary for the protection of the patient or others due to his or her unauthorized disappearance from the facility, and his or her whereabouts is unknown, notice of the disappearance, along with relevant information, may be made to relatives, the department of corrections when the person is under the supervision

of the department, and governmental law enforcement agencies designated by the physician or psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner in charge of the patient or the professional person in charge of the facility, or his or her professional designee;

(o) Pursuant to lawful order of a court;

(p) To qualified staff members of the department, to the director of behavioral health organizations, to resource management services responsible for serving a patient, or to service providers designated by resource management services as necessary to determine the progress and adequacy of treatment and to determine whether the person should be transferred to a less restrictive or more appropriate treatment modality or facility;

(q) Within the mental health service agency where the patient is receiving treatment, confidential information may be disclosed to persons employed, serving in bona fide training programs, or participating in supervised volunteer programs, at the facility when it is necessary to perform their duties;

(r) Within the department as necessary to coordinate treatment for mental illness, developmental disabilities, alcoholism, or drug abuse of persons who are under the supervision of the department;

(s) To a licensed physician or psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner who has determined that the life or health of the person is in danger and that treatment without the information and records related to mental health services could be injurious to the patient's health. Disclosure must be limited to the portions of the records necessary to meet the medical emergency;

(t) Consistent with the requirements of the federal health information portability and accountability act, to a licensed mental health professional or a health care professional licensed under chapter 18.71, 18.71A, 18.57, 18.57A, 18.79, or 18.36A RCW who is providing care to a person, or to whom a person has been referred for evaluation or treatment, to assure coordinated care and treatment of that person. Psychotherapy notes may not be released without authorization of the person who is the subject of the request for release of information;

(u) To administrative and office support staff designated to obtain medical records for those licensed professionals listed in (t) of this subsection;

(v) To a facility that is to receive a person who is involuntarily committed under chapter 71.05 RCW, or upon transfer of the person from one evaluation and treatment facility to another. The release of records under this subsection is limited to the information and records related to mental health services required by law, a record or summary of all somatic treatments, and a discharge summary. The discharge summary may include a statement of the patient's problem, the treatment goals, the type of treatment which has been provided, and recommendation for future treatment, but may not include the patient's complete treatment record;

(w) To the person's counsel or guardian ad litem, without modification, at any time in order to prepare for involuntary commitment or recommitment proceedings, reexaminations, appeals, or other actions relating to detention, admission, commitment, or patient's rights under chapter 71.05 RCW;

(x) To staff members of the protection and advocacy agency or to staff members of a private, nonprofit corporation for the purpose of protecting and advocating the rights of persons with mental disorders or developmental disabilities. Resource management services may limit the release of information to the name, birthdate, and county of residence of the patient, information regarding whether the patient was voluntarily admitted, or involuntarily committed, the date and place of admission, placement, or commitment, the name and address of a guardian of the patient, and the date and place of the guardian's appointment. Any staff member who wishes to obtain additional information must notify the patient's resource management services in writing of the request and of the resource management services' right to object. The staff member shall send the notice by mail to the guardian's address. If the guardian does not object in writing within fifteen days after the notice is mailed, the staff member may obtain the additional information. If the guardian objects in writing within fifteen days after the notice is mailed, the staff member may not obtain the additional information;

(y) To all current treating providers of the patient with prescriptive authority who have written a prescription for the patient within the last twelve months. For purposes of coordinating health care, the department may release without written authorization of the patient, information acquired for billing and collection purposes as described in RCW 70.02.050(1)(d). The department shall notify the patient that billing and collection information has been released to named providers, and provide the substance of the information released and the dates of such release. The department may not release counseling, inpatient psychiatric hospitalization, or drug and alcohol treatment information without a signed written release from the client;

(z)(i) To the secretary of social and health services for either program evaluation or research, or both so long as the secretary adopts rules for the conduct of the evaluation or research, or both. Such rules must include, but need not be limited to, the requirement that all evaluators and researchers sign an oath of confidentiality substantially as follows:

"As a condition of conducting evaluation or research concerning persons who have received services from (fill in the facility, agency, or person) I, . . . . , agree not to divulge, publish, or otherwise make known to unauthorized persons or the public any information obtained in the course of such evaluation or research regarding persons who have received services such that the person who received such services is identifiable.

I recognize that unauthorized release of confidential information may subject me to civil liability under the provisions of state law.

/s/ . . . . ."

(ii) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prohibit the compilation and publication of statistical data for use by government or researchers under standards, including standards to assure maintenance of confidentiality, set forth by the secretary.

(3) Whenever federal law or federal regulations restrict the release of information contained in the information and records related to mental health services of any patient who

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receives treatment for chemical dependency, the department may restrict the release of the information as necessary to comply with federal law and regulations.

(4) Civil liability and immunity for the release of information about a particular person who is committed to the department of social and health services under RCW \*\*\*71.05.280(3) and \*\*\*\*71.05.320(3)(c) after dismissal of a sex offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030, is governed by RCW 4.24.550.

(5) The fact of admission to a provider of mental health services, as well as all records, files, evidence, findings, or orders made, prepared, collected, or maintained pursuant to chapter 71.05 RCW are not admissible as evidence in any legal proceeding outside that chapter without the written authorization of the person who was the subject of the proceeding except as provided in RCW 70.02.260, in a subsequent criminal prosecution of a person committed pursuant to RCW \*\*\*71.05.280(3) or \*\*\*\*71.05.320(3)(c) on charges that were dismissed pursuant to chapter 10.77 RCW due to incompetency to stand trial, in a civil commitment proceeding pursuant to chapter 71.09 RCW, or, in the case of a minor, a guardianship or dependency proceeding. The records and files maintained in any court proceeding pursuant to chapter 71.05 RCW must be confidential and available subsequent to such proceedings only to the person who was the subject of the proceeding or his or her attorney. In addition, the court may order the subsequent release or use of such records or files only upon good cause shown if the court finds that appropriate safeguards for strict confidentiality are and will be maintained.

(6)(a) Except as provided in RCW 4.24.550, any person may bring an action against an individual who has willfully released confidential information or records concerning him or her in violation of the provisions of this section, for the greater of the following amounts:

- (i) One thousand dollars; or
- (ii) Three times the amount of actual damages sustained, if any.

(b) It is not a prerequisite to recovery under this subsection that the plaintiff suffered or was threatened with special, as contrasted with general, damages.

(c) Any person may bring an action to enjoin the release of confidential information or records concerning him or her or his or her ward, in violation of the provisions of this section, and may in the same action seek damages as provided in this subsection.

(d) The court may award to the plaintiff, should he or she prevail in any action authorized by this subsection, reasonable attorney fees in addition to those otherwise provided by law.

(e) If an action is brought under this subsection, no action may be brought under RCW 70.02.170. [2014 c 225 § 71; 2014 c 220 § 9; 2013 c 200 § 7.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 70.96A.150 was repealed by 2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 601.

\*\* (2) RCW 9.41.040 was amended by 2014 c 111 § 1, changing subsection (2)(a)(ii) to subsection (2)(a)(iii).

\*\*\* (3) RCW 71.05.280 was amended by 2013 c 289 § 4, substantially modifying the provisions of subsection (3).

\*\*\*\* (4) RCW 71.05.320 was amended by 2013 c 289 § 5, substantially modifying the provisions of subsection (3)(c). RCW 71.05.320 was subse-

quently amended by 2015 c 250 § 11, changing subsection (3) to subsection (4).

(5) This section was amended by 2014 c 220 § 9 and by 2014 c 225 § 71, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.230 Mental health services, confidentiality of records—Permitted disclosures. (Effective April 1, 2018.)**

(1) Except as provided in this section, RCW 70.02.050, 71.05.445, 74.09.295, 70.02.210, 70.02.240, 70.02.250, and 70.02.260, or pursuant to a valid authorization under RCW 70.02.030, the fact of admission to a provider for mental health services and all information and records compiled, obtained, or maintained in the course of providing mental health services to either voluntary or involuntary recipients of services at public or private agencies must be confidential.

(2) Information and records related to mental health services, other than those obtained through treatment under chapter 71.34 RCW, may be disclosed only:

(a) In communications between qualified professional persons to meet the requirements of chapter 71.05 RCW, in the provision of services or appropriate referrals, or in the course of guardianship proceedings if provided to a professional person:

- (i) Employed by the facility;
- (ii) Who has medical responsibility for the patient's care;
- (iii) Who is a designated crisis responder;
- (iv) Who is providing services under chapter 71.24 RCW;
- (v) Who is employed by a state or local correctional facility where the person is confined or supervised; or
- (vi) Who is providing evaluation, treatment, or follow-up services under chapter 10.77 RCW;

(b) When the communications regard the special needs of a patient and the necessary circumstances giving rise to such needs and the disclosure is made by a facility providing services to the operator of a facility in which the patient resides or will reside;

(c)(i) When the person receiving services, or his or her guardian, designates persons to whom information or records may be released, or if the person is a minor, when his or her parents make such a designation;

(ii) A public or private agency shall release to a person's next of kin, attorney, personal representative, guardian, or conservator, if any:

(A) The information that the person is presently a patient in the facility or that the person is seriously physically ill;

(B) A statement evaluating the mental and physical condition of the patient, and a statement of the probable duration of the patient's confinement, if such information is requested by the next of kin, attorney, personal representative, guardian, or conservator; and

(iii) Other information requested by the next of kin or attorney as may be necessary to decide whether or not proceedings should be instituted to appoint a guardian or conservator;

(d)(i) To the courts as necessary to the administration of chapter 71.05 RCW or to a court ordering an evaluation or

treatment under chapter 10.77 RCW solely for the purpose of preventing the entry of any evaluation or treatment order that is inconsistent with any order entered under chapter 71.05 RCW.

(ii) To a court or its designee in which a motion under chapter 10.77 RCW has been made for involuntary medication of a defendant for the purpose of competency restoration.

(iii) Disclosure under this subsection is mandatory for the purpose of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act;

(e)(i) When a mental health professional or designated crisis responder is requested by a representative of a law enforcement or corrections agency, including a police officer, sheriff, community corrections officer, a municipal attorney, or prosecuting attorney to undertake an investigation or provide treatment under RCW 71.05.150, 10.31.110, or 71.05.153, the mental health professional or designated crisis responder shall, if requested to do so, advise the representative in writing of the results of the investigation including a statement of reasons for the decision to detain or release the person investigated. The written report must be submitted within seventy-two hours of the completion of the investigation or the request from the law enforcement or corrections representative, whichever occurs later.

(ii) Disclosure under this subsection is mandatory for the purposes of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act;

(f) To the attorney of the detained person;

(g) To the prosecuting attorney as necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the office under RCW 71.05.330(2), 71.05.340(1)(b), and 71.05.335. The prosecutor must be provided access to records regarding the committed person's treatment and prognosis, medication, behavior problems, and other records relevant to the issue of whether treatment less restrictive than inpatient treatment is in the best interest of the committed person or others. Information must be disclosed only after giving notice to the committed person and the person's counsel;

(h)(i) To appropriate law enforcement agencies and to a person, when the identity of the person is known to the public or private agency, whose health and safety has been threatened, or who is known to have been repeatedly harassed, by the patient. The person may designate a representative to receive the disclosure. The disclosure must be made by the professional person in charge of the public or private agency or his or her designee and must include the dates of commitment, admission, discharge, or release, authorized or unauthorized absence from the agency's facility, and only any other information that is pertinent to the threat or harassment. The agency or its employees are not civilly liable for the decision to disclose or not, so long as the decision was reached in good faith and without gross negligence.

(ii) Disclosure under this subsection is mandatory for the purposes of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act;

(i)(i) To appropriate corrections and law enforcement agencies all necessary and relevant information in the event of a crisis or emergent situation that poses a significant and imminent risk to the public. The mental health service agency or its employees are not civilly liable for the decision to dis-

close or not so long as the decision was reached in good faith and without gross negligence.

(ii) Disclosure under this subsection is mandatory for the purposes of the health insurance portability and accountability act;

(j) To the persons designated in RCW 71.05.425 for the purposes described in those sections;

(k) Upon the death of a person. The person's next of kin, personal representative, guardian, or conservator, if any, must be notified. Next of kin who are of legal age and competent must be notified under this section in the following order: Spouse, parents, children, brothers and sisters, and other relatives according to the degree of relation. Access to all records and information compiled, obtained, or maintained in the course of providing services to a deceased patient are governed by RCW 70.02.140;

(l) To mark headstones or otherwise memorialize patients interred at state hospital cemeteries. The department of social and health services shall make available the name, date of birth, and date of death of patients buried in state hospital cemeteries fifty years after the death of a patient;

(m) To law enforcement officers and to prosecuting attorneys as are necessary to enforce RCW 9.41.040(2)(a)(iii). The extent of information that may be released is limited as follows:

(i) Only the fact, place, and date of involuntary commitment, an official copy of any order or orders of commitment, and an official copy of any written or oral notice of ineligibility to possess a firearm that was provided to the person pursuant to RCW 9.41.047(1), must be disclosed upon request;

(ii) The law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys may only release the information obtained to the person's attorney as required by court rule and to a jury or judge, if a jury is waived, that presides over any trial at which the person is charged with violating RCW 9.41.040(2)(a)(iii);

(iii) Disclosure under this subsection is mandatory for the purposes of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act;

(n) When a patient would otherwise be subject to the provisions of this section and disclosure is necessary for the protection of the patient or others due to his or her unauthorized disappearance from the facility, and his or her whereabouts is unknown, notice of the disappearance, along with relevant information, may be made to relatives, the department of corrections when the person is under the supervision of the department, and governmental law enforcement agencies designated by the physician or psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner in charge of the patient or the professional person in charge of the facility, or his or her professional designee;

(o) Pursuant to lawful order of a court;

(p) To qualified staff members of the department, to the director of behavioral health organizations, to resource management services responsible for serving a patient, or to service providers designated by resource management services as necessary to determine the progress and adequacy of treatment and to determine whether the person should be transferred to a less restrictive or more appropriate treatment modality or facility;

(q) Within the mental health service agency where the patient is receiving treatment, confidential information may

be disclosed to persons employed, serving in bona fide training programs, or participating in supervised volunteer programs, at the facility when it is necessary to perform their duties;

(r) Within the department as necessary to coordinate treatment for mental illness, developmental disabilities, alcoholism, or drug abuse of persons who are under the supervision of the department;

(s) To a licensed physician or psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner who has determined that the life or health of the person is in danger and that treatment without the information and records related to mental health services could be injurious to the patient's health. Disclosure must be limited to the portions of the records necessary to meet the medical emergency;

(t) Consistent with the requirements of the federal health information portability and accountability act, to a licensed mental health professional or a health care professional licensed under chapter 18.71, 18.71A, 18.57, 18.57A, 18.79, or 18.36A RCW who is providing care to a person, or to whom a person has been referred for evaluation or treatment, to assure coordinated care and treatment of that person. Psychotherapy notes may not be released without authorization of the person who is the subject of the request for release of information;

(u) To administrative and office support staff designated to obtain medical records for those licensed professionals listed in (t) of this subsection;

(v) To a facility that is to receive a person who is involuntarily committed under chapter 71.05 RCW, or upon transfer of the person from one evaluation and treatment facility to another. The release of records under this subsection is limited to the information and records related to mental health services required by law, a record or summary of all somatic treatments, and a discharge summary. The discharge summary may include a statement of the patient's problem, the treatment goals, the type of treatment which has been provided, and recommendation for future treatment, but may not include the patient's complete treatment record;

(w) To the person's counsel or guardian ad litem, without modification, at any time in order to prepare for involuntary commitment or recommitment proceedings, reexaminations, appeals, or other actions relating to detention, admission, commitment, or patient's rights under chapter 71.05 RCW;

(x) To staff members of the protection and advocacy agency or to staff members of a private, nonprofit corporation for the purpose of protecting and advocating the rights of persons with mental disorders or developmental disabilities. Resource management services may limit the release of information to the name, birthdate, and county of residence of the patient, information regarding whether the patient was voluntarily admitted, or involuntarily committed, the date and place of admission, placement, or commitment, the name and address of a guardian of the patient, and the date and place of the guardian's appointment. Any staff member who wishes to obtain additional information must notify the patient's resource management services in writing of the request and of the resource management services' right to object. The staff member shall send the notice by mail to the guardian's address. If the guardian does not object in writing within fifteen days after the notice is mailed, the staff mem-

ber may obtain the additional information. If the guardian objects in writing within fifteen days after the notice is mailed, the staff member may not obtain the additional information;

(y) To all current treating providers of the patient with prescriptive authority who have written a prescription for the patient within the last twelve months. For purposes of coordinating health care, the department may release without written authorization of the patient, information acquired for billing and collection purposes as described in RCW 70.02.050(1)(d). The department shall notify the patient that billing and collection information has been released to named providers, and provide the substance of the information released and the dates of such release. The department may not release counseling, inpatient psychiatric hospitalization, or drug and alcohol treatment information without a signed written release from the client;

(z)(i) To the secretary of social and health services for either program evaluation or research, or both so long as the secretary adopts rules for the conduct of the evaluation or research, or both. Such rules must include, but need not be limited to, the requirement that all evaluators and researchers sign an oath of confidentiality substantially as follows:

"As a condition of conducting evaluation or research concerning persons who have received services from (fill in the facility, agency, or person) I, . . . ., agree not to divulge, publish, or otherwise make known to unauthorized persons or the public any information obtained in the course of such evaluation or research regarding persons who have received services such that the person who received such services is identifiable.

I recognize that unauthorized release of confidential information may subject me to civil liability under the provisions of state law.

/s/ . . . . ."

(ii) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prohibit the compilation and publication of statistical data for use by government or researchers under standards, including standards to assure maintenance of confidentiality, set forth by the secretary.

(3) Whenever federal law or federal regulations restrict the release of information contained in the information and records related to mental health services of any patient who receives treatment for chemical dependency, the department may restrict the release of the information as necessary to comply with federal law and regulations.

(4) Civil liability and immunity for the release of information about a particular person who is committed to the department of social and health services under RCW \*71.05.280(3) and \*\*71.05.320(4)(c) after dismissal of a sex offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030, is governed by RCW 4.24.550.

(5) The fact of admission to a provider of mental health services, as well as all records, files, evidence, findings, or orders made, prepared, collected, or maintained pursuant to chapter 71.05 RCW are not admissible as evidence in any legal proceeding outside that chapter without the written authorization of the person who was the subject of the proceeding except as provided in RCW 70.02.260, in a subsequent criminal prosecution of a person committed pursuant to

RCW \*71.05.280(3) or \*\*71.05.320(4)(c) on charges that were dismissed pursuant to chapter 10.77 RCW due to incompetency to stand trial, in a civil commitment proceeding pursuant to chapter 71.09 RCW, or, in the case of a minor, a guardianship or dependency proceeding. The records and files maintained in any court proceeding pursuant to chapter 71.05 RCW must be confidential and available subsequent to such proceedings only to the person who was the subject of the proceeding or his or her attorney. In addition, the court may order the subsequent release or use of such records or files only upon good cause shown if the court finds that appropriate safeguards for strict confidentiality are and will be maintained.

(6)(a) Except as provided in RCW 4.24.550, any person may bring an action against an individual who has willfully released confidential information or records concerning him or her in violation of the provisions of this section, for the greater of the following amounts:

(i) One thousand dollars; or

(ii) Three times the amount of actual damages sustained, if any.

(b) It is not a prerequisite to recovery under this subsection that the plaintiff suffered or was threatened with special, as contrasted with general, damages.

(c) Any person may bring an action to enjoin the release of confidential information or records concerning him or her or his or her ward, in violation of the provisions of this section, and may in the same action seek damages as provided in this subsection.

(d) The court may award to the plaintiff, should he or she prevail in any action authorized by this subsection, reasonable attorney fees in addition to those otherwise provided by law.

(e) If an action is brought under this subsection, no action may be brought under RCW 70.02.170. [2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 417. Prior: 2014 c 225 § 71; 2014 c 220 § 9; 2013 c 200 § 7.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 71.05.280 was amended by 2013 c 289 § 4, substantially modifying the provisions of subsection (3).

\*\*\*(2) RCW 71.05.320 was amended by 2013 c 289 § 5, substantially modifying the provisions of subsection (4)(c).

**Effective dates—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See note following RCW 71.05.760.

**Short title—Right of action—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 71.05.010.

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.240 Mental health services—Minors—Permitted disclosures.** The fact of admission and all information and records related to mental health services obtained through treatment under chapter 71.34 RCW is confidential, except as authorized in RCW 70.02.050, 70.02.210, 70.02.230, 70.02.250, and 70.02.260. Such confidential information may be disclosed only:

(1) In communications between mental health professionals to meet the requirements of chapter 71.34 RCW, in the provision of services to the minor, or in making appropriate referrals;

(2) In the course of guardianship or dependency proceedings;

(3) To the minor, the minor's parent, and the minor's attorney, subject to RCW 13.50.100;

(4) To the courts as necessary to administer chapter 71.34 RCW;

(5) To law enforcement officers or public health officers as necessary to carry out the responsibilities of their office. However, only the fact and date of admission, and the date of discharge, the name and address of the treatment provider, if any, and the last known address must be disclosed upon request;

(6) To law enforcement officers, public health officers, relatives, and other governmental law enforcement agencies, if a minor has escaped from custody, disappeared from an evaluation and treatment facility, violated conditions of a less restrictive treatment order, or failed to return from an authorized leave, and then only such information as may be necessary to provide for public safety or to assist in the apprehension of the minor. The officers are obligated to keep the information confidential in accordance with this chapter;

(7) To the secretary of social and health services for assistance in data collection and program evaluation or research so long as the secretary adopts rules for the conduct of such evaluation and research. The rules must include, but need not be limited to, the requirement that all evaluators and researchers sign an oath of confidentiality substantially as follows:

"As a condition of conducting evaluation or research concerning persons who have received services from (fill in the facility, agency, or person) I, . . . . , agree not to divulge, publish, or otherwise make known to unauthorized persons or the public any information obtained in the course of such evaluation or research regarding minors who have received services in a manner such that the minor is identifiable.

I recognize that unauthorized release of confidential information may subject me to civil liability under state law.

/s/ . . . . .";

(8) To appropriate law enforcement agencies, upon request, all necessary and relevant information in the event of a crisis or emergent situation that poses a significant and imminent risk to the public. The mental health service agency or its employees are not civilly liable for the decision to disclose or not, so long as the decision was reached in good faith and without gross negligence;

(9) To appropriate law enforcement agencies and to a person, when the identity of the person is known to the public or private agency, whose health and safety has been threatened, or who is known to have been repeatedly harassed, by the patient. The person may designate a representative to receive the disclosure. The disclosure must be made by the professional person in charge of the public or private agency or his or her designee and must include the dates of admission, discharge, authorized or unauthorized absence from the agency's facility, and only any other information that is pertinent to the threat or harassment. The agency or its employees are not civilly liable for the decision to disclose or not, so long as the decision was reached in good faith and without gross negligence;

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(10) To a minor's next of kin, attorney, guardian, or conservator, if any, the information that the minor is presently in the facility or that the minor is seriously physically ill and a statement evaluating the mental and physical condition of the minor as well as a statement of the probable duration of the minor's confinement;

(11) Upon the death of a minor, to the minor's next of kin;

(12) To a facility in which the minor resides or will reside;

(13) To law enforcement officers and to prosecuting attorneys as are necessary to enforce \*RCW 9.41.040(2)(a)(ii). The extent of information that may be released is limited as follows:

(a) Only the fact, place, and date of involuntary commitment, an official copy of any order or orders of commitment, and an official copy of any written or oral notice of ineligibility to possess a firearm that was provided to the person pursuant to RCW 9.41.047(1), must be disclosed upon request;

(b) The law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys may only release the information obtained to the person's attorney as required by court rule and to a jury or judge, if a jury is waived, that presides over any trial at which the person is charged with violating \*RCW 9.41.040(2)(a)(ii);

(c) Disclosure under this subsection is mandatory for the purposes of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act;

(14) This section may not be construed to prohibit the compilation and publication of statistical data for use by government or researchers under standards, including standards to assure maintenance of confidentiality, set forth by the secretary of the department of social and health services. The fact of admission and all information obtained pursuant to chapter 71.34 RCW are not admissible as evidence in any legal proceeding outside chapter 71.34 RCW, except guardianship or dependency, without the written consent of the minor or the minor's parent;

(15) For the purpose of a correctional facility participating in the postinstitutional medical assistance system supporting the expedited medical determinations and medical suspensions as provided in RCW 74.09.555 and 74.09.295;

(16) Pursuant to a lawful order of a court. [2013 c 200 § 8.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 9.41.040 was amended by 2014 c 111 § 1, changing subsection (2)(a)(ii) to subsection (2)(a)(iii).

Effective date—2013 c 200: See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.250 Mental health services—Department of corrections.** (1) Information and records related to mental health services delivered to a person subject to chapter 9.94A or 9.95 RCW must be released, upon request, by a mental health service agency to department of corrections personnel for whom the information is necessary to carry out the responsibilities of their office. The information must be provided only for the purpose of completing presentence investigations, supervision of an incarcerated person, planning for and provision of supervision of a person, or assessment of a person's risk to the community. The request must be in writing and may not require the consent of the subject of the records.

(2) The information to be released to the department of corrections must include all relevant records and reports, as defined by rule, necessary for the department of corrections to carry out its duties, including those records and reports identified in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The department shall, subject to available resources, electronically, or by the most cost-effective means available, provide the department of corrections with the names, last dates of services, and addresses of specific behavioral health organizations and mental health service agencies that delivered mental health services to a person subject to chapter 9.94A or 9.95 RCW pursuant to an agreement between the departments.

(4) The department and the department of corrections, in consultation with behavioral health organizations, mental health service agencies as defined in RCW 70.02.010, mental health consumers, and advocates for persons with mental illness, shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section related to the type and scope of information to be released. These rules must:

(a) Enhance and facilitate the ability of the department of corrections to carry out its responsibility of planning and ensuring community protection with respect to persons subject to sentencing under chapter 9.94A or 9.95 RCW, including accessing and releasing or disclosing information of persons who received mental health services as a minor; and

(b) Establish requirements for the notification of persons under the supervision of the department of corrections regarding the provisions of this section.

(5) The information received by the department of corrections under this section must remain confidential and subject to the limitations on disclosure outlined in chapter 71.34 RCW, except as provided in RCW 72.09.585.

(6) No mental health service agency or individual employed by a mental health service agency may be held responsible for information released to or used by the department of corrections under the provisions of this section or rules adopted under this section.

(7) Whenever federal law or federal regulations restrict the release of information contained in the treatment records of any patient who receives treatment for alcoholism or drug dependency, the release of the information may be restricted as necessary to comply with federal law and regulations.

(8) This section does not modify the terms and conditions of disclosure of information related to sexually transmitted diseases under this chapter. [2014 c 225 § 72; 2013 c 200 § 9.]

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.260 Mental health services—Requests for information and records.** (1)(a) A mental health service agency shall release to the persons authorized under subsection (2) of this section, upon request:

(i) The fact, place, and date of an involuntary commitment, the fact and date of discharge or release, and the last known address of a person who has been committed under chapter 71.05 RCW.

(ii) Information and records related to mental health services, in the format determined under subsection (9) of this section, concerning a person who:

(A) Is currently committed to the custody or supervision of the department of corrections or the indeterminate sentence review board under chapter 9.94A or 9.95 RCW;

(B) Has been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of a serious violent offense; or

(C) Was charged with a serious violent offense and the charges were dismissed under RCW 10.77.086.

(b) Legal counsel may release such information to the persons authorized under subsection (2) of this section on behalf of the mental health service agency, so long as nothing in this subsection requires the disclosure of attorney work product or attorney-client privileged information.

(2) The information subject to release under subsection (1) of this section must be released to law enforcement officers, personnel of a county or city jail, \*designated mental health professionals, public health officers, therapeutic court personnel as defined in RCW 71.05.020, or personnel of the department of corrections, including the indeterminate sentence review board and personnel assigned to perform board-related duties, when such information is requested during the course of business and for the purpose of carrying out the responsibilities of the requesting person's office. No mental health service agency or person employed by a mental health service agency, or its legal counsel, may be liable for information released to or used under the provisions of this section or rules adopted under this section except under RCW 71.05.680.

(3) A person who requests information under subsection (1)(a)(ii) of this section must comply with the following restrictions:

(a) Information must be requested only for the purposes permitted by this subsection and for the purpose of carrying out the responsibilities of the requesting person's office. Appropriate purposes for requesting information under this section include:

(i) Completing presentence investigations or risk assessment reports;

(ii) Assessing a person's risk to the community;

(iii) Assessing a person's risk of harm to self or others when confined in a city or county jail;

(iv) Planning for and provision of supervision of an offender, including decisions related to sanctions for violations of conditions of community supervision; and

(v) Responding to an offender's failure to report for department of corrections supervision;

(b) Information may not be requested under this section unless the requesting person has reasonable suspicion that the individual who is the subject of the information:

(i) Has engaged in activity indicating that a crime or a violation of community custody or parole has been committed or, based upon his or her current or recent past behavior, is likely to be committed in the near future; or

(ii) Is exhibiting signs of a deterioration in mental functioning which may make the individual appropriate for civil commitment under chapter 71.05 RCW; and

(c) Any information received under this section must be held confidential and subject to the limitations on disclosure outlined in this chapter, except:

(i) The information may be shared with other persons who have the right to request similar information under subsection (2) of this section, solely for the purpose of coordinat-

ing activities related to the individual who is the subject of the information in a manner consistent with the official responsibilities of the persons involved;

(ii) The information may be shared with a prosecuting attorney acting in an advisory capacity for a person who receives information under this section. A prosecuting attorney under this subsection is subject to the same restrictions and confidentiality limitations as the person who requested the information; and

(iii) As provided in RCW 72.09.585.

(4) A request for information and records related to mental health services under this section does not require the consent of the subject of the records. The request must be provided in writing, except to the extent authorized in subsection (5) of this section. A written request may include requests made by email or facsimile so long as the requesting person is clearly identified. The request must specify the information being requested.

(5) In the event of an emergency situation that poses a significant risk to the public or the offender, a mental health service agency, or its legal counsel, shall release information related to mental health services delivered to the offender and, if known, information regarding where the offender is likely to be found to the department of corrections or law enforcement upon request. The initial request may be written or oral. All oral requests must be subsequently confirmed in writing. Information released in response to an oral request is limited to a statement as to whether the offender is or is not being treated by the mental health service agency and the address or information about the location or whereabouts of the offender.

(6) Disclosure under this section to state or local law enforcement authorities is mandatory for the purposes of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act.

(7) Whenever federal law or federal regulations restrict the release of information contained in the treatment records of any patient who receives treatment for alcoholism or drug dependency, the release of the information may be restricted as necessary to comply with federal law and regulations.

(8) This section does not modify the terms and conditions of disclosure of information related to sexually transmitted diseases under this chapter.

(9) In collaboration with interested organizations, the department shall develop a standard form for requests for information related to mental health services made under this section and a standard format for information provided in response to the requests. Consistent with the goals of the health information privacy provisions of the federal health insurance portability and accountability act, in developing the standard form for responsive information, the department shall design the form in such a way that the information disclosed is limited to the minimum necessary to serve the purpose for which the information is requested. [2013 c 200 § 10.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The term "designated mental health professional" was changed to "designated crisis responder" by 2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 416, effective April 1, 2018.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.270 Health care information—Use or disclosure prohibited.** (1) No person who receives health care

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information for health care education, or to provide planning, quality assurance, peer review, or administrative, legal, financial, or actuarial services, or other health care operations for or on behalf of a health care provider or health care facility, may use or disclose any health care information received from the health care provider or health care facility in any manner that would violate the requirements of this chapter if performed by the health care provider or health care facility.

(2) A health care provider or health care facility that has a contractual relationship with a person to provide services described under subsection (1) of this section may terminate the contractual relationship with the person if the health care provider or health care facility learns that the person has engaged in a pattern of activity that violates the person's duties under subsection (1) of this section, unless the person took reasonable steps to correct the breach of confidentiality or has discontinued the violating activity. [2014 c 220 § 10; 2013 c 200 § 11.]

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.280 Health care providers and facilities—Prohibited actions.** A health care provider, health care facility, and their assistants, employees, agents, and contractors may not:

(1) Use or disclose health care information for marketing or fund-raising purposes, unless permitted by federal law; or

(2) Sell health care information to a third party, except:

(a) For purposes of treatment or payment;

(b) For purposes of sale, transfer, merger, or consolidation of a business;

(c) For purposes of remuneration to a third party for services;

(d) As disclosures are required by law;

(e) For purposes of providing access to or accounting of disclosures to an individual;

(f) For public health purposes;

(g) For research;

(h) With an individual's authorization;

(i) Where a reasonable cost-based fee is paid to prepare and transmit health information, where authority to disclose the information is provided in this chapter; or

(j) In a format that is deidentified and aggregated. [2014 c 220 § 11; 2013 c 200 § 12.]

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.290 Agency rule-making requirements—Use/destruction of health care information by certain state and local agencies—Unauthorized disclosure—Notice—Rules/policies available on agency's web site.** (1) All state or local agencies obtaining patient health care information pursuant to RCW 70.02.050 and 70.02.200 through 70.02.240 that are not health care facilities or providers shall adopt rules establishing their record acquisition, retention, destruction, and security policies that are consistent with this chapter.

(2) State and local agencies that are not health care facilities or providers that have not requested health care information and are not authorized to receive this information under this chapter:

(a) Must not use or disclose this information unless permitted under this chapter; and

(b) Must destroy the information in accordance with the policy developed under subsection (1) of this section or return the information to the entity that provided the information to the state or local agency if the entity is a health care facility or provider and subject to this chapter.

(3) A person who has health care information disclosed in violation of subsection (2)(a) of this section, must be informed of the disclosure by the state or local agency improperly making the disclosure. State and local agencies that are not health care facilities or providers must develop a policy to establish a reasonable notification period and what information must be included in the notice, including whether the name of the entity that originally provided the information to the agency must be included.

(4) Rules or policies adopted under this section must be available through each agency's web site. [2014 c 220 § 1; 2013 c 200 § 13.]

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** "Sections 1 through 7 and 9 through \*16 of this act take effect July 1, 2014." [2014 c 220 § 17.]

**\*Reviser's note:** 2014 c 220 § 16 was vetoed.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.300 Sexually transmitted diseases—Required statement upon disclosure.** Whenever disclosure is made of information and records related to sexually transmitted diseases pursuant to this chapter, except for RCW 70.02.050(1)(a) and 70.02.220 (2) (a) and (b) and (7), it must be accompanied by a statement in writing which includes the following or substantially similar language: "This information has been disclosed to you from records whose confidentiality is protected by state law. State law prohibits you from making any further disclosure of it without the specific written authorization of the person to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permitted by state law. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for this purpose." An oral disclosure must be accompanied or followed by such a notice within ten days. [2013 c 200 § 14.]

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.310 Mental health services—Information and records.** (1) Resource management services shall establish procedures to provide reasonable and timely access to information and records related to mental health services for an individual. However, access may not be denied at any time to records of all medications and somatic treatments received by the person.

(2) Following discharge, a person who has received mental health services has a right to a complete record of all medications and somatic treatments prescribed during evaluation, admission, or commitment and to a copy of the discharge summary prepared at the time of his or her discharge. A reasonable and uniform charge for reproduction may be assessed.

(3) Information and records related to mental health services may be modified prior to inspection to protect the confidentiality of other patients or the names of any other persons referred to in the record who gave information on the condition that his or her identity remain confidential. Entire

documents may not be withheld to protect such confidentiality.

(4) At the time of discharge resource management services shall inform all persons who have received mental health services of their rights as provided in this chapter and RCW 71.05.620. [2014 c 220 § 12; 2013 c 200 § 15.]

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.320 Mental health services—Minors—Prompt entry in record upon disclosure.** When disclosure of information and records related to mental services pertaining to a minor, as defined in RCW 71.34.020, is made, the date and circumstances under which the disclosure was made, the name or names of the persons or agencies to whom such disclosure was made and their relationship if any, to the minor, and the information disclosed must be entered promptly in the minor's clinical record. [2013 c 200 § 16.]

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.330 Obtaining confidential records under false pretenses—Penalty.** Any person who requests or obtains confidential information and records related to mental health services pursuant to this chapter under false pretenses is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [2013 c 200 § 17.]

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.340 Disclosure of information and records related to mental health services—Agency rule-making authority.** The department of social and health services shall adopt rules related to the disclosure of information and records related to mental health services in this chapter. [2014 c 220 § 13; 2013 c 200 § 18.]

**Effective date—2014 c 220:** See note following RCW 70.02.290.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.350 Department of social and health services—Release of information to protect the public.** In addition to any other information required to be released under this chapter, the department of social and health services is authorized, pursuant to RCW 4.24.550, to release relevant information that is necessary to protect the public, concerning a specific person committed under RCW \*71.05.280(3) or \*\*71.05.320(3)(c) following dismissal of a sex offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030. [2013 c 200 § 19.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 71.05.280 was amended by 2013 c 289 § 4, substantially modifying the provisions of subsection (3).

\*\*\*(2) RCW 71.05.320 was amended by 2013 c 289 § 5, substantially modifying the provisions of subsection (3)(c). RCW 71.05.320 was subsequently amended by 2015 c 250 § 11, changing subsection (3) to subsection (4).

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**70.02.900 Conflicting laws.** (1) This chapter does not restrict a health care provider, a third-party payor, or an insurer regulated under Title 48 RCW from complying with obligations imposed by federal or state health care payment programs or federal or state law.

(2) This chapter does not modify the terms and conditions of disclosure under Title 51 RCW and chapters 13.50, 26.09, 70.24, \*70.96A, and 74.09 RCW and rules adopted

under these provisions. [2013 c 200 § 20; 2011 c 305 § 10; 2000 c 5 § 4; 1991 c 335 § 901.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 70.96A RCW was repealed and/or recodified in its entirety pursuant to 2016 1st sp.s. c 29 §§ 301, effective April 1, 2018, 601, and 701.

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**Findings—2011 c 305:** See note following RCW 74.09.295.

**Intent—Purpose—2000 c 5:** See RCW 48.43.500.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### 70.02.901 Application and construction—1991 c 335.

This act shall be applied and construed to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of this act among states enacting it. [1991 c 335 § 903.]

**70.02.902 Short title.** This act may be cited as the uniform health care information act. [1991 c 335 § 904.]

**70.02.905 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 149.]

### Chapter 70.05 RCW

#### LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS, OFFICERS—REGULATIONS

##### Sections

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*Health districts: Chapter 70.46 RCW.*

*State board of health: Chapter 43.20 RCW.*

**70.05.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of chapters 70.05 and 70.46 RCW and unless the context thereof clearly indicates to the contrary:

(1) "Local health departments" means the county or district which provides public health services to persons within the area.

(2) "Local health officer" means the legally qualified physician who has been appointed as the health officer for the county or district public health department.

(3) "Local board of health" means the county or district board of health.

(4) "Health district" means all the territory consisting of one or more counties organized pursuant to the provisions of chapters 70.05 and 70.46 RCW.

(5) "Department" means the department of health. [1993 c 492 § 234; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.030 Counties—Local health board—Jurisdiction.** In counties without a home rule charter, the board of county commissioners shall constitute the local board of health, unless the county is part of a health district pursuant to chapter 70.46 RCW. The jurisdiction of the local board of health shall be coextensive with the boundaries of said county. The board of county commissioners may, at its discretion, adopt an ordinance expanding the size and composition of the board of health to include elected officials from cities and towns and persons other than elected officials as members so long as persons other than elected officials do not constitute a majority. An ordinance adopted under this section shall include provisions for the appointment, term, and compensation, or reimbursement of expenses. [1995 c 43 § 6; 1993 c 492 § 235; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The 1995 omnibus appropriations act, chapter 18, Laws of 1995 2nd sp. sess. provided two million two hundred fifty thousand dollars.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.035 Home rule charter—Local board of health.** In counties with a home rule charter, the county legislative authority shall establish a local board of health and may prescribe the membership and selection process for the board. The county legislative authority may appoint to the board of health elected officials from cities and towns and persons other than elected officials as members so long as persons other than elected officials do not constitute a majority. The county legislative authority shall specify the appointment, term, and compensation or reimbursement of expenses. The jurisdiction of the local board of health shall be coextensive

with the boundaries of the county. The local health officer, as described in RCW 70.05.050, shall be appointed by the official designated under the provisions of the county charter. The same official designated under the provisions of the county charter may appoint an administrative officer, as described in RCW 70.05.045. [1995 c 43 § 7; 1993 c 492 § 237.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.040 Local board of health—Chair—Administrative officer—Vacancies.** The local board of health shall elect a chair and may appoint an administrative officer. A local health officer shall be appointed pursuant to RCW 70.05.050. Vacancies on the local board of health shall be filled by appointment within thirty days and made in the same manner as was the original appointment. At the first meeting of the local board of health, the members shall elect a chair to serve for a period of one year. [1993 c 492 § 236; 1984 c 25 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 39 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.045 Administrative officer—Responsibilities.** The administrative officer shall act as executive secretary and administrative officer for the local board of health, and shall be responsible for administering the operations of the board including such other administrative duties required by the local health board, except for duties assigned to the health officer as enumerated in RCW 70.05.070 and other applicable state law. [1984 c 25 § 2.]

**70.05.050 Local health officer—Qualifications—Employment of personnel—Salary and expenses.** The local health officer shall be an experienced physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery in this state and who is qualified or provisionally qualified in accordance with the standards prescribed in RCW 70.05.051 through 70.05.055 to hold the office of local health officer. No term of office shall be established for the local health officer but the local health officer shall not be removed until after notice is given, and an opportunity for a hearing before the board or official responsible for his or her appointment under this section as to the reason for his or her removal. The local health officer shall act as executive secretary to, and administrative officer for the local board of health and shall also be empowered to employ such technical and other personnel as approved by the local board of health except where the local board of health has appointed an administrative officer under RCW 70.05.040. The local health officer shall be paid such salary and allowed such expenses as shall be determined by the local board of health. In home rule counties that are part of a health district under this chapter and chapter 70.46 RCW the local health officer and administrative officer shall be appointed by the local board of health. [1996 c 178 § 19; 1995 c 43 § 8; 1993 c 492 § 238; 1984 c 25 § 5; 1983 1st ex.s. c 39 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 114 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 9.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.051 Local health officer—Qualifications.** The following persons holding licenses as required by RCW 70.05.050 shall be deemed qualified to hold the position of local health officer:

(1) Persons holding the degree of master of public health or its equivalent;

(2) Persons not meeting the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, who upon August 11, 1969 are currently employed in this state as a local health officer and whom the secretary of social and health services recommends in writing to the local board of health as qualified; and

(3) Persons qualified by virtue of completing three years of service as a provisionally qualified officer pursuant to RCW 70.05.053 through 70.05.055. [1979 c 141 § 75; 1969 ex.s. c 114 § 2.]

**70.05.053 Provisionally qualified local health officers—Appointment—Term—Requirements.** A person holding a license required by RCW 70.05.050 but not meeting any of the requirements for qualification prescribed by RCW 70.05.051 may be appointed by the board or official responsible for appointing the local health officer under RCW 70.05.050 as a provisionally qualified local health officer for a maximum period of three years upon the following conditions and in accordance with the following procedures:

(1) He or she shall participate in an in-service orientation to the field of public health as provided in RCW 70.05.054, and

(2) He or she shall satisfy the secretary of health pursuant to the periodic interviews prescribed by RCW 70.05.055 that he or she has successfully completed such in-service orientation and is conducting such program of good health practices as may be required by the jurisdictional area concerned. [1991 c 3 § 305; 1983 1st ex.s. c 39 § 3; 1979 c 141 § 76; 1969 ex.s. c 114 § 3.]

**70.05.054 Provisionally qualified local health officers—In-service public health orientation program.** The secretary of health shall provide an in-service public health orientation program for the benefit of provisionally qualified local health officers.

Such program shall consist of—

(1) A three months course in public health training conducted by the secretary either in the state department of health, in a county and/or city health department, in a local health district, or in an institution of higher education; or

(2) An on-the-job, self-training program pursuant to a standardized syllabus setting forth the major duties of a local health officer including the techniques and practices of public health principles expected of qualified local health officers: PROVIDED, That each provisionally qualified local health officer may choose which type of training he or she shall pursue. [1991 c 3 § 306; 1979 c 141 § 77; 1969 ex.s. c 114 § 4.]

**70.05.055 Provisionally qualified local health officers—Interview—Evaluation as to qualification as local public health officer.** Each year, on a date which shall be as near as possible to the anniversary date of appointment as provisional local health officer, the secretary of health or his or her designee shall personally visit such provisional officer's office for a personal review and discussion of the activ-

ity, plans, and study being carried on relative to the provisional officer's jurisdictional area: PROVIDED, That the third such interview shall occur three months prior to the end of the three year provisional term. A standardized checklist shall be used for all such interviews, but such checklist shall not constitute a grading sheet or evaluation form for use in the ultimate decision of qualification of the provisional appointee as a public health officer.

Copies of the results of each interview shall be supplied to the provisional officer within two weeks following each such interview.

Following the third such interview, the secretary shall evaluate the provisional local health officer's in-service performance and shall notify such officer by certified mail of his or her decision whether or not to qualify such officer as a local public health officer. Such notice shall be mailed at least sixty days prior to the third anniversary date of provisional appointment. Failure to so mail such notice shall constitute a decision that such provisional officer is qualified. [1991 c 3 § 307; 1979 c 141 § 78; 1969 ex.s. c 114 § 5.]

#### **70.05.060 Powers and duties of local board of health.**

Each local board of health shall have supervision over all matters pertaining to the preservation of the life and health of the people within its jurisdiction and shall:

(1) Enforce through the local health officer or the administrative officer appointed under RCW 70.05.040, if any, the public health statutes of the state and rules promulgated by the state board of health and the secretary of health;

(2) Supervise the maintenance of all health and sanitary measures for the protection of the public health within its jurisdiction;

(3) Enact such local rules and regulations as are necessary in order to preserve, promote and improve the public health and provide for the enforcement thereof;

(4) Provide for the control and prevention of any dangerous, contagious or infectious disease within the jurisdiction of the local health department;

(5) Provide for the prevention, control and abatement of nuisances detrimental to the public health;

(6) Make such reports to the state board of health through the local health officer or the administrative officer as the state board of health may require; and

(7) Establish fee schedules for issuing or renewing licenses or permits or for such other services as are authorized by the law and the rules of the state board of health: PROVIDED, That such fees for services shall not exceed the actual cost of providing any such services. [1991 c 3 § 308; 1984 c 25 § 6; 1979 c 141 § 79; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 10.]

#### **70.05.070 Local health officer—Powers and duties.**

The local health officer, acting under the direction of the local board of health or under direction of the administrative officer appointed under RCW 70.05.040 or 70.05.035, if any, shall:

(1) Enforce the public health statutes of the state, rules of the state board of health and the secretary of health, and all local health rules, regulations and ordinances within his or her jurisdiction including imposition of penalties authorized under RCW 70.119A.030 and 70.118.130, the confidentiality provisions in RCW 70.02.220 and rules adopted to imple-

ment those provisions, and filing of actions authorized by RCW 43.70.190;

(2) Take such action as is necessary to maintain health and sanitation supervision over the territory within his or her jurisdiction;

(3) Control and prevent the spread of any dangerous, contagious or infectious diseases that may occur within his or her jurisdiction;

(4) Inform the public as to the causes, nature, and prevention of disease and disability and the preservation, promotion and improvement of health within his or her jurisdiction;

(5) Prevent, control or abate nuisances which are detrimental to the public health;

(6) Attend all conferences called by the secretary of health or his or her authorized representative;

(7) Collect such fees as are established by the state board of health or the local board of health for the issuance or renewal of licenses or permits or such other fees as may be authorized by law or by the rules of the state board of health;

(8) Inspect, as necessary, expansion or modification of existing public water systems, and the construction of new public water systems, to assure that the expansion, modification, or construction conforms to system design and plans;

(9) Take such measures as he or she deems necessary in order to promote the public health, to participate in the establishment of health educational or training activities, and to authorize the attendance of employees of the local health department or individuals engaged in community health programs related to or part of the programs of the local health department. [2013 c 200 § 26; 2007 c 343 § 10; 1999 c 391 § 5; 1993 c 492 § 239; 1991 c 3 § 309; 1990 c 133 § 10; 1984 c 25 § 7; 1979 c 141 § 80; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 12.]

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**Findings—Purpose—1999 c 391:** See note following RCW 70.05.180.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Findings—Severability—1990 c 133:** See notes following RCW 36.94.140.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.072 Local health officer—Authority to grant waiver from on-site sewage system requirements.** The local health officer may grant a waiver from specific requirements adopted by the state board of health for on-site sewage systems if:

(1) The on-site sewage system for which a waiver is requested is for sewage flows under three thousand five hundred gallons per day;

(2) The waiver request is evaluated by the local health officer on an individual, site-by-site basis;

(3) The local health officer determines that the waiver is consistent with the standards in, and the intent of, the state board of health rules; and

(4) The local health officer submits quarterly reports to the department regarding any waivers approved or denied.

Based on review of the quarterly reports, if the department finds that the waivers previously granted have not been consistent with the standards in, and intent of, the state board of health rules, the department shall provide technical assistance to the local health officer to correct the inconsistency, and may notify the local and state boards of health of the department's concerns.

If upon further review of the quarterly reports, the department finds that the inconsistency between the waivers granted and the state board of health standards has not been corrected, the department may suspend the authority of the local health officer to grant waivers under this section until such inconsistencies have been corrected. [1995 c 263 § 1.]

**70.05.074 On-site sewage system permits—Application—Limitation of alternative sewage systems.** (1) The local health officer must respond to the applicant for an on-site sewage system permit within thirty days after receiving a fully completed application. The local health officer must respond that the application is either approved, denied, or pending.

(2) If the local health officer denies an application to install an on-site sewage system, the denial must be for cause and based upon public health and environmental protection concerns, including concerns regarding the ability to operate and maintain the system, or conflicts with other existing laws, regulations, or ordinances. The local health officer must provide the applicant with a written justification for the denial, along with an explanation of the procedure for appeal.

(3) If the local health officer identifies the application as pending and subject to review beyond thirty days, the local health officer must provide the applicant with a written justification that the site-specific conditions or circumstances necessitate a longer time period for a decision on the application. The local health officer must include any specific information necessary to make a decision and the estimated time required for a decision to be made.

(4) A local health officer may not limit the number of alternative sewage systems within his or her jurisdiction without cause. Any such limitation must be based upon public health and environmental protection concerns, including concerns regarding the ability to operate and maintain the system, or conflicts with other existing laws, regulations, or ordinances. If such a limitation is established, the local health officer must justify the limitation in writing, with specific reasons, and must provide an explanation of the procedure for appealing the limitation. [1997 c 447 § 2.]

**Finding—Purpose—1997 c 447:** "The legislature finds that improperly designed, installed, or maintained on-site sewage disposal systems are a major contributor to water pollution in this state. The legislature also recognizes that evolving technology has produced many viable alternatives to traditional on-site septic systems. It is the purpose of this act to help facilitate the siting of new alternative on-site septic systems and to assist local governments in promoting efficient operation of on-site septic \*these systems." [1997 c 447 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: Due to a drafting error, the word "these" was not removed when this sentence was rewritten.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.077 Department of health—Training—On-site sewage systems—Application of the waiver authority—Topics—Availability.** (1) The department of health, in consultation and cooperation with local environmental health officers, shall develop a one-day course to train local environmental health officers, health officers, and environmental health specialists and technicians to address the application of the waiver authority granted under RCW 70.05.072 as well as other existing statutory or regulatory flexibility for siting on-site sewage systems.

(2) The training course shall include the following topics:

(a) The statutory authority to grant waivers from the state on-site sewage system rules;

(b) The regulatory framework for the application of on-site sewage treatment and disposal technologies, with an emphasis on the differences between rules, standards, and guidance. The course shall include instruction on interpreting the intent of a rule rather than the strict reading of the language of a rule, and also discuss the liability assumed by a unit of local government when local rules, policies, or practices deviate from the state administrative code;

(c) The application of site evaluation and assessment methods to match the particular site and development plans with the on-site sewage treatment and disposal technology suitable to protect public health to at least the level provided by state rule; and

(d) Instruction in the concept and application of mitigation waivers.

(3) The training course shall be made available to all local health departments and districts in various locations in the state without fee. Updated guidance documents and materials shall be provided to all participants, including examples of the types of waivers and processes that other jurisdictions in the region have granted and used. The first training conducted under this section shall take place by June 30, 1999. [1998 c 34 § 3.]

**Intent—1998 c 34:** "(1) The 1997 legislature directed the department of health to convene a work group for the purpose of making recommendations to the legislature for the development of a certification program for occupations related to on-site septic systems, including those who pump, install, design, perform maintenance, inspect, or regulate on-site septic systems. The work group was convened and studied issues relating to certification of people employed in these occupations, bonding levels, and other standards related to these occupations. In addition, the work group examined the application of a risk analysis pertaining to the installation and maintenance of different types of septic systems in different parts of the state. A written report containing the work group's findings and recommendations was submitted to the legislature as directed.

(2) The legislature recognizes that the recommendations of the work group must be phased-in over a time period in order to develop the necessary scope of work requirements, knowledge requirements, public protection requirements, and other criteria for the upgrading of these occupations. It is the intent of the legislature to start implementing the work group's recommendations by focusing first on the occupations that are considered to be the highest priority, and to address the other occupational recommendations in subsequent sessions." [1998 c 34 § 1.]

**70.05.080 Local health officer—Failure to appoint—Procedure.** If the local board of health or other official responsible for appointing a local health officer under RCW 70.05.050 refuses or neglects to appoint a local health officer after a vacancy exists, the secretary of health may appoint a local health officer and fix the compensation. The local health officer so appointed shall have the same duties, powers and authority as though appointed under RCW 70.05.050. Such local health officer shall serve until a qualified individual is appointed according to the procedures set forth in RCW 70.05.050. The board or official responsible for appointing the local health officer under RCW 70.05.050 shall also be authorized to appoint an acting health officer to serve whenever the health officer is absent or incapacitated and unable to fulfill his or her responsibilities under the provisions of chapters 70.05 and 70.46 RCW. [1993 c 492 § 240; 1991 c 3 §

310; 1983 1st ex.s. c 39 § 4; 1979 c 141 § 81; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 13.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.090 Physicians to report diseases.** Whenever any physician shall attend any person sick with any dangerous contagious or infectious disease, or with any diseases required by the state board of health to be reported, he or she shall, within twenty-four hours, give notice thereof to the local health officer within whose jurisdiction such sick person may then be or to the state department of health in Olympia. [1991 c 3 § 311; 1979 c 141 § 82; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 14.]

**70.05.100 Determination of character of disease.** In case of the question arising as to whether or not any person is affected or is sick with a dangerous, contagious or infectious disease, the opinion of the local health officer shall prevail until the state department of health can be notified, and then the opinion of the executive officer of the state department of health, or any physician he or she may appoint to examine such case, shall be final. [1991 c 3 § 312; 1979 c 141 § 83; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 15.]

**70.05.110 Local health officials and physicians to report contagious diseases.** It shall be the duty of the local board of health, health authorities or officials, and of physicians in localities where there are no local health authorities or officials, to report to the state board of health, promptly upon discovery thereof, the existence of any one of the following diseases which may come under their observation, to wit: Asiatic cholera, yellow fever, smallpox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhus, typhoid fever, bubonic plague or leprosy, and of such other contagious or infectious diseases as the state board may from time to time specify. [1967 ex.s. c 51 § 16.]

**70.05.120 Violations—Remedies—Penalties.** (1) Any local health officer or administrative officer appointed under RCW 70.05.040, if any, who shall refuse or neglect to obey or enforce the provisions of chapters 70.05, 70.24, and 70.46 RCW or the rules, regulations or orders of the state board of health or who shall refuse or neglect to make prompt and accurate reports to the state board of health, may be removed as local health officer or administrative officer by the state board of health and shall not again be reappointed except with the consent of the state board of health. Any person may complain to the state board of health concerning the failure of the local health officer or administrative officer to carry out the laws or the rules and regulations concerning public health, and the state board of health shall, if a preliminary investigation so warrants, call a hearing to determine whether the local health officer or administrative officer is guilty of the alleged acts. Such hearings shall be held pursuant to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW, and the rules and regulations of the state board of health adopted thereunder.

(2) Any member of a local board of health who shall violate any of the provisions of chapters 70.05, 70.24, and 70.46 RCW or refuse or neglect to obey or enforce any of the rules, regulations or orders of the state board of health made for the prevention, suppression or control of any dangerous conta-

gious or infectious disease or for the protection of the health of the people of this state, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than ten dollars nor more than two hundred dollars.

(3) Any physician who shall refuse or neglect to report to the proper health officer or administrative officer within twelve hours after first attending any case of contagious or infectious disease or any diseases required by the state board of health to be reported or any case suspicious of being one of such diseases, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than ten dollars nor more than two hundred dollars for each case that is not reported.

(4) Any person violating any of the provisions of chapters 70.05, 70.24, and 70.46 RCW or violating or refusing or neglecting to obey any of the rules, regulations or orders made for the prevention, suppression and control of dangerous contagious and infectious diseases by the local board of health or local health officer or administrative officer or state board of health, or who shall leave any isolation hospital or quarantined house or place without the consent of the proper health officer or who evades or breaks quarantine or conceals a case of contagious or infectious disease or assists in evading or breaking any quarantine or concealing any case of contagious or infectious disease, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars or to imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed ninety days or to both fine and imprisonment. [2003 c 53 § 350; 1999 c 391 § 6; 1993 c 492 § 241; 1984 c 25 § 8; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 17.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Findings—Purpose—1999 c 391:** See note following RCW 70.05.180.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.130 Expenses of state, health district, or county in enforcing health laws and rules—Payment by county.** All expenses incurred by the state, health district, or county in carrying out the provisions of chapters 70.05 and 70.46 RCW or any other public health law, or the rules of the department of health enacted under such laws, shall be paid by the county and such expenses shall constitute a claim against the general fund as provided in this section. [1993 c 492 § 242; 1991 c 3 § 313; 1979 c 141 § 84; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 18.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.150 Contracts for sale or purchase of health services authorized.** In addition to powers already granted them, any county, district, or local health department may contract for either the sale or purchase of any or all health services from any local health department. [2011 c 27 § 4; 1993 c 492 § 243; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 22.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.160 Moratorium on water, sewer hookups, or septic systems—Public hearing—Limitation on length.** A local board of health that adopts a moratorium affecting

water hookups, sewer hookups, or septic systems without holding a public hearing on the proposed moratorium, shall hold a public hearing on the adopted moratorium within at least sixty days of its adoption. If the board does not adopt findings of fact justifying its action before this hearing, then the board shall do so immediately after this public hearing. A moratorium adopted under this section may be effective for not longer than six months, but may be effective for up to one year if a work plan is developed for related studies providing for such a longer period. A moratorium may be renewed for one or more six-month periods if a subsequent public hearing is held and findings of fact are made prior to each renewal. [1992 c 207 § 7.]

**70.05.170 Child mortality review.** (1)(a) The legislature finds that the mortality rate in Washington state among infants and children less than eighteen years of age is unacceptably high, and that such mortality may be preventable. The legislature further finds that, through the performance of child mortality reviews, preventable causes of child mortality can be identified and addressed, thereby reducing the infant and child mortality in Washington state.

(b) It is the intent of the legislature to encourage the performance of child death reviews by local health departments by providing necessary legal protections to the families of children whose deaths are studied, local health department officials and employees, and health care professionals participating in child mortality review committee activities.

(2) As used in this section, "child mortality review" means a process authorized by a local health department as such department is defined in RCW 70.05.010 for examining factors that contribute to deaths of children less than eighteen years of age. The process may include a systematic review of medical, clinical, and hospital records; home interviews of parents and caretakers of children who have died; analysis of individual case information; and review of this information by a team of professionals in order to identify modifiable medical, socioeconomic, public health, behavioral, administrative, educational, and environmental factors associated with each death.

(3) Local health departments are authorized to conduct child mortality reviews. In conducting such reviews, the following provisions shall apply:

(a) All health care information collected as part of a child mortality review is confidential, subject to the restrictions on disclosure provided for in chapter 70.02 RCW. When documents are collected as part of a child mortality review, the records may be used solely by local health departments for the purposes of the review.

(b) No identifying information related to the deceased child, the child's guardians, or anyone interviewed as part of the child mortality review may be disclosed. Any such information shall be redacted from any records produced as part of the review.

(c) Any witness statements or documents collected from witnesses, or summaries or analyses of those statements or records prepared exclusively for purposes of a child mortality review, are not subject to public disclosure, discovery, subpoena, or introduction into evidence in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding related to the death of a child reviewed. This provision does not restrict or limit the discov-

ery or subpoena from a health care provider of records or documents maintained by such health care provider in the ordinary course of business, whether or not such records or documents may have been supplied to a local health department pursuant to this section. This provision shall not restrict or limit the discovery or subpoena of documents from such witnesses simply because a copy of a document was collected as part of a child mortality review.

(d) No local health department official or employee, and no members of technical committees established to perform case reviews of selected child deaths may be examined in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding as to the existence or contents of documents assembled, prepared, or maintained for purposes of a child mortality review.

(e) This section shall not be construed to prohibit or restrict any person from reporting suspected child abuse or neglect under chapter 26.44 RCW nor to limit access to or use of any records, documents, information, or testimony in any civil or criminal action arising out of any report made pursuant to chapter 26.44 RCW.

(4) The department shall assist local health departments to collect the reports of any child mortality reviews conducted by local health departments and assist with entering the reports into a database to the extent that the data is not protected under subsection (3) of this section. Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, the department shall respond to any requests for data from the database to the extent permitted for health care information under chapter 70.02 RCW. In addition, the department shall provide technical assistance to local health departments and child death review coordinators conducting child mortality reviews and encourage communication among child death review teams. The department shall conduct these activities using only federal and private funding.

(5) This section does not prevent a local health department from publishing statistical compilations and reports related to the child mortality review. Any portions of such compilations and reports that identify individual cases and sources of information must be redacted. [2010 c 128 § 1; 2009 c 134 § 1; 1993 c 41 § 1; 1992 c 179 § 1.]

**70.05.180 Infectious disease testing—Good samaritans—Rules.** A person rendering emergency care or transportation, commonly known as a "Good Samaritan," as described in RCW 4.24.300 and 4.24.310, may request and receive appropriate infectious disease testing free of charge from the local health department of the county of her or his residence, if: (1) While rendering emergency care she or he came into contact with bodily fluids; and (2) she or he does not have health insurance that covers the testing. Nothing in this section requires a local health department to provide health care services beyond testing. The department shall adopt rules implementing this section.

The information obtained from infectious disease testing is subject to statutory confidentiality provisions, including those of chapters 70.24 and 70.05 RCW. [1999 c 391 § 2.]

**Findings—Purpose—1999 c 391:** "The legislature finds that citizens who assist individuals in emergency situations perform a needed and valuable role that deserves recognition and support. The legislature further finds that emergency assistance in the form of mouth to mouth resuscitation or other emergency medical procedures resulting in the exchange of bodily fluids significantly increases the odds of being exposed to a deadly infectious

disease. Some of the more life-threatening diseases that can be transferred during an emergency procedure where bodily fluids are exchanged include hepatitis A, B, and C, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Individuals infected by these diseases value confidentiality regarding this information. A number of good samaritans who perform lifesaving emergency procedures such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation are unable to pay for the tests necessary for detecting infectious diseases that could have been transmitted during the emergency procedure. It is the purpose of this act to provide infectious disease testing at no cost to good samaritans who request testing for infectious diseases after rendering emergency assistance that has brought them into contact with a bodily fluid and to further protect the testing information once obtained through confidentiality provisions." [1999 c 391 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.05.190 On-site sewage program management plans—Authority of certain boards of health.** (1) A local board of health in the twelve counties bordering Puget Sound implementing an on-site sewage program management plan may:

(a) Impose and collect reasonable rates or charges in an amount sufficient to pay for the actual costs of administration and operation of the on-site sewage program management plan; and

(b) Contract with the county treasurer to collect the rates or charges imposed under this section in accordance with RCW 84.56.035.

(2) In executing the provisions in subsection (1) of this section, a local board of health does not have the authority to impose a lien on real property for failure to pay rates and charges imposed by this section.

(3) Nothing in this section provides a local board of health with the ability to impose and collect rates and charges related to the implementation of an on-site sewage program management plan beyond those powers currently designated under RCW 70.05.060(7). [2012 c 175 § 1.]

**Chapter 70.08 RCW**

**COMBINED CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**

Sections

70.08.005	Transfer of duties to the department of health.
70.08.010	Combined city-county health departments—Establishment.
70.08.020	Director of public health—Powers and duties.
70.08.030	Qualifications.
70.08.040	Director of public health—Appointment.
70.08.050	May act as health officer for other cities or towns.
70.08.060	Director of public health shall be registrar of vital statistics.
70.08.070	Employees may be included in civil service or retirement plans of city, county, or combined department.
70.08.080	Pooling of funds.
70.08.090	Other cities or agencies may contract for services.
70.08.100	Termination of agreement to operate combined city-county health department.
70.08.110	Prior expenditures in operating combined health department ratified.

*Control of cities and towns over water pollution: Chapter 35.88 RCW.*

**70.08.005 Transfer of duties to the department of health.** The powers and duties of the secretary of social and health services under this chapter shall be performed by the secretary of health. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 244.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.08.010 Combined city-county health departments—Establishment.** Any city with one hundred thousand or more population and the county in which it is located,

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are authorized, as shall be agreed upon between the respective governing bodies of such city and said county, to establish and operate a combined city and county health department, and to appoint the director of public health. [1985 c 124 § 1; (1993 c 492 § 244 repealed by 1995 c 43 § 16); 1949 c 46 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6099-30. Formerly RCW 70.05.037.]

**70.08.020 Director of public health—Powers and duties.** The director of public health is authorized to and shall exercise all powers and perform all duties by law vested in the local health officer. [1985 c 124 § 2; 1949 c 46 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6099-31.]

**70.08.030 Qualifications.** Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary contained in any city or county charter, the director of public health, under this chapter shall meet as a minimum one of the following standards of educational achievement and vocational experience to be qualified for appointment to the office:

(1) Bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration, hospital administration, management, nursing, environmental health, epidemiology, public health, or its equivalent and five years of experience in administration in a community-related field; or

(2) A graduate degree in any of the fields listed in subsection (1) of this section, or in medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery, plus three years of administrative experience in a community-related field.

The director shall not engage in the private practice of the director's profession during such tenure of office and shall not be included in the classified civil service of the said city or the said county.

If the director of public health does not meet the qualifications of a health officer or a physician under RCW 70.05.050, the director shall employ a person so qualified to advise the director on medical or public health matters. [1996 c 178 § 20; 1985 c 124 § 3; 1984 c 25 § 3; 1949 c 46 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6099-32.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.08.040 Director of public health—Appointment.** Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary contained in any city or county charter, where a combined department is established under this chapter, the director of public health under this chapter shall be appointed by the county executive of the county and the mayor of the city. The appointment shall be effective only upon a majority vote confirmation of the legislative authority of the county and the legislative authority of the city. The director may be removed by the county executive of the county, after consultation with the mayor of the city, upon filing a statement of reasons therefor with the legislative authorities of the county and the city. [1995 c 188 § 1; 1995 c 43 § 9; 1985 c 124 § 4; 1980 c 57 § 1; 1949 c 46 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6099-33.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1995 c 43 § 9 and by 1995 c 188 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.08.050 May act as health officer for other cities or towns.** Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the director of public health as provided herein from acting as health officer for any other city or town within the county, nor from acting as health officer in any adjoining county or any city or town within such county having a contract or agreement as provided in RCW 70.08.090: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That before being appointed health officer for such adjoining county, the secretary of health shall first give his or her approval thereto. [1991 c 3 § 314; 1979 c 141 § 85; 1949 c 46 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6099-37.]

**70.08.060 Director of public health shall be registrar of vital statistics.** The director of public health under this chapter shall be registrar of vital statistics for all cities and counties under his or her jurisdiction and shall conduct such vital statistics work in accordance with the same laws and/or rules and regulations pertaining to vital statistics for a city of the first class. [2012 c 117 § 372; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 4; 1949 c 46 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6099-38.]

*Vital statistics: Chapter 70.58 RCW.*

**70.08.070 Employees may be included in civil service or retirement plans of city, county, or combined department.** Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary contained in any city or county charter, and to the extent provided by the city and the county pursuant to appropriate legislative enactment, employees of the combined city and county health department may be included in the personnel system or civil service and retirement plans of the city or the county or a personnel system for the combined city and county health department that is separate from the personnel system or civil service of either county or city: PROVIDED, That residential requirements for such positions shall be coextensive with the county boundaries: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the city or county is authorized to pay such parts of the expense of operating and maintaining such personnel system or civil service and retirement system and to contribute to the retirement fund in behalf of employees such sums as may be agreed upon between the legislative authorities of such city and county. [1982 c 203 § 1; 1980 c 57 § 2; 1949 c 46 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6099-34.]

**70.08.080 Pooling of funds.** The city by ordinance, and the county by appropriate legislative enactment, under this chapter may pool all or any part of their respective funds available for public health purposes, in the office of the city treasurer or the office of the county treasurer in a special pooling fund to be established in accordance with agreements between the legislative authorities of said city and county and which shall be expended for the combined health department. [1980 c 57 § 3; 1949 c 46 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6099-35.]

**70.08.090 Other cities or agencies may contract for services.** Any other city in said county, other governmental agency or any charitable or health agency may by contract or by agreement with the governing bodies of the combined health department receive public health services. [1949 c 46 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6099-36.]

[Title 70 RCW—page 34]

**70.08.100 Termination of agreement to operate combined city-county health department.** Agreement to operate a combined city and county health department made under this chapter may after two years from the date of such agreement, be terminated by either party at the end of any calendar year upon notice in writing given at least six months prior thereto. The termination of such agreement shall not relieve either party of any obligations to which it has been previously committed. [1949 c 46 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6099-39.]

**70.08.110 Prior expenditures in operating combined health department ratified.** Any expenditures heretofore made by a city of one hundred thousand population or more, and by the county in which it is located, not made fraudulently and which were within the legal limits of indebtedness, towards the expense of maintenance and operation of a combined health department, are hereby legalized and ratified. [1949 c 46 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6099-40.]

## Chapter 70.10 RCW

### COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

#### Sections

- 70.10.010 Declaration of policy—Combining health services—State authorized to cooperate with other entities in constructing.
- 70.10.020 "Comprehensive community health center" defined.
- 70.10.030 Authorization to apply for and administer federal or state funds.
- 70.10.040 Application for federal or state funds for construction of facility as part of or separate from health center—Processing and approval by administering agencies—Decision on use as part of comprehensive health center.
- 70.10.050 Application for federal or state funds for construction of facility as part of or separate from health center—Cooperation between agencies in standardizing application procedures and forms.
- 70.10.060 Adoption of rules and regulations—Liberal construction of chapter.

*Community mental health services act: Chapter 71.24 RCW.*

*Mental health services, interstate contracts: RCW 71.28.010.*

**70.10.010 Declaration of policy—Combining health services—State authorized to cooperate with other entities in constructing.** It is declared to be the policy of the legislature of the state of Washington that, wherever feasible, community health services and services for persons with mental illness or intellectual disabilities shall be combined within single facilities in order to provide maximum utilization of available funds and personnel, and to assure the greatest possible coordination of such services for the benefit of those requiring them. It is further declared to be the policy of the legislature to authorize the state to cooperate with counties, cities, and other municipal corporations in order to encourage them to take such steps as may be necessary to construct comprehensive community health centers in communities throughout the state. [2010 c 94 § 15; 1967 ex.s. c 4 § 1.]

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

**70.10.020 "Comprehensive community health center" defined.** The term "comprehensive community health center" as used in this chapter shall mean a health facility housing community health, mental health, and development

(2016 Ed.)

tal disabilities services. [1977 ex.s. c 80 § 37; 1967 ex.s. c 4 § 2.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

**70.10.030 Authorization to apply for and administer federal or state funds.** The several agencies of the state authorized to administer within the state the various federal acts providing federal moneys to assist in the cost of establishing facilities for community health and mental health and facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities, are authorized to apply for and disburse federal grants, matching funds, or other funds, including gifts or donations from any source, available for use by counties, cities, other municipal corporations or nonprofit corporations. Upon application, these agencies shall also be authorized to distribute such state funds as may be appropriated by the legislature for such local construction projects: PROVIDED, That where state funds have been appropriated to assist in covering the cost of constructing a comprehensive community health center, or a facility for community health and mental health or a facility for persons with intellectual disabilities, and where any county, city, other municipal corporation or nonprofit corporation has submitted an approved application for such state funds, then, after any applicable federal grant has been deducted from the total cost of construction, the state agency or agencies in charge of each program may allocate to such applicant an amount not to exceed fifty percent of that particular program's contribution toward the balance of remaining construction costs. [2010 c 94 § 16; 1967 ex.s. c 4 § 3.]

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

**70.10.040 Application for federal or state funds for construction of facility as part of or separate from health center—Processing and approval by administering agencies—Decision on use as part of comprehensive health center.** Any application for federal or state funds to be used for construction of the community health, mental health, or developmental disabilities facility, which will be part of the comprehensive community health center as defined in RCW 70.10.020, shall be separately processed and approved by the state agency which has been designated to administer the particular federal or state program involved. Any application for federal or state funds for a construction project to establish a community health, mental health, or developmental disabilities facility not part of a comprehensive health center shall be processed by the state agency which is designated to administer the particular federal or state program involved. This agency shall also forward a copy of the application to the other agency or agencies designated to administer the program or programs providing funds for construction of the facilities which make up a comprehensive health center. The agency or agencies receiving this copy of the application shall have a period of time not to exceed sixty days in which to file a statement with the agency to which the application has been submitted and to any statutory advisory council or committee which has been designated to advise the administering agency with regard to the program, stating that the proposed facility should or should not be part of a comprehensive health center. [1977 ex.s. c 80 § 38; 1967 ex.s. c 4 § 4.]

(2016 Ed.)

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

**70.10.050 Application for federal or state funds for construction of facility as part of or separate from health center—Cooperation between agencies in standardizing application procedures and forms.** The several state agencies processing applications for the construction of comprehensive health centers for community health, mental health, or developmental disability facilities shall cooperate to develop general procedures to be used in implementing the statute and to attempt to develop application forms and procedures which are as nearly standard as possible, after taking cognizance of the different information required in the various programs, to assist applicants in applying to various state agencies. [1977 ex.s. c 80 § 39; 1967 ex.s. c 4 § 5.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

**70.10.060 Adoption of rules and regulations—Liberal construction of chapter.** In furtherance of the legislative policy to authorize the state to cooperate with the federal government in facilitating the construction of comprehensive community health centers, the state agencies involved shall adopt such rules and regulations as may become necessary to entitle the state and local units of government to share in federal grants, matching funds, or other funds, unless the same be expressly prohibited by this chapter. Any section or provision of this chapter susceptible to more than one construction shall be interpreted in favor of the construction most likely to satisfy federal laws entitling the state and local units of government to receive federal grants, matching funds or other funds for the construction of comprehensive community health centers. [1967 ex.s. c 4 § 6.]

## Chapter 70.12 RCW PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDS

### Sections

#### COUNTY FUNDS

- 70.12.015 Secretary may expend funds in counties.  
70.12.025 County funds for public health.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH POOLING FUND

- 70.12.030 Public health pooling fund.  
70.12.040 Fund, how maintained and disbursed.  
70.12.050 Expenditures from fund.  
70.12.060 Expenditures geared to budget.  
70.12.070 Fund subject to audit and check by state.

#### COUNTY FUNDS

**70.12.015 Secretary may expend funds in counties.** The secretary of health is hereby authorized to apportion and expend such sums as he or she shall deem necessary for public health work in the counties of the state, from the appropriations made to the state department of health for county public health work. [1991 c 3 § 315; 1979 c 141 § 86; 1939 c 191 § 2; RRS § 6001-1. Formerly RCW 70.12.080.]

**70.12.025 County funds for public health.** Each county legislative authority shall annually budget and appro-

appropriate a sum for public health work. [1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### PUBLIC HEALTH POOLING FUND

**70.12.030 Public health pooling fund.** Any county, combined city-county health department, or health district is hereby authorized and empowered to create a "public health pooling fund", hereafter called the "fund", for the efficient management and control of all moneys coming to such county, combined department, or district for public health purposes. [1993 c 492 § 245; 1945 c 46 § 1; 1943 c 190 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6099-1.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.12.040 Fund, how maintained and disbursed.** Any such fund may be established in the county treasurer's office or the city treasurer's office of a first-class city according to the type of local health department organization existing.

In a district composed of more than one county, the county treasurer of the county having the largest population shall be the custodian of the fund, and the county auditor of said county shall keep the record of receipts and disbursements; and shall draw and the county treasurer shall honor and pay all such warrants.

Into any such fund so established may be paid:

- (1) All grants from any state fund for county public health work;
- (2) Any county current expense funds appropriated for the health department;
- (3) Any other money appropriated by the county for health work;
- (4) City funds appropriated for the health department;
- (5) All moneys received from any governmental agency, local, state or federal which may contribute to the local health department; and
- (6) Any contributions from any charitable or voluntary agency or contributions from any individual or estate.

Any school district may contract in writing for health services with the health department of the county, first-class city or health district, and place such funds in the public health pooling fund in accordance with the contract. [1983 c 3 § 170; 1945 c 46 § 2; 1943 c 190 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6099-2.]

**70.12.050 Expenditures from fund.** All expenditures in connection with salaries, wages and operations incurred in carrying on the health department of the county, combined city-county health department, or health district shall be paid out of such fund. [1993 c 492 § 246; 1945 c 46 § 3; 1943 c 190 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6099-3.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.12.060 Expenditures geared to budget.** Any fund established as herein provided shall be expended so as to make the expenditures thereof agree with any respective appropriation period. Any accumulation in any such fund so established shall be taken into consideration when preparing

any budget for the operations for the ensuing year. [1943 c 190 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6099-4.]

#### **70.12.070 Fund subject to audit and check by state.**

The public health pool fund shall be subject to audit by the state auditor and shall be subject to check by the state department of health. [1995 c 301 § 77; 1991 c 3 § 316; 1979 c 141 § 87; 1943 c 190 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6099-5.]

### Chapter 70.14 RCW

#### HEALTH CARE SERVICES PURCHASED BY STATE AGENCIES

##### Sections

70.14.020	State agencies to identify alternative health care providers.
70.14.030	Health care utilization review procedures.
70.14.040	Review of prospective rate setting methods.
70.14.050	Drug purchasing cost controls—Establishment of evidence-based prescription drug program.
70.14.060	Prescription drug purchasing consortium—Participation—Exceptions—Rules.
70.14.070	Prescription drug consortium account.
70.14.080	Definitions.
70.14.090	Health technology clinical committee.
70.14.100	Health technology selection and assessment.
70.14.110	Health technology clinical committee determinations.
70.14.120	Agency compliance with committee determination—Coverage and reimbursement determinations for nonreviewed health technologies—Appeals.
70.14.130	Health technology clinical committee—Public notice.
70.14.140	Applicability to health care services purchased from health carriers.
70.14.150	Data-sharing agreements—Report.
70.14.155	Streamlined health care administration—Agency participation.

*State health care cost containment policies: RCW 43.41.160.*

**70.14.020 State agencies to identify alternative health care providers.** Each of the agencies listed in \*RCW 70.14.010, with the exception of the department of labor and industries, which expends more than five hundred thousand dollars annually of state funds for purchase of health care shall identify the availability and costs of nonfee for service providers of health care, including preferred provider organizations, health maintenance organizations, managed health care or case management systems, or other nonfee for service alternatives. In each case where feasible in which an alternative health care provider arrangement, of similar scope and quality, is available at lower cost than fee-for-service providers, such state agencies shall make the services of the alternative provider available to clients, consumers, or employees for whom state dollars are spent to purchase health care. As consistent with other state and federal law, requirements for copayments, deductibles, the scope of available services, or other incentives shall be used to encourage clients, consumers, or employees to use the lowest cost providers, except that copayments or deductibles shall not be required where they might have the impact of denying access to necessary health care in a timely manner. [1986 c 303 § 7.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 70.14.010 was repealed by 1988 c 107 § 35, effective October 1, 1988.

*Medical assistance—Agreements with managed health care systems: RCW 74.09.522.*

**70.14.030 Health care utilization review procedures.** Plans for establishing or improving utilization review proce-

dures for purchased health care services shall be developed by each agency listed in \*RCW 70.14.010. The plans shall specifically address such utilization review procedures as prior authorization of services, hospital inpatient length of stay review, requirements for use of outpatient surgeries and the obtaining of second opinions for surgeries, review of invoices or claims submitted by service providers, and performance audit of providers. [1986 c 303 § 8.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.14.010 was repealed by 1988 c 107 § 35, effective October 1, 1988.

**70.14.040 Review of prospective rate setting methods.** The state agencies listed in \*RCW 70.14.010 shall review the feasibility of establishing prospective payment approaches within their health care programs. Work plans or timetables shall be prepared for the development of prospective rates. The agencies shall identify legislative actions that may be necessary to facilitate the adoption of prospective rate setting methods. [1986 c 303 § 9.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.14.010 was repealed by 1988 c 107 § 35, effective October 1, 1988.

**70.14.050 Drug purchasing cost controls—Establishment of evidence-based prescription drug program.** (1) Each agency administering a state purchased health care program as defined in \*RCW 41.05.011(2) shall, in cooperation with other agencies, take any necessary actions to control costs without reducing the quality of care when reimbursing for or purchasing drugs. To accomplish this purpose, participating agencies may establish an evidence-based prescription drug program.

(2) In developing the evidence-based prescription drug program authorized by this section, agencies:

(a) Shall prohibit reimbursement for drugs that are determined to be ineffective by the United States food and drug administration;

(b) Shall adopt rules in order to ensure that less expensive generic drugs will be substituted for brand name drugs in those instances where the quality of care is not diminished;

(c) Where possible, may authorize reimbursement for drugs only in economical quantities;

(d) May limit the prices paid for drugs by such means as negotiated discounts from pharmaceutical manufacturers, central purchasing, volume contracting, or setting maximum prices to be paid;

(e) Shall consider the approval of drugs with lower abuse potential in substitution for drugs with significant abuse potential;

(f) May take other necessary measures to control costs of drugs without reducing the quality of care; and

(g) Shall adopt rules governing practitioner endorsement and use of any list developed as part of the program authorized by this section.

(3) Agencies shall provide for reasonable exceptions, consistent with RCW 69.41.190, to any list developed as part of the program authorized by this section.

(4) Agencies shall establish an independent pharmacy and therapeutics committee to evaluate the effectiveness of prescription drugs in the development of the program authorized by this section. [2003 1st sp.s. c 29 § 9; 1986 c 303 § 10.]

(2016 Ed.)

\*Reviser's note: RCW 41.05.011 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (2) to subsection (21). RCW 41.05.011 was subsequently alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (21) to subsection (22).

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2003 1st sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 74.09.650.

**70.14.060 Prescription drug purchasing consortium—Participation—Exceptions—Rules.** (1) The administrator of the state health care authority shall, directly or by contract, adopt policies necessary for establishment of a prescription drug purchasing consortium. The consortium's purchasing activities shall be based upon the evidence-based prescription drug program established under RCW 70.14.050. State purchased health care programs as defined in RCW 41.05.011 shall purchase prescription drugs through the consortium for those prescription drugs that are purchased directly by the state and those that are purchased through reimbursement of pharmacies, unless exempted under this section. The administrator shall not require any supplemental rebate offered to the department of social and health services by a pharmaceutical manufacturer for prescription drugs purchased for medical assistance program clients under chapter 74.09 RCW be extended to any other state purchased health care program, or to any other individuals or entities participating in the consortium. The administrator shall explore joint purchasing opportunities with other states.

(2) Participation in the purchasing consortium shall be offered as an option beginning January 1, 2006. Participation in the consortium is purely voluntary for units of local government, private entities, labor organizations, and for individuals who lack or are underinsured for prescription drug coverage. The administrator may set reasonable fees, including enrollment fees, to cover administrative costs attributable to participation in the prescription drug consortium.

(3) This section does not apply to state purchased health care services that are purchased from or through health carriers as defined in RCW 48.43.005, or group model health maintenance organizations that are accredited by the national committee for quality assurance.

(4) The state health care authority is authorized to adopt rules implementing chapter 129, Laws of 2005.

(5) State purchased health care programs are exempt from the requirements of this section if they can demonstrate to the administrator that, as a result of the availability of federal programs or other purchasing arrangements, their other purchasing mechanisms will result in greater discounts and aggregate cost savings than would be realized through participation in the consortium. [2009 c 560 § 13; 2005 c 129 § 1.]

**Intent—Effective date—Disposition of property and funds—Assignment/delegation of contractual rights or duties—2009 c 560:** See notes following RCW 18.06.080.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.14.070 Prescription drug consortium account.** The prescription drug consortium account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from activities related to administration of the state drug purchasing consortium on behalf of participating individuals and organizations, other than state purchased health care programs, shall be deposited into the account. The receipts include but are not

limited to rebates from manufacturers, and the fees established under RCW 70.14.060(2). Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes of RCW 70.14.060. Only the administrator of the state health care authority or the administrator's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2005 c 129 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.14.080 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 70.14.090 through 70.14.130 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Administrator" means the administrator of the Washington state health care authority under chapter 41.05 RCW.

(2) "Advisory group" means a group established under RCW 70.14.110(2)(c).

(3) "Committee" means the health technology clinical committee established under RCW 70.14.090.

(4) "Coverage determination" means a determination of the circumstances, if any, under which a health technology will be included as a covered benefit in a state purchased health care program.

(5) "Health technology" means medical and surgical devices and procedures, medical equipment, and diagnostic tests. Health technologies does not include prescription drugs governed by RCW 70.14.050.

(6) "Participating agency" means the department of social and health services, the state health care authority, and the department of labor and industries.

(7) "Reimbursement determination" means a determination to provide or deny reimbursement for a health technology included as a covered benefit in a specific circumstance for an individual patient who is eligible to receive health care services from the state purchased health care program making the determination. [2006 c 307 § 1.]

**Captions not law—2006 c 307:** "Captions used in this act are not any part of the law." [2006 c 307 § 10.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—2006 c 307:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state." [2006 c 307 § 11.]

**70.14.090 Health technology clinical committee.** (1) A health technology clinical committee is established, to include the following eleven members appointed by the administrator in consultation with participating state agencies:

(a) Six practicing physicians licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW; and

(b) Five other practicing licensed health professionals who use health technology in their scope of practice.

(i) At least two members of the committee must have professional experience treating women, children, elderly persons, and people with diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds.

(ii) At least one member of the committee must be appointed from nominations submitted by the Washington state medical association or the Washington state osteopathic medical association.

(2) In addition, any rotating clinical expert selected to advise the committee on health technology must be a nonvoting member of the committee.

(3) Members of the committee:

(a) Shall not contract with or be employed by a health technology manufacturer or a participating agency during their term or for eighteen months before their appointment. As a condition of appointment, each person shall agree to the terms and conditions imposed by the administrator regarding conflicts of interest;

(b) Are immune from civil liability for any official acts performed in good faith as members of the committee; and

(c) Shall be compensated for participation in the work of the committee in accordance with a personal services contract to be executed after appointment and before commencement of activities related to the work of the committee.

(4) Meetings of the committee and any advisory group are subject to chapter 42.30 RCW, the open public meetings act, including RCW 42.30.110(1)(l), which authorizes an executive session during a regular or special meeting to consider proprietary or confidential unpublished information.

(5) Neither the committee nor any advisory group is an agency for purposes of chapter 34.05 RCW.

(6) The health care authority shall provide administrative support to the committee and any advisory group, and may adopt rules governing their operation. [2016 1st sp.s. c 1 § 1; 2006 c 307 § 2.]

**Captions not law—Conflict with federal requirements—2006 c 307:** See notes following RCW 70.14.080.

**70.14.100 Health technology selection and assessment.** (1) The administrator, in consultation with participating agencies and the committee, shall select the health technologies to be reviewed by the committee under RCW 70.14.110. Up to six may be selected for review in the first year after June 7, 2006, and up to eight may be selected in the second year after June 7, 2006. In making the selection, priority shall be given to any technology for which:

(a) There are concerns about its safety, efficacy, or cost-effectiveness, especially relative to existing alternatives, or significant variations in its use;

(b) Actual or expected state expenditures are high, due to demand for the technology, its cost, or both; and

(c) There is adequate evidence available to conduct the complete review.

(2) A health technology for which the committee has made a determination under RCW 70.14.110 shall be considered for rereview at least once every eighteen months, beginning the date the determination is made. The administrator, in consultation with participating agencies and the committee, shall select the technology for rereview if he or she decides that evidence has since become available that could change a previous determination. Upon rereview, consideration shall be given only to evidence made available since the previous determination.

(3) Pursuant to a petition submitted by an interested party, the health technology clinical committee may select

health technologies for review that have not otherwise been selected by the administrator under subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

(4) Upon the selection of a health technology for review, the administrator shall contract for a systematic evidence-based assessment of the technology's safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness. The contract shall:

(a) Be with an evidence-based practice center designated as such by the federal agency for health care research and quality, or other appropriate entity;

(b) Require the assessment be initiated no sooner than thirty days after notice of the selection of the health technology for review is posted on the internet under RCW 70.14.130;

(c) Require, in addition to other information considered as part of the assessment, consideration of: (i) Safety, health outcome, and cost data submitted by a participating agency; and (ii) evidence submitted by any interested party; and

(d) Require the assessment to: (i) Give the greatest weight to the evidence determined, based on objective indicators, to be the most valid and reliable, considering the nature and source of the evidence, the empirical characteristic of the studies or trials upon which the evidence is based, and the consistency of the outcome with comparable studies; and (ii) take into account any unique impacts of the technology on specific populations based upon factors such as sex, age, ethnicity, race, or disability. [2006 c 307 § 3.]

**Captions not law—Conflict with federal requirements—2006 c 307:** See notes following RCW 70.14.080.

**70.14.110 Health technology clinical committee determinations.** (1) The committee shall determine, for each health technology selected for review under RCW 70.14.100: (a) The conditions, if any, under which the health technology will be included as a covered benefit in health care programs of participating agencies; and (b) if covered, the criteria which the participating agency administering the program must use to decide whether the technology is medically necessary, or proper and necessary treatment.

(2) In making a determination under subsection (1) of this section, the committee:

(a) Shall consider, in an open and transparent process, evidence regarding the safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness of the technology as set forth in the systematic assessment conducted under RCW 70.14.100(4);

(b) Shall provide an opportunity for public comment; and

(c) May establish ad hoc temporary advisory groups if specialized expertise is needed to review a particular health technology or group of health technologies, or to seek input from enrollees or clients of state purchased health care programs. Advisory group members are immune from civil liability for any official act performed in good faith as a member of the group. As a condition of appointment, each person shall agree to the terms and conditions imposed by the administrator regarding conflicts of interest.

(3) Determinations of the committee under subsection (1) of this section shall be consistent with decisions made under the federal medicare program and in expert treatment guidelines, including those from specialty physician organizations and patient advocacy organizations, unless the com-

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mittee concludes, based on its review of the systematic assessment, that substantial evidence regarding the safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness of the technology supports a contrary determination. [2006 c 307 § 4.]

**Captions not law—Conflict with federal requirements—2006 c 307:** See notes following RCW 70.14.080.

**70.14.120 Agency compliance with committee determination—Coverage and reimbursement determinations for nonreviewed health technologies—Appeals.** (1) A participating agency shall comply with a determination of the committee under RCW 70.14.110 unless:

(a) The determination conflicts with an applicable federal statute or regulation, or applicable state statute; or

(b) Reimbursement is provided under an agency policy regarding experimental or investigational treatment, services under a clinical investigation approved by an institutional review board, or health technologies that have a humanitarian device exemption from the federal food and drug administration.

(2) For a health technology not selected for review under RCW 70.14.100, a participating agency may use its existing statutory and administrative authority to make coverage and reimbursement determinations. Such determinations shall be shared among agencies, with a goal of maximizing each agency's understanding of the basis for the other's decisions and providing opportunities for agency collaboration.

(3) A health technology not included as a covered benefit under a state purchased health care program pursuant to a determination of the health technology clinical committee under RCW 70.14.110, or for which a condition of coverage established by the committee is not met, shall not be subject to a determination in the case of an individual patient as to whether it is medically necessary, or proper and necessary treatment.

(4) Nothing in chapter 307, Laws of 2006 diminishes an individual's right under existing law to appeal an action or decision of a participating agency regarding a state purchased health care program. Appeals shall be governed by state and federal law applicable to participating agency decisions. [2006 c 307 § 5.]

**Captions not law—Conflict with federal requirements—2006 c 307:** See notes following RCW 70.14.080.

**70.14.130 Health technology clinical committee—Public notice.** (1) The administrator shall develop a centralized, internet-based communication tool that provides, at a minimum:

(a) Notification when a health technology is selected for review under RCW 70.14.100, indicating when the review will be initiated and how an interested party may submit evidence, or provide public comment, for consideration during the review;

(b) Notification of any determination made by the committee under RCW 70.14.110(1), its effective date, and an explanation of the basis for the determination; and

(c) Access to the systematic assessment completed under RCW 70.14.100(4), and reports completed under subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Participating agencies shall develop methods to report on the implementation of this section and RCW

70.14.080 through 70.14.120 with respect to health care outcomes, frequency of exceptions, cost outcomes, and other matters deemed appropriate by the administrator. [2006 c 307 § 7.]

**Captions not law—Conflict with federal requirements—2006 c 307:** See notes following RCW 70.14.080.

**70.14.140 Applicability to health care services purchased from health carriers.** RCW 70.14.080 through 70.14.130 and 41.05.013 do not apply to state purchased health care services that are purchased from or through health carriers as defined in RCW 48.43.005. [2006 c 307 § 9.]

**Captions not law—Conflict with federal requirements—2006 c 307:** See notes following RCW 70.14.080.

**70.14.150 Data-sharing agreements—Report.** (1) The department of social and health services and the health care authority shall enter into data-sharing agreements with the appropriate agencies in the states of Oregon and Idaho to assure the valid Washington state residence of applicants for health care services in Washington. Such agreements shall include appropriate safeguards related to the confidentiality of the shared information.

(2) The department of social and health services and the health care authority must jointly report on the status of the data-sharing agreements to the appropriate committees of the legislature no later than November 30, 2007. [2007 c 60 § 1.]

**70.14.155 Streamlined health care administration—Agency participation.** The following state agencies are directed to cooperate with the insurance commissioner and, within funds appropriated specifically for this purpose, adopt the processes, guidelines, and standards to streamline health care administration pursuant to chapter 48.165 RCW: The department of social and health services, the health care authority, and, to the extent permissible under Title 51 RCW, the department of labor and industries. [2009 c 298 § 3.]

## Chapter 70.22 RCW MOSQUITO CONTROL

### Sections

70.22.005	Transfer of duties to the department of health.
70.22.010	Declaration of purpose.
70.22.020	Secretary may make inspections, investigations, and determinations and provide for control.
70.22.030	Secretary to coordinate plans.
70.22.040	Secretary may contract with, receive funds from entities and individuals—Authorization for governmental entities to contract, grant funds, levy taxes.
70.22.050	Powers and duties of secretary.
70.22.060	Governmental entities to cooperate with secretary.

**70.22.005 Transfer of duties to the department of health.** The powers and duties of the secretary of social and health services under this chapter shall be performed by the secretary of health. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 246.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.22.010 Declaration of purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish a statewide program for the control or elimination of mosquitoes as a health hazard. [1961 c 283 § 1.]

*Mosquito control districts: Chapter 17.28 RCW.*

**70.22.020 Secretary may make inspections, investigations, and determinations and provide for control.** The secretary of health is hereby authorized and empowered to make or cause to be made such inspections, investigations, studies and determinations as he or she may from time to time deem advisable in order to ascertain the effect of mosquitoes as a health hazard, and, to the extent to which funds are available, to provide for the control or elimination thereof in any or all parts of the state. [1991 c 3 § 317; 1979 c 141 § 88; 1961 c 283 § 2.]

**70.22.030 Secretary to coordinate plans.** The secretary of health shall coordinate plans for mosquito control work which may be projected by any county, city or town, municipal corporation, taxing district, state department or agency, federal government agency, or any person, group or organization, and arrange for cooperation between any such districts, departments, agencies, persons, groups or organizations. [1991 c 3 § 318; 1979 c 141 § 89; 1961 c 283 § 3.]

**70.22.040 Secretary may contract with, receive funds from entities and individuals—Authorization for governmental entities to contract, grant funds, levy taxes.** The secretary of health is authorized and empowered to receive funds from any county, city or town, municipal corporation, taxing district, the federal government, or any person, group or organization to carry out the purpose of this chapter. In connection therewith the secretary is authorized and empowered to contract with any such county, city, or town, municipal corporation, taxing district, the federal government, person, group or organization with respect to the construction and maintenance of facilities and other work for the purpose of effecting mosquito control or elimination, and any such county, city or town, municipal corporation, or taxing district obligated to carry out the provisions of any such contract entered into with the secretary is authorized, empowered and directed to appropriate, and if necessary, to levy taxes for and pay over such funds as its contract with the secretary may from time to time require. [1991 c 3 § 319; 1979 c 141 § 90; 1961 c 283 § 4.]

**70.22.050 Powers and duties of secretary.** To carry out the purpose of this chapter, the secretary of health may:

(1) Abate as nuisances breeding places for mosquitoes as defined in RCW 17.28.170;

(2) Acquire by gift, devise, bequest, lease, or purchase, real and personal property necessary or convenient for carrying out the purpose of this chapter;

(3) Make contracts, employ engineers, health officers, sanitarians, physicians, laboratory personnel, attorneys, and other technical or professional assistants;

(4) Publish information or literature; and

(5) Do any and all other things necessary to carry out the purpose of this chapter: PROVIDED, That no program shall be permitted nor any action taken in pursuance thereof which may be injurious to the life or health of game or fish. [1991 c 3 § 320; 1989 c 11 § 25; 1979 c 141 § 91; 1961 c 283 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.22.060 Governmental entities to cooperate with secretary.** Each state department, agency, and political subdivision shall cooperate with the secretary of health in carrying out the purposes of this chapter. [1991 c 3 § 321; 1979 c 141 § 92; 1961 c 283 § 6.]

### Chapter 70.24 RCW

## CONTROL AND TREATMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

### Sections

70.24.005	Transfer of duties to the department of health.
70.24.015	Legislative finding.
70.24.017	Definitions.
70.24.022	Interviews, examination, counseling, or treatment of infected persons or persons believed to be infected—Dissemination of false information—Penalty.
70.24.024	Orders for examinations and counseling—Restrictive measures—Investigation—Issuance of order—Confidential notice and hearing—Exception.
70.24.034	Detention—Grounds—Order—Hearing.
70.24.050	Diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases—Confirmation—Anonymous prevalence reports.
70.24.070	Detention and treatment facilities.
70.24.080	Penalty.
70.24.084	Violations of chapter—Aggrieved persons—Right of action.
70.24.090	Pregnant women—Test for syphilis.
70.24.095	Pregnant women—Drug treatment program participants—AIDS counseling.
70.24.100	Syphilis laboratory tests.
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70.24.110	Minors—Treatment, consent, liability for payment for care.
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70.24.140	Certain infected persons—Sexual intercourse unlawful without notification.
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70.24.260	Emergency medical personnel—Rules for AIDS education and training.
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70.24.280	Pharmacy quality assurance commission—Rules for AIDS education and training.
70.24.290	Public school employees—Rules for AIDS education and training.
70.24.300	State and local government employees—Determination of substantial likelihood of exposure—Rules for AIDS education and training.
70.24.310	Health care facility employees—Rules for AIDS education and training.
70.24.320	Counseling and testing—AIDS and HIV—Definitions.
70.24.325	Counseling and testing—Insurance requirements.
70.24.330	HIV testing—Consent, exceptions.
70.24.335	HIV testing—Opt-out screening.
70.24.340	Convicted persons—Mandatory testing and counseling for certain offenses—Employees' substantial exposure to bodily fluids—Procedure and court orders.
70.24.350	Prostitution and drug offenses—Voluntary testing and counseling.
70.24.360	Jail detainees—Testing and counseling of persons who present a possible risk.
70.24.370	Correction facility inmates—Counseling and testing of persons who present a possible risk—Training for administrators and superintendents—Procedure.
70.24.380	Board of health—Rules for counseling and testing.
70.24.400	Funding for office on AIDS—Center for AIDS education—Department's duties for awarding grants.
70.24.410	AIDS advisory committee—Duties, review of insurance problems—Termination.

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70.24.420	Additional local funding of treatment programs not required.
70.24.430	Application of chapter to persons subject to jurisdiction of department of corrections.
70.24.450	Confidentiality—Reports—Unauthorized disclosures.
70.24.901	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Center for volunteerism and citizen service: RCW 43.150.050.*

**70.24.005 Transfer of duties to the department of health.** The powers and duties of the department of social and health services, the department of licensing, and the secretary of social and health services under this chapter shall be performed by the department of health and the secretary of health. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 247.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.24.015 Legislative finding.** The legislature declares that sexually transmitted diseases constitute a serious and sometimes fatal threat to the public and individual health and welfare of the people of the state. The legislature finds that the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases is rising at an alarming rate and that these diseases result in significant social, health, and economic costs, including infant and maternal mortality, temporary and lifelong disability, and premature death. The legislature further finds that sexually transmitted diseases, by their nature, involve sensitive issues of privacy, and it is the intent of the legislature that all programs designed to deal with these diseases afford patients privacy, confidentiality, and dignity. The legislature also finds that medical knowledge and information about sexually transmitted diseases are rapidly changing. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to provide a program that is sufficiently flexible to meet emerging needs, deals efficiently and effectively with reducing the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, and provides patients with a secure knowledge that information they provide will remain private and confidential. [1988 c 206 § 901.]

**70.24.017 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter:

- (1) "Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome" or "AIDS" means the clinical syndrome of HIV-related illness as defined by the board of health by rule.
- (2) "Board" means the state board of health.
- (3) "Department" means the department of health, or any successor department with jurisdiction over public health matters.
- (4) "Health care provider" means any person who is a member of a profession under RCW 18.130.040 or other person providing medical, nursing, psychological, or other health care services regulated by the department of health.
- (5) "Health care facility" means a hospital, nursing home, neuropsychiatric or mental health facility, home health agency, hospice, child care agency, group care facility, family foster home, clinic, blood bank, blood center, sperm bank, laboratory, or other social service or health care institution regulated or operated by the department of health.
- (6) "HIV-related condition" means any medical condition resulting from infection with HIV including, but not limited to, seropositivity for HIV.

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(7) "Human immunodeficiency virus" or "HIV" means all HIV and HIV-related viruses which damage the cellular branch of the human immune or neurological systems and leave the infected person immunodeficient or neurologically impaired.

(8) "Test for a sexually transmitted disease" means a test approved by the board by rule.

(9) "Legal guardian" means a person appointed by a court to assume legal authority for another who has been found incompetent or, in the case of a minor, a person who has legal custody of the child.

(10) "Local public health officer" means the officer directing the county health department or his or her designee who has been given the responsibility and authority to protect the health of the public within his or her jurisdiction.

(11) "Person" includes any natural person, partnership, association, joint venture, trust, public or private corporation, or health facility.

(12) "Release of test results" means a written authorization for disclosure of any sexually transmitted disease test result which is signed, dated, and which specifies to whom disclosure is authorized and the time period during which the release is to be effective.

(13) "Sexually transmitted disease" means a bacterial, viral, fungal, or parasitic disease, determined by the board by rule to be sexually transmitted, to be a threat to the public health and welfare, and to be a disease for which a legitimate public interest will be served by providing for regulation and treatment. The board shall designate chancroid, gonorrhea, granuloma inguinale, lymphogranuloma venereum, genital herpes simplex, chlamydia, nongonococcal urethritis (NGU), trachomitis, genital human papilloma virus infection, syphilis, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection as sexually transmitted diseases, and shall consider the recommendations and classifications of the centers for disease control and other nationally recognized medical authorities in designating other diseases as sexually transmitted.

(14) "State public health officer" means the secretary of health or an officer appointed by the secretary. [2001 c 319 § 4; 1991 c 3 § 322; 1988 c 206 § 101.]

**70.24.022 Interviews, examination, counseling, or treatment of infected persons or persons believed to be infected—Dissemination of false information—Penalty.**

(1) The board shall adopt rules authorizing interviews and the state and local public health officers and their authorized representatives may interview, or cause to be interviewed, all persons infected with a sexually transmitted disease and all persons who, in accordance with standards adopted by the board by rule, are reasonably believed to be infected with such diseases for the purpose of investigating the source and spread of the diseases and for the purpose of ordering a person to submit to examination, counseling, or treatment as necessary for the protection of the public health and safety, subject to RCW 70.24.024.

(2) State and local public health officers or their authorized representatives shall investigate identified partners of persons infected with sexually transmitted diseases in accordance with procedures prescribed by the board.

(3) All information gathered in the course of contact investigation pursuant to this section shall be considered confidential.

(4) No person contacted under this section or reasonably believed to be infected with a sexually transmitted disease who reveals the name or names of sexual contacts during the course of an investigation shall be held liable in a civil action for such revelation, unless the revelation is made with a knowing or reckless disregard for the truth.

(5) Any person who knowingly or maliciously disseminates any false information or report concerning the existence of any sexually transmitted disease under this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable as provided under RCW 9A.20.021. [1988 c 206 § 906.]

**70.24.024 Orders for examinations and counseling—Restrictive measures—Investigation—Issuance of order—Confidential notice and hearing—Exception.**

(1) Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the state and local public health officers or their authorized representatives may examine and counsel or cause to be examined and counseled persons reasonably believed to be infected with or to have been exposed to a sexually transmitted disease.

(2) Orders or restrictive measures directed to persons with a sexually transmitted disease shall be used as the last resort when other measures to protect the public health have failed, including reasonable efforts, which shall be documented, to obtain the voluntary cooperation of the person who may be subject to such an order. The orders and measures shall be applied serially with the least intrusive measures used first. The burden of proof shall be on the state or local public health officer to show that specified grounds exist for the issuance of the orders or restrictive measures and that the terms and conditions imposed are no more restrictive than necessary to protect the public health.

(3) When the state or local public health officer within his or her respective jurisdiction knows or has reason to believe, because of direct medical knowledge or reliable testimony of others in a position to have direct knowledge of a person's behavior, that a person has a sexually transmitted disease and is engaging in specified conduct, as determined by the board by rule based upon generally accepted standards of medical and public health science, that endangers the public health, he or she shall conduct an investigation in accordance with procedures prescribed by the board to evaluate the specific facts alleged, if any, and the reliability and credibility of the person or persons providing such information and, if satisfied that the allegations are true, he or she may issue an order according to the following priority to:

(a) Order a person to submit to a medical examination or testing, seek counseling, or obtain medical treatment for curable diseases, or any combination of these, within a period of time determined by the public health officer, not to exceed fourteen days.

(b) Order a person to immediately cease and desist from specified conduct which endangers the health of others by imposing such restrictions upon the person as are necessary to prevent the specified conduct that endangers the health of others only if the public health officer has determined that clear and convincing evidence exists to believe that such person has been ordered to report for counseling as provided in

(a) of this subsection and continues to demonstrate behavior which endangers the health of others. Any restriction shall be in writing, setting forth the name of the person to be restricted and the initial period of time, not to exceed three months, during which the order shall remain effective, the terms of the restrictions, and such other conditions as may be necessary to protect the public health. Restrictions shall be imposed in the least-restrictive manner necessary to protect the public health.

(4)(a) Upon the issuance of any order by the state or local public health officer or an authorized representative pursuant to subsection (3) of this section or RCW 70.24.340(4), such public health officer shall give written notice promptly, personally, and confidentially to the person who is the subject of the order stating the grounds and provisions of the order, including the factual bases therefor, the evidence relied upon for proof of infection and dangerous behavior, and the likelihood of repetition of such behaviors in the absence of such an order, and notifying the person who is the subject of the order that, if he or she contests the order, he or she may appear at a judicial hearing on the enforceability of the order, to be held in superior court. He or she may have an attorney appear on his or her behalf in the hearing at public expense, if necessary. The hearing shall be held within seventy-two hours of receipt of the notice, unless the person subject to the order agrees to comply. If the person contests the order, no invasive medical procedures shall be carried out prior to a hearing being held pursuant to this subsection. If the person does not contest the order within seventy-two hours of receiving it, and the person does not comply with the order within the time period specified for compliance with the order, the state or local public health officer may request a warrant be issued by the superior court to insure appearance at the hearing. The hearing shall be within seventy-two hours of the expiration date of the time specified for compliance with the original order. The burden of proof shall be on the public health officer to show by clear and convincing evidence that the specified grounds exist for the issuance of the order and for the need for compliance and that the terms and conditions imposed therein are no more restrictive than necessary to protect the public health. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the court shall issue appropriate orders affirming, modifying, or dismissing the order.

(b) If the superior court dismisses the order of the public health officer, the fact that the order was issued shall be expunged from the records of the department or local department of health.

(5) Any hearing conducted pursuant to this section shall be closed and confidential unless a public hearing is requested by the person who is the subject of the order, in which case the hearing will be conducted in open court. Unless in open hearing, any transcripts or records relating thereto shall also be confidential and may be sealed by the order of the court. [1988 c 206 § 909.]

#### **70.24.034 Detention—Grounds—Order—Hearing.**

(1) When the procedures of RCW 70.24.024 have been exhausted and the state or local public health officer, within his or her respective jurisdiction, knows or has reason to believe, because of medical information, that a person has a sexually transmitted disease and that the person continues to

engage in behaviors that present an imminent danger to the public health as defined by the board by rule based upon generally accepted standards of medical and public health science, the public health officer may bring an action in superior court to detain the person in a facility designated by the board for a period of time necessary to accomplish a program of counseling and education, excluding any coercive techniques or procedures, designed to get the person to adopt nondangerous behavior. In no case may the period exceed ninety days under each order. The board shall establish, by rule, standards for counseling and education under this subsection. The public health officer shall request the prosecuting attorney to file such action in superior court. During that period, reasonable efforts will be made in a noncoercive manner to get the person to adopt nondangerous behavior.

(2) If an action is filed as outlined in subsection (1) of this section, the superior court, upon the petition of the prosecuting attorney, shall issue other appropriate court orders including, but not limited to, an order to take the person into custody immediately, for a period not to exceed seventy-two hours, and place him or her in a facility designated or approved by the board. The person who is the subject of the order shall be given written notice of the order promptly, personally, and confidentially, stating the grounds and provisions of the order, including the factual bases therefor, the evidence relied upon for proof of infection and dangerous behavior, and the likelihood of repetition of such behaviors in the absence of such an order, and notifying the person that if he or she refuses to comply with the order he or she may appear at a hearing to review the order and that he or she may have an attorney appear on his or her behalf in the hearing at public expense, if necessary. If the person contests testing or treatment, no invasive medical procedures shall be carried out prior to a hearing being held pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The hearing shall be conducted no later than forty-eight hours after the receipt of the order. The person who is subject to the order has a right to be present at the hearing and may have an attorney appear on his or her behalf in the hearing, at public expense if necessary. If the order being contested includes detention for a period of fourteen days or longer, the person shall also have the right to a trial by jury upon request. Upon conclusion of the hearing or trial by jury, the court shall issue appropriate orders.

The court may continue the hearing upon the request of the person who is subject to the order for good cause shown for no more than five additional judicial days. If a trial by jury is requested, the court, upon motion, may continue the hearing for no more than ten additional judicial days. During the pendency of the continuance, the court may order that the person contesting the order remain in detention or may place terms and conditions upon the person which the court deems appropriate to protect public health.

(4) The burden of proof shall be on the state or local public health officer to show by clear and convincing evidence that grounds exist for the issuance of any court order pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section. If the superior court dismisses the order, the fact that the order was issued shall be expunged from the records of the state or local department of health.

(5) Any hearing conducted by the superior court pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section shall be closed and confidential unless a public hearing is requested by the person who is the subject of the order, in which case the hearing will be conducted in open court. Unless in open hearing, any transcripts or records relating thereto shall also be confidential and may be sealed by order of the court.

(6) Any order entered by the superior court pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall impose terms and conditions no more restrictive than necessary to protect the public health. [1988 c 206 § 910.]

**70.24.050 Diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases—Confirmation—Anonymous prevalence reports.** Diagnosis of a sexually transmitted disease in every instance must be confirmed by laboratory tests or examinations in a laboratory approved or conducted in accordance with procedures and such other requirements as may be established by the board. Laboratories testing for HIV shall report anonymous HIV prevalence results to the department, for health statistics purposes, in a manner established by the board. [1988 c 206 § 907; 1919 c 114 § 6; RRS § 6105.]

**70.24.070 Detention and treatment facilities.** For the purpose of carrying out this chapter, the board shall have the power and authority to designate facilities for the detention and treatment of persons found to be infected with a sexually transmitted disease and to designate any such facility in any hospital or other public or private institution, other than a jail or correctional facility, having, or which may be provided with, such necessary detention, segregation, isolation, clinic and hospital facilities as may be required and prescribed by the board, and to enter into arrangements for the conduct of such facilities with the public officials or persons, associations, or corporations in charge of or maintaining and operating such institutions. [1988 c 206 § 908; 1919 c 114 § 8; RRS § 6107.]

**70.24.080 Penalty.** Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this chapter or any lawful rule adopted by the board pursuant to the authority herein granted, or who shall fail or refuse to obey any lawful order issued by any state, county or municipal public health officer, pursuant to the authority granted in this chapter, shall be deemed guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable as provided under RCW 9A.20.021. [1988 c 206 § 911; 1919 c 114 § 5; RRS § 6104.]

**70.24.084 Violations of chapter—Aggrieved persons—Right of action.** (1) Any person aggrieved by a violation of this chapter shall have a right of action in superior court and may recover for each violation:

(a) Against any person who negligently violates a provision of this chapter, one thousand dollars, or actual damages, whichever is greater, for each violation.

(b) Against any person who intentionally or recklessly violates a provision of this chapter, ten thousand dollars, or actual damages, whichever is greater, for each violation.

(c) Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

(d) Such other relief, including an injunction, as the court may deem appropriate.

(2) Any action under this chapter is barred unless the action is commenced within three years after the cause of action accrues.

(3) Nothing in this chapter limits the rights of the subject of a test for a sexually transmitted disease to recover damages or other relief under any other applicable law.

(4) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to impose civil liability or criminal sanction for disclosure of a test result for a sexually transmitted disease in accordance with any reporting requirement for a diagnosed case of sexually transmitted disease by the department or the centers for disease control of the United States public health service.

(5) It is a negligent violation of this chapter to cause an unauthorized communication of confidential sexually transmitted disease information by facsimile transmission or otherwise communicating the information to an unauthorized recipient when the sender knew or had reason to know the facsimile transmission telephone number or other transmittal information was incorrect or outdated. [2001 c 16 § 1; 1999 c 391 § 4; 1988 c 206 § 914.]

**Findings—Purpose—1999 c 391:** See note following RCW 70.05.180.

**70.24.090 Pregnant women—Test for syphilis.** Every physician attending a pregnant woman in the state of Washington during gestation shall, in the case of each woman so attended, take or cause to be taken a sample of blood of such woman at the time of first examination, and submit such sample to an approved laboratory for a standard serological test for syphilis. If the pregnant woman first presents herself for examination after the fifth month of gestation the physician or other attendant shall in addition to the above, advise and urge the patient to secure a medical examination and blood test before the fifth month of any subsequent pregnancies. [1939 c 165 § 1; RRS § 6002-1.]

**70.24.095 Pregnant women—Drug treatment program participants—AIDS counseling.** (1) Every health care practitioner attending a pregnant woman or a person seeking treatment of a sexually transmitted disease shall insure that AIDS counseling of the patient is conducted.

(2) AIDS counseling shall be provided to each person in a drug treatment program under \*chapter 69.54 RCW. [1988 c 206 § 705.]

\*Reviser's note: Chapter 69.54 RCW was repealed by 1989 c 270 § 35.

**70.24.100 Syphilis laboratory tests.** A standard serological test shall be a laboratory test for syphilis approved by the secretary of health and shall be performed either by a laboratory approved by the secretary of health for the performance of the particular serological test used or by the state department of health, on request of the physician free of charge. [1991 c 3 § 323; 1979 c 141 § 95; 1939 c 165 § 2; RRS § 6002-2.]

**70.24.107 Rule-making authority—1997 c 345.** The department of health and the department of corrections shall each adopt rules to implement chapter 345, Laws of 1997. The department of health and the department of corrections shall cooperate with local jail administrators to obtain the

information from local jail administrators that is necessary to comply with this section. [1999 c 372 § 14; 1997 c 345 § 6.]

**Findings—Intent—1997 c 345:** See note following RCW 70.24.340.

**70.24.110 Minors—Treatment, consent, liability for payment for care.** A minor fourteen years of age or older who may have come in contact with any sexually transmitted disease or suspected sexually transmitted disease may give consent to the furnishing of hospital, medical and surgical care related to the diagnosis or treatment of such disease. Such consent shall not be subject to disaffirmance because of minority. The consent of the parent, parents, or legal guardian of such minor shall not be necessary to authorize hospital, medical and surgical care related to such disease and such parent, parents, or legal guardian shall not be liable for payment for any care rendered pursuant to this section. [1988 c 206 § 912; 1969 ex.s. c 164 § 1.]

**70.24.120 Sexually transmitted disease case investigators—Authority to withdraw blood.** Sexually transmitted disease case investigators, upon specific authorization from a physician, are hereby authorized to perform venipuncture or skin puncture on a person for the sole purpose of withdrawing blood for use in sexually transmitted disease tests.

The term "sexually transmitted disease case investigator" shall mean only those persons who:

- (1) Are employed by public health authorities; and
- (2) Have been trained by a physician in proper procedures to be employed when withdrawing blood in accordance with training requirements established by the department of health; and
- (3) Possess a statement signed by the instructing physician that the training required by subsection (2) of this section has been successfully completed.

The term "physician" means any person licensed under the provisions of chapters 18.57 or 18.71 RCW. [1991 c 3 § 324; 1988 c 206 § 913; 1977 c 59 § 1.]

**70.24.125 Reporting requirements for sexually transmitted diseases—Rules.** The board shall establish reporting requirements for sexually transmitted diseases by rule. Reporting under this section may be required for such sexually transmitted diseases included under this chapter as the board finds appropriate. [1988 c 206 § 905.]

**70.24.130 Adoption of rules.** The board shall adopt such rules as are necessary to implement and enforce this chapter. Rules may also be adopted by the department of health for the purposes of this chapter. The rules may include procedures for taking appropriate action, in addition to any other penalty under this chapter, with regard to health care facilities or health care providers which violate this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter. The rules shall prescribe stringent safeguards to protect the confidentiality of the persons and records subject to this chapter. The procedures set forth in chapter 34.05 RCW apply to the administration of this chapter, except that in case of conflict between chapter 34.05 RCW and this chapter, the provisions of this chapter shall control. [1991 c 3 § 325; 1988 c 206 § 915.]

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**70.24.140 Certain infected persons—Sexual intercourse unlawful without notification.** It is unlawful for any person who has a sexually transmitted disease, except HIV infection, when such person knows he or she is infected with such a disease and when such person has been informed that he or she may communicate the disease to another person through sexual intercourse, to have sexual intercourse with any other person, unless such other person has been informed of the presence of the sexually transmitted disease. [1988 c 206 § 917.]

*Criminal sanctions: RCW 9A.36.021.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.24.150 Immunity of certain public employees.** Members of the state board of health and local boards of health, public health officers, and employees of the department of health and local health departments are immune from civil action for damages arising out of the good faith performance of their duties as prescribed by this chapter, unless such performance constitutes gross negligence. [1991 c 3 § 326; 1988 c 206 § 918.]

**70.24.200 Information for the general public on sexually transmitted diseases—Emphasis.** Information directed to the general public and providing education regarding any sexually transmitted disease that is written, published, distributed, or used by any public entity, and all such information paid for, in whole or in part, with any public moneys shall give emphasis to the importance of sexual abstinence, sexual fidelity, and avoidance of substance abuse in controlling disease. [1988 c 206 § 201.]

**70.24.210 Information for children on sexually transmitted diseases—Emphasis.** All material directed to children in grades kindergarten through twelve and providing education regarding any sexually transmitted disease that is written, published, distributed, or used by any public entity, and all such information paid for, in whole or in part, with any public moneys shall give emphasis to the importance of sexual abstinence outside lawful marriage and avoidance of substance abuse in controlling disease. [1988 c 206 § 202.]

*Common school curriculum: RCW 28A.230.020.*

**70.24.220 AIDS education in public schools—Finding.** The legislature finds that the public schools provide a unique and appropriate setting for educating young people about the pathology and prevention of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The legislature recognizes that schools and communities vary throughout the state and that locally elected school directors should have a significant role in establishing a program of AIDS education in their districts. [1988 c 206 § 401.]

**70.24.240 Clearinghouse for AIDS educational materials.** The number of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) cases in the state may reach five thousand by 1991. This makes it necessary to provide our state's workforce with the resources and knowledge to deal with the epidemic. To ensure that accurate information is available to the state's workforce, a clearinghouse for all technically correct educa-

tional materials related to AIDS should be created. [1988 c 206 § 601.]

**70.24.250 Office on AIDS—Repository and clearinghouse for AIDS education and training material—University of Washington duties.** There is established in the department an office on AIDS. If a department of health is created, the office on AIDS shall be transferred to the department of health, and its chief shall report directly to the secretary of health. The office on AIDS shall have as its chief a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW or a person experienced in public health who shall report directly to the assistant secretary for health. This office shall be the repository and clearinghouse for all education and training material related to the treatment, transmission, and prevention of AIDS. The office on AIDS shall have the responsibility for coordinating all publicly funded education and service activities related to AIDS. The University of Washington shall provide the office on AIDS with appropriate training and educational materials necessary to carry out its duties. The office on AIDS shall assist state agencies with information necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The department shall work with state and county agencies and specific employee and professional groups to provide information appropriate to their needs, and shall make educational materials available to private employers and encourage them to distribute this information to their employees. [1988 c 206 § 602.]

**70.24.260 Emergency medical personnel—Rules for AIDS education and training.** The department shall adopt rules that recommend appropriate education and training for licensed and certified emergency medical personnel under chapter 18.73 RCW on the prevention, transmission, and treatment of AIDS. The department shall require appropriate education or training as a condition of certification or license issuance or renewal. [1988 c 206 § 603.]

**70.24.270 Health professionals—Rules for AIDS education and training.** Each disciplining authority under chapter 18.130 RCW shall adopt rules that require appropriate education and training for licensees on the prevention, transmission, and treatment of AIDS. The disciplining authorities shall work with the office on AIDS under RCW 70.24.250 to develop the training and educational material necessary for health professionals. [1988 c 206 § 604.]

**70.24.280 Pharmacy quality assurance commission—Rules for AIDS education and training.** The pharmacy quality assurance commission shall adopt rules that require appropriate education and training for licensees on the prevention, transmission, and treatment of AIDS. The commission shall work with the office on AIDS under RCW 70.24.250 to develop the training and educational material necessary for health professionals. [2013 c 19 § 122; 1988 c 206 § 605.]

**70.24.290 Public school employees—Rules for AIDS education and training.** The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules that require appropriate education and training, to be included as part of their present con-

tinuing education requirements, for public school employees on the prevention, transmission, and treatment of AIDS. The superintendent of public instruction shall work with the office on AIDS under RCW 70.24.250 to develop the educational and training material necessary for school employees. [1988 c 206 § 606.]

**70.24.300 State and local government employees—Determination of substantial likelihood of exposure—Rules for AIDS education and training.** The Washington personnel resources board and each unit of local government shall determine whether any employees under their jurisdiction have a substantial likelihood of exposure in the course of their employment to the human immunodeficiency virus. If so, the agency or unit of government shall adopt rules requiring appropriate training and education for the employees on the prevention, transmission, and treatment of AIDS. The rules shall specifically provide for such training and education for law enforcement, correctional, and health care workers. The Washington personnel resources board and each unit of local government shall work with the office on AIDS under RCW 70.24.250 to develop the educational and training material necessary for employees. [1993 c 281 § 60; 1988 c 206 § 607.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.24.310 Health care facility employees—Rules for AIDS education and training.** The department shall adopt rules requiring appropriate education and training of employees of state licensed or certified health care facilities. The education and training shall be on the prevention, transmission, and treatment of AIDS and shall not be required for employees who are covered by comparable rules adopted under other sections of this chapter. In adopting rules under this section, the department shall consider infection control standards and educational materials available from appropriate professional associations and professionally prepared publications. [1988 c 206 § 608.]

**70.24.320 Counseling and testing—AIDS and HIV—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Pretest counseling" means counseling aimed at helping the individual understand ways to reduce the risk of HIV infection, the nature and purpose of the tests, the significance of the results, and the potential dangers of the disease, and to assess the individual's ability to cope with the results.

(2) "Posttest counseling" means further counseling following testing usually directed toward increasing the individual's understanding of the human immunodeficiency virus infection, changing the individual's behavior, and, if necessary, encouraging the individual to notify persons with whom there has been contact capable of spreading HIV.

(3) "AIDS counseling" means counseling directed toward increasing the individual's understanding of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and changing the individual's behavior.

(4) "HIV testing" means a test indicative of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus as specified by the board of health by rule. [1988 c 206 § 701.]

**70.24.325 Counseling and testing—Insurance requirements.** (1) This section shall apply to counseling and consent for HIV testing administered as part of an application for coverage authorized under Title 48 RCW.

(2) Persons subject to regulation under Title 48 RCW who are requesting an insured, a subscriber, or a potential insured or subscriber to furnish the results of an HIV test for underwriting purposes as a condition for obtaining or renewing coverage under an insurance contract, health care service contract, or health maintenance organization agreement shall:

(a) Provide written information to the individual prior to being tested which explains:

- (i) What an HIV test is;
- (ii) Behaviors that place a person at risk for HIV infection;
- (iii) That the purpose of HIV testing in this setting is to determine eligibility for coverage;
- (iv) The potential risks of HIV testing; and
- (v) Where to obtain HIV pretest counseling.

(b) Obtain informed specific written consent for an HIV test. The written informed consent shall include:

(i) An explanation of the confidential treatment of the test results which limits access to the results to persons involved in handling or determining applications for coverage or claims of the applicant or claimant and to those persons designated under (c)(iii) of this subsection; and

(ii) Requirements under (c)(iii) of this subsection.

(c) Establish procedures to inform an applicant of the following:

(i) That post-test counseling, as specified under WAC 248-100-209(4), is required if an HIV test is positive or indeterminate;

(ii) That post-test counseling occurs at the time a positive or indeterminate HIV test result is given to the tested individual;

(iii) That the applicant may designate a health care provider or health care agency to whom the insurer, the health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization will provide positive or indeterminate test results for interpretation and post-test counseling. When an applicant does not identify a designated health care provider or health care agency and the applicant's test results are either positive or indeterminate, the insurer, the health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization shall provide the test results to the local health department for interpretation and post-test counseling; and

(iv) That positive or indeterminate HIV test results shall not be sent directly to the applicant. [1989 c 387 § 1.]

**70.24.330 HIV testing—Consent, exceptions.** No person may undergo HIV testing without the person's consent except:

(1) Pursuant to RCW 7.70.065 for incompetent persons;

(2) In seroprevalence studies where neither the persons whose blood is being tested know the test results nor the persons conducting the tests know who is undergoing testing;

(3) If the department of labor and industries determines that it is relevant, in which case payments made under Title 51 RCW may be conditioned on the taking of an HIV antibody test; or

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(4) As otherwise expressly authorized by this chapter. [1988 c 206 § 702.]

**70.24.335 HIV testing—Opt-out screening.** (1) Clinicians shall screen for HIV infection consistent with the United States preventive services task force recommendations for all patients age fifteen through sixty-five years and for all pregnant women. Screening is voluntary and may be undertaken only after the patient or the patient's authorized representative has been told that HIV screening is planned and that HIV screening will be performed unless the patient declines.

(2) If a health care provider notifies a patient that an HIV screening will be performed unless the patient declines, and the patient or patient's authorized representative declines the HIV screening, the health care provider may not use the fact that the person declined an HIV screening as a basis for denying services or treatment, other than an HIV screening, to the person. [2016 c 60 § 2.]

**Findings—2016 c 60:** "The legislature finds that the scientific community's understanding of the human immunodeficiency virus has changed significantly since the virus was first identified. With that change has come increased awareness of the value of incorporating HIV testing into routine health screenings. The legislature finds that the United States preventive services task force recommends that clinicians screen for HIV infection in adolescents and adults age fifteen to sixty-five years and for all pregnant women. The legislature also finds that since 2006, the United States centers for disease control has recommended one-time screening of adolescent and adult patients to identify persons who are already HIV-positive, making HIV screening a regular part of the medical care provided by a primary care provider and on the same voluntary basis as other diagnostic and screening tests. In that same recommendation, the centers for disease control formally adopted its current recommendations for an opt-out model of HIV screening for all individuals ages thirteen to sixty-four and for all pregnant women. The legislature finds further that it is appropriate to update the state's HIV screening policy by adopting these recommendations." [2016 c 60 § 1.]

**70.24.340 Convicted persons—Mandatory testing and counseling for certain offenses—Employees' substantial exposure to bodily fluids—Procedure and court orders.** (1) Local health departments authorized under this chapter shall conduct or cause to be conducted pretest counseling, HIV testing, and posttest counseling of all persons:

(a) Convicted of a sexual offense under chapter 9A.44 RCW;

(b) Convicted of prostitution or offenses relating to prostitution under chapter 9A.88 RCW; or

(c) Convicted of drug offenses under chapter 69.50 RCW if the court determines at the time of conviction that the related drug offense is one associated with the use of hypodermic needles.

(2) Such testing shall be conducted as soon as possible after sentencing and shall be so ordered by the sentencing judge.

(3) This section applies only to offenses committed after March 23, 1988.

(4) A law enforcement officer, firefighter, health care provider, health care facility staff person, department of corrections' staff person, jail staff person, or other categories of employment determined by the board in rule to be at risk of substantial exposure to HIV, who has experienced a substantial exposure to another person's bodily fluids in the course of his or her employment, may request a state or local public health officer to order pretest counseling, HIV testing, and

posttest counseling for the person whose bodily fluids he or she has been exposed to. A person eligible to request a state or local health official to order HIV testing under this chapter and board rule may also request a state or local health officer to order testing for other blood-borne pathogens. If the state or local public health officer refuses to order counseling and testing under this subsection, the person who made the request may petition the superior court for a hearing to determine whether an order shall be issued. The hearing on the petition shall be held within seventy-two hours of filing the petition, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The standard of review to determine whether the public health officer shall be required to issue the order is whether substantial exposure occurred and whether that exposure presents a possible risk of transmission of the HIV virus as defined by the board by rule. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the court shall issue the appropriate order, which may require additional testing for other blood-borne pathogens.

The person who is subject to the state or local public health officer's order to receive counseling and testing shall be given written notice of the order promptly, personally, and confidentially, stating the grounds and provisions of the order, including the factual basis therefor. If the person who is subject to the order refuses to comply, the state or local public health officer may petition the superior court for a hearing. The hearing on the petition shall be held within seventy-two hours of filing the petition, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The standard of review for the order is whether substantial exposure occurred and whether that exposure presents a possible risk of transmission of the HIV virus as defined by the board by rule. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the court shall issue the appropriate order.

The state or local public health officer shall perform counseling and testing under this subsection if he or she finds that the exposure was substantial and presents a possible risk as defined by the board of health by rule or if he or she is ordered to do so by a court.

The counseling and testing required under this subsection shall be completed as soon as possible after the substantial exposure or after an order is issued by a court, but shall begin not later than seventy-two hours after the substantial exposure or an order is issued by the court. [2011 c 232 § 2; 1997 c 345 § 3; 1988 c 206 § 703.]

**Findings—Intent—1997 c 345:** "(1) The legislature finds that department of corrections staff and jail staff perform essential public functions that are vital to our communities. The health and safety of these workers is often placed in jeopardy while they perform the responsibilities of their jobs. Therefore, the legislature intends that the results of any HIV tests conducted on an offender or detainee pursuant to RCW 70.24.340(1), 70.24.360, or 70.24.370 shall be disclosed to the health care administrator or infection control coordinator of the department of corrections facility or the local jail that houses the offender or detainee. The legislature intends that these test results also be disclosed to any corrections or jail staff who have been substantially exposed to the bodily fluids of the offender or detainee when the disclosure is provided by a licensed health care provider in accordance with Washington Administrative Code rules governing employees' occupational exposure to blood-borne pathogens.

(2) The legislature further finds that, through the efforts of health care professionals and corrections staff, offenders in department of corrections facilities and people detained in local jails are being encouraged to take responsibility for their health by requesting voluntary and anonymous pretest counseling, HIV testing, posttest counseling, and AIDS counseling. The legislature does not intend, through chapter 345, Laws of 1997, to mandate disclosure of the results of voluntary and anonymous tests. The legislature intends to continue to protect the confidential exchange of medical informa-

tion related to voluntary and anonymous pretest counseling, HIV testing, posttest counseling, and AIDS counseling as provided by chapter 70.24 RCW." [1997 c 345 § 1.]

**70.24.350 Prostitution and drug offenses—Voluntary testing and counseling.** Local health departments, in cooperation with the regional AIDS services networks, shall make available voluntary testing and counseling services to all persons arrested for prostitution offenses under chapter 9A.88 RCW and drug offenses under chapter 69.50 RCW. Services shall include educational materials that outline the seriousness of AIDS and encourage voluntary participation. [1988 c 206 § 704.]

**70.24.360 Jail detainees—Testing and counseling of persons who present a possible risk.** Jail administrators, with the approval of the local public health officer, may order pretest counseling, HIV testing, and posttest counseling for persons detained in the jail if the local public health officer determines that actual or threatened behavior presents a possible risk to the staff, general public, or other persons. Approval of the local public health officer shall be based on RCW 70.24.024(3) and may be contested through RCW 70.24.024(4). The administrator shall establish, pursuant to RCW 70.48.071, a procedure to document the possible risk which is the basis for the HIV testing. "Possible risk," as used in this section, shall be defined by the board in rule. Documentation of the behavior, or threat thereof, shall be reviewed with the person to try to assure that the person understands the basis for testing. [1988 c 206 § 706.]

**70.24.370 Correction facility inmates—Counseling and testing of persons who present a possible risk—Training for administrators and superintendents—Procedure.** (1) Department of corrections facility administrators may order pretest counseling, HIV testing, and posttest counseling for inmates if the secretary of corrections or the secretary's designee determines that actual or threatened behavior presents a possible risk to the staff, general public, or other inmates. The department of corrections shall establish a procedure to document the possible risk which is the basis for the HIV testing. "Possible risk," as used in this section, shall be defined by the department of corrections after consultation with the board. Possible risk, as used in the documentation of the behavior, or threat thereof, shall be reviewed with the inmate.

(2) Department of corrections administrators and superintendents who are authorized to make decisions about testing and dissemination of test information shall, at least annually, participate in training seminars on public health considerations conducted by the assistant secretary for public health or her or his designee.

(3) Administrative hearing requirements set forth in chapter 34.05 RCW do not apply to the procedure developed by the department of corrections pursuant to this section. This section shall not be construed as requiring any hearing process except as may be required under existing federal constitutional law.

(4) RCW 70.24.340 does not apply to the department of corrections or to inmates in its custody or subject to its jurisdiction. [1988 c 206 § 707.]

**70.24.380 Board of health—Rules for counseling and testing.** The board of health shall adopt rules establishing minimum standards for pretest counseling, HIV testing, posttest counseling, and AIDS counseling. [1988 c 206 § 709.]

**70.24.400 Funding for office on AIDS—Center for AIDS education—Department's duties for awarding grants.** (1) The secretary of health shall direct that all state or federal funds, excluding those from federal Title XIX for services or other activities authorized in this chapter, shall be allocated to the office on AIDS established in RCW 70.24.250. The secretary shall further direct that all funds for services and activities specified in subsection (4) of this section shall be provided by the department directly to public and private providers in the communities.

(2) Efforts shall be made by both the counties and the department to use existing service delivery systems, where possible.

(3) The University of Washington health science program, in cooperation with the office on AIDS, may, within available resources, establish a center for AIDS education. The center for AIDS education is not intended to engage in state-funded research related to HIV infection, AIDS, or HIV-related conditions. Its duties shall include providing the office on AIDS with the appropriate educational materials necessary to carry out that office's duties.

(4) The department shall develop standards and criteria for awarding grants to support testing, counseling, education, case management, notification of sexual partners of infected persons, planning, coordination, and other services required by law. In addition, funds shall be allocated for intervention strategies specifically addressing groups that are at a high risk of being infected with the human immunodeficiency virus.

(5) The department shall reflect in its departmental biennial budget request the funds necessary to implement this section.

(6) The use of appropriate materials may be authorized by the department in the prevention or control of HIV infection. [2010 1st sp.s. c 3 § 1; 1998 c 245 § 126; 1991 c 3 § 327; 1988 c 206 § 801.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 3:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2011." [2010 1st sp.s. c 3 § 2.]

**70.24.410 AIDS advisory committee—Duties, review of insurance problems—Termination.** To assist the secretary of health in the development and implementation of AIDS programs, the governor shall appoint an AIDS advisory committee. Among its duties shall be a review of insurance problems as related to persons with AIDS. The committee shall terminate on June 30, 1991. [1991 c 3 § 328; 1988 c 206 § 803.]

**70.24.420 Additional local funding of treatment programs not required.** Nothing in this chapter may be construed to require additional local funding of programs to treat communicable disease established as of March 23, 1988. [1988 c 206 § 919.]

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**70.24.430 Application of chapter to persons subject to jurisdiction of department of corrections.** Nothing in this chapter is intended to create a state-mandated liberty interest of any nature for offenders or inmates confined in department of corrections facilities or subject to the jurisdiction of the department of corrections. [1988 c 206 § 920.]

**70.24.450 Confidentiality—Reports—Unauthorized disclosures.** (1) In order to assure compliance with the protections under this chapter and the rules of the board, and to assure public confidence in the confidentiality of reported information, the department shall:

(a) Report annually to the board any incidents of unauthorized disclosure by the department, local health departments, or their employees of information protected under RCW 70.02.220. The report shall include recommendations for preventing future unauthorized disclosures and improving the system of confidentiality for reported information; and

(b) Assist health care providers, facilities that conduct tests, local health departments, and other persons involved in disease reporting to understand, implement, and comply with this chapter and the rules of the board related to disease reporting.

(2) This section is exempt from RCW 70.24.084, 70.05.070, and 70.05.120. [2013 c 200 § 27; 1999 c 391 § 3.]

**Effective date—2013 c 200:** See note following RCW 70.02.010.

**Findings—Purpose—1999 c 391:** See note following RCW 70.05.180.

**70.24.901 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 150.]

**Chapter 70.26 RCW**

**PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS**

Sections

70.26.010	Findings—Intent.
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70.26.030	Local preparedness and response plans—Requirements.
70.26.040	Local preparedness and response plans—Consultation with public, private sector—Department to provide technical assistance and disburse funds.
70.26.050	Plans to be submitted to secretary for approval, rejection—Funding—Preparedness and response activities.
70.26.060	Secretary to develop a formula for fund distribution—Requirements.
70.26.070	Secretary duties—Report.

**70.26.010 Findings—Intent.** The legislature finds that:  
 (1) Pandemic influenza is a global outbreak of disease that occurs when a new virus appears in the human popula-

tion, causes serious illness, and then spreads easily from person to person.

(2) Historically, pandemic influenza has occurred on average every thirty years. Most recently, the Asian flu in 1957-58 and the Hong Kong flu in 1968-69 killed seventy thousand and thirty-four thousand, respectively, in the United States.

(3) Another influenza pandemic could emerge with little warning, affecting a large number of people. Estimates are that another pandemic influenza would cause more than two hundred thousand deaths in our country, with as many as five thousand in Washington. Our state could also expect ten thousand to twenty-four thousand people needing hospital stays, and as many as a million people requiring outpatient visits. During a severe pandemic these numbers could be much higher. The economic losses could also be substantial.

(4) The current Avian or bird flu that is spreading around the world has the potential to start a pandemic. There is yet no proven vaccine, and antiviral medication supplies are limited and of unknown effectiveness against a human version of the virus, leaving traditional public health measures as the only means to slow the spread of the disease. Given the global nature of a pandemic, as much as possible, the state must be able to respond assuming only limited outside resources and assistance will be available.

(5) An effective response to pandemic influenza in Washington must focus at the local level and will depend on preestablished partnerships and collaborative planning on a range of best-case and worst-case scenarios. It will require flexibility and real-time decision making, guided by accurate information. It will also depend on a well-informed public that understands the dangers of pandemic influenza and the steps necessary to prevent the spread of the disease.

(6) Avian flu is but one example of an infectious disease that, were an outbreak to occur, could pose a significant statewide health hazard. As such, preparation for pandemic flu will also enhance the capacity of local public health jurisdictions to respond to other emergencies.

It is therefore the intent of the legislature that adequate pandemic flu preparedness and response plans be developed and implemented by local public health jurisdictions statewide in order to limit the number of illnesses and deaths, preserve the continuity of essential government and other community services, and minimize social disruption and economic loss in the event of an influenza pandemic. [2006 c 63 § 1.]

**70.26.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of health.

(2) "Local health jurisdiction" means a local health department as established under chapter 70.05 RCW, a combined city-county health department as established under chapter 70.08 RCW, or a health district established under chapter 70.05 or 70.46 RCW.

(3) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health. [2006 c 63 § 2.]

**70.26.030 Local preparedness and response plans—Requirements.** (1) The secretary shall establish require-

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ments and performance standards, consistent with any requirements or standards established by the United States department of health and human services, regarding the development and implementation of local pandemic flu preparedness and response plans.

(2) To the extent state or federal funds are provided for this purpose, by November 1, 2006, each local health jurisdiction shall develop a pandemic flu preparedness and response plan, consistent with requirements and performance standards established in subsection (1) of this section, for the purpose of:

(a) Defining preparedness activities that should be undertaken before a pandemic occurs that will enhance the effectiveness of response measures;

(b) Describing the response, coordination, and decision-making structure that will incorporate the local health jurisdiction, the local health care system, other local response agencies, and state and federal agencies during the pandemic;

(c) Defining the roles and responsibilities for the local health jurisdiction, local health care partners, and local response agencies during all phases of a pandemic;

(d) Describing public health interventions in a pandemic response and the timing of such interventions;

(e) Serving as a guide for local health care system partners, response agencies, and businesses in the development of pandemic influenza response plans; and

(f) Providing technical support and information on which preparedness and response actions are based.

Each plan shall be developed based on an assessment by the local health jurisdiction of its current capacity to respond to pandemic flu and otherwise meet department outcome measures related to infectious disease outbreaks of statewide significance. [2006 c 63 § 3.]

**70.26.040 Local preparedness and response plans—Consultation with public, private sector—Department to provide technical assistance and disburse funds.** (1) Each local health jurisdiction shall develop its pandemic flu preparedness and response plan based on the requirements and performance standards established under RCW 70.26.030(1) and an assessment of the jurisdiction's current capacity to respond to pandemic flu. The plan shall be developed in consultation with appropriate public and private sector partners, including departments of emergency management, law enforcement, school districts, hospitals and medical professionals, tribal governments, and business organizations. At a minimum, each plan shall address:

(a) Strategies to educate the public about the consequences of influenza pandemic and what each person can do to prepare, including the adoption of universal infectious disease prevention practices and maintaining appropriate emergency supplies;

(b) Jurisdiction-wide disease surveillance programs, coordinated with state and federal efforts, to detect pandemic influenza strains in humans and animals, including health care provider compliance with reportable conditions requirements, and investigation and analysis of reported illness or outbreaks;

(c) Communication systems, including the availability of and access to specialized communications equipment by

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health officials and community leaders, and the use of mass media outlets;

(d) Mass vaccination plans and protocols to rapidly administer vaccine and monitor vaccine effectiveness and safety;

(e) Guidelines for the utilization of antiviral medications for the treatment and prevention of influenza;

(f) Implementation of nonmedical measures to decrease the spread of the disease as guided by the epidemiology of the pandemic, including increasing adherence to public health advisories, voluntary social isolation during outbreaks, and health officer orders related to quarantines;

(g) Medical system mobilization, including improving the linkages and coordination of emergency responses across health care organizations, and assuring the availability of adequate facilities and trained personnel;

(h) Strategies for maintaining social order and essential community services while limiting the spread of disease throughout the duration of the pandemic; and

(i) The jurisdiction's relative priorities related to implementation of the above activities, based on available funding.

(2) To the extent state or federal funds are provided for this purpose, the department, in consultation with the state director of emergency management, shall provide technical assistance and disburse funds as needed, based on the formula developed under RCW 70.26.060, to support local health jurisdictions in developing their pandemic flu preparedness and response plans. [2006 c 63 § 4.]

**70.26.050 Plans to be submitted to secretary for approval, rejection—Funding—Preparedness and response activities.** Local health jurisdictions shall submit their pandemic flu preparedness and response plans to the secretary by November 1, 2006. Upon receipt of a plan, the secretary shall approve or reject the plan. When the plan is determined by the department to comply with the requirements and integrate the performance standards established under RCW 70.26.030(1), any additional state or federal funding appropriated in the budget shall be provided to the local health jurisdiction to support the preparedness response activities identified in the plan, based upon a formula developed by the secretary under RCW 70.26.060. Preparedness and response activities include but are not limited to:

(1) Education, information, and outreach, in multiple languages, to increase community preparedness and reduce the spread of the disease should it occur;

(2) Development of materials and systems to be used in the event of a pandemic to keep the public informed about the influenza, the course of the pandemic, and response activities;

(3) Development of the legal documents necessary to facilitate and support the necessary government response;

(4) Training and response drills for local health jurisdiction staff, law enforcement, health care providers, and others with responsibilities identified in the plan;

(5) Enhancement of the communicable disease surveillance system; and

(6) Development of coordination and communication systems among responding agencies.

Where appropriate, these activities shall be coordinated and funded on a regional or statewide basis. The secretary, in

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consultation with the state director of emergency management, shall provide implementation support and assistance to a local health jurisdiction when the secretary or the local health jurisdiction has concerns regarding a jurisdiction's progress toward implementing its plan. [2006 c 63 § 5.]

**70.26.060 Secretary to develop a formula for fund distribution—Requirements.** The secretary shall develop a formula for distribution of any federal and state funds appropriated in the omnibus appropriations act on or before July 1, 2006, to local health jurisdictions for development and implementation of their pandemic flu preparedness and response plans. The formula developed by the secretary shall ensure that each local health jurisdiction receives a minimum amount of funds for plan development and that any additional funds for plan development be distributed equitably, including consideration of population and factors that increase susceptibility to an outbreak, upon soliciting the advice of the local health jurisdictions. [2006 c 63 § 6.]

**70.26.070 Secretary duties—Report.** The secretary shall:

(1) Develop a process for assessing the compliance of each local health jurisdiction with the requirements and performance standards developed under RCW 70.26.030(1) at least biannually;

(2) By November 15, 2008, report to the legislature on the level of compliance with the performance standards established under RCW 70.26.030(1). The report shall consider the extent to which local health jurisdictions comply with each performance standard and any impediments to meeting the expected level of performance. [2006 c 63 § 7.]

## Chapter 70.28 RCW CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS

### Sections

70.28.005	Health officials, broad powers to protect public health.
70.28.008	Definitions.
70.28.010	Health care providers required to report cases.
70.28.020	Record of reports.
70.28.025	Secretary's administrative responsibility—Scope.
70.28.031	Powers and duties of health officers.
70.28.032	Due process standards for testing, treating, detaining—Reporting requirements—Training and scope for skin test administration.
70.28.033	Treatment, isolation, or examination order of health officer—Violation—Penalty.
70.28.035	Order of health officer—Refusal to obey—Application for superior court order.
70.28.037	Superior court order for confinement of individuals having active tuberculosis.

**Reviser's note:** Powers and duties of the department of social and health services and the secretary of social and health services transferred to the department of health and the secretary of health. See RCW 43.70.060.

**70.28.005 Health officials, broad powers to protect public health.** (1) Tuberculosis has been and continues to be a threat to the public's health in the state of Washington.

(2) While it is important to respect the rights of individuals, the legitimate public interest in protecting the public health and welfare from the spread of a deadly infectious disease outweighs incidental curtailment of individual rights that may occur in implementing effective testing, treatment, and infection control strategies.

(3) To protect the public's health, it is the intent of the legislature that local health officials provide culturally sensitive and medically appropriate early diagnosis, treatment, education, and follow-up to prevent tuberculosis. Further, it is imperative that public health officials and their staff have the necessary authority and discretion to take actions as are necessary to protect the health and welfare of the public, subject to the constitutional protection required under the federal and state constitutions. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as in any way limiting the broad powers of health officials to act as necessary to protect the public health. [1994 c 145 § 1.]

**70.28.008 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (1) "Department" means the department of health;
- (2) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health or his or her designee;
- (3) "Tuberculosis control" refers to the procedures administered in the counties for the control, prevention, and treatment of tuberculosis. [1999 c 172 § 7; 1991 c 3 § 330; 1983 c 3 § 171; 1971 ex.s. c 277 § 15. Formerly RCW 70.33.010.]

**Finding—Severability—1999 c 172:** See notes following RCW 70.28.010.

**70.28.010 Health care providers required to report cases.** All practicing health care providers in the state are hereby required to report to the local health department cases of every person having tuberculosis who has been attended by, or who has come under the observation of, the health care provider within one day thereof. [1999 c 172 § 2; 1996 c 209 § 1; 1967 c 54 § 1; 1899 c 71 § 1; RRS § 6109.]

**Finding—1999 c 172:** "The legislature finds that current statutes relating to the reporting, treatment, and payment for tuberculosis are outdated, and not in concert with current clinical practice and tuberculosis care management. Updating reporting requirements for local health departments will benefit providers, local health, and individuals requiring treatment for tuberculosis." [1999 c 172 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.28.020 Record of reports.** All local health departments in this state are hereby required to receive and keep a record, for a period of ten years from the date of the report, of the reports required by RCW 70.28.010 to be made to them; such records shall not be open to public inspection, but shall be submitted to the proper inspection of other local health departments and of the department of health alone, and such records shall not be published nor made public. [1999 c 172 § 3; 1967 c 54 § 2; 1899 c 71 § 2; RRS § 6110.]

**Finding—Severability—1999 c 172:** See notes following RCW 70.28.010.

**70.28.025 Secretary's administrative responsibility—Scope.** The secretary shall have responsibility for establishing standards for the control, prevention, and treatment of tuberculosis and hospitals approved to treat tuberculosis in the state operated under this chapter and chapter 70.30 RCW and for providing, either directly or through agreement, contract, or purchase, appropriate facilities and services for persons who are, or may be suffering from tuber-

culosis except as otherwise provided by RCW 70.30.061 or this section.

Under that responsibility, the secretary shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To develop and enter into such agreements, contracts, or purchase arrangements with counties and public and private agencies or institutions to provide for hospitalization, nursing home, or other appropriate facilities and services, including laboratory services, for persons who are or may be suffering from tuberculosis;

(2) Adopt such rules as are necessary to assure effective patient care and treatment of tuberculosis. [1999 c 172 § 8; 1983 c 3 § 172; 1973 1st ex.s. c 213 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 277 § 16. Formerly RCW 70.33.020.]

**Finding—Severability—1999 c 172:** See notes following RCW 70.28.010.

**70.28.031 Powers and duties of health officers.** Each health officer is hereby directed to use every available means to ascertain the existence of, and immediately to investigate, all reported or suspected cases of tuberculosis in the infectious stages within his or her jurisdiction and to ascertain the sources of such infections. In carrying out such investigations, each health officer is hereby invested with full powers of inspection, examination, treatment, and quarantine or isolation of all persons known to be infected with tuberculosis in an infectious stage or persons who have been previously diagnosed as having tuberculosis and who are under medical orders for treatment or periodic follow-up examinations and is hereby directed:

(a) To make such examinations as are deemed necessary of persons reasonably suspected of having tuberculosis in an infectious stage and to isolate and treat or isolate, treat, and quarantine such persons, whenever deemed necessary for the protection of the public health.

(b) To make such examinations as deemed necessary of persons who have been previously diagnosed as having tuberculosis and who are under medical orders for periodic follow-up examinations.

(c) Follow local rules and regulations regarding examinations, treatment, quarantine, or isolation, and all rules, regulations, and orders of the state board and of the department in carrying out such examination, treatment, quarantine, or isolation.

(d) Whenever the health officer shall determine on reasonable grounds that an examination or treatment of any person is necessary for the preservation and protection of the public health, he or she shall make an examination order in writing, setting forth the name of the person to be examined, the time and place of the examination, the treatment, and such other terms and conditions as may be necessary to protect the public health. Nothing contained in this subdivision shall be construed to prevent any person whom the health officer determines should have an examination or treatment for infectious tuberculosis from having such an examination or treatment made by a physician of his or her own choice who is licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery under chapter 18.57 RCW or medicine and surgery under chapter 18.71 RCW under such terms and conditions as the health officer shall determine on reasonable grounds to be necessary to protect the public health.

(e) Whenever the health officer shall determine that quarantine, treatment, or isolation in a particular case is necessary for the preservation and protection of the public health, he or she shall make an order to that effect in writing, setting forth the name of the person, the period of time during which the order shall remain effective, the place of treatment, isolation, or quarantine, and such other terms and conditions as may be necessary to protect the public health.

(f) Upon the making of an examination, treatment, isolation, or quarantine order as provided in this section, a copy of such order shall be served upon the person named in such order.

(g) Upon the receipt of information that any examination, treatment, quarantine, or isolation order, made and served as herein provided, has been violated, the health officer shall advise the prosecuting attorney of the county in which such violation has occurred, in writing, and shall submit to such prosecuting attorney the information in his or her possession relating to the subject matter of such examination, treatment, isolation, or quarantine order, and of such violation or violations thereof.

(h) Any and all orders authorized under this section shall be made by the health officer or his or her tuberculosis control officer.

(i) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to abridge the right of any person to rely exclusively on spiritual means alone through prayer to treat tuberculosis in accordance with the tenets and practice of any well-recognized church or religious denomination, nor shall anything in this chapter be deemed to prohibit a person who is inflicted with tuberculosis from being isolated or quarantined in a private place of his own choice, provided, it is approved by the local health officer, and all laws, rules and regulations governing control, sanitation, isolation, and quarantine are complied with. [1996 c 209 § 2; 1996 c 178 § 21; 1967 c 54 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1996 c 178 § 21 and by 1996 c 209 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.28.032 Due process standards for testing, treating, detaining—Reporting requirements—Training and scope for skin test administration.** (1) The state board of health shall adopt rules establishing the requirements for:

(a) Reporting confirmed or suspected cases of tuberculosis by health care providers and reporting of laboratory results consistent with tuberculosis by medical test sites;

(b) Due process standards for health officers exercising their authority to involuntarily detain, test, treat, or isolate persons with suspected or confirmed tuberculosis under RCW 70.28.031 and 70.05.070 that provide for release from any involuntary detention, testing, treatment, or isolation as soon as the health officer determines the patient no longer represents a risk to the public's health;

(c) Training of persons to perform tuberculosis skin testing and to administer tuberculosis medications.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, persons trained under subsection (1)(c) of this section may perform skin testing and administer medications if doing so as part of

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a program established by a state or local health officer to control tuberculosis. [1996 c 209 § 3; 1994 c 145 § 2.]

**70.28.033 Treatment, isolation, or examination order of health officer—Violation—Penalty.** Inasmuch as the order provided for by RCW 70.28.031 is for the protection of the public health, any person who, after service upon him or her of an order of a health officer directing his or her treatment, isolation, or examination as provided for in RCW 70.28.031, violates or fails to comply with the same or any provision thereof, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any and all other penalties which may be imposed by law upon such conviction, may be ordered by the court confined until such order of such health officer shall have been fully complied with or terminated by such health officer, but not exceeding six months from the date of passing judgment upon such conviction: PROVIDED, That the court, upon suitable assurances that such order of such health officer will be complied with, may place any person convicted of a violation of such order of such health officer upon probation for a period not to exceed two years, upon condition that the said order of said health officer be fully complied with: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That upon any subsequent violation of such order of such health officer, such probation shall be terminated and confinement as herein provided ordered by the court. [1996 c 209 § 4; 1967 c 54 § 5.]

**70.28.035 Order of health officer—Refusal to obey—Application for superior court order.** In addition to the proceedings set forth in RCW 70.28.031, where a local health officer has reasonable cause to believe that an individual has tuberculosis as defined in the rules and regulations of the state board of health, and the individual refuses to obey the order of the local health officer to appear for an initial examination or a follow-up examination or an order for treatment, isolation, or quarantine, the health officer may apply to the superior court for an order requiring the individual to comply with the order of the local health officer. [1996 c 209 § 5; 1967 c 54 § 6.]

**70.28.037 Superior court order for confinement of individuals having active tuberculosis.** Where it has been determined after an examination as prescribed in this chapter that an individual has active tuberculosis, upon application to the superior court by the local health officer, the superior court shall order the sheriff to transport the individual to a designated facility for isolation, treatment, and care until such time as the local health officer or designee determines that the patient's condition is such that it is safe for the patient to be discharged from the facility. [1999 c 172 § 4; 1967 c 54 § 7.]

**Finding—Severability—1999 c 172:** See notes following RCW 70.28.010.

## Chapter 70.30 RCW TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITALS, FACILITIES, AND FUNDING

Sections

70.30.015 Definitions.

- 70.30.045 Expenditures for tuberculosis control directed—Standards—Payment for treatment.  
 70.30.055 County budget for tuberculosis facilities.  
 70.30.061 Admissions to facility.  
 70.30.081 Annual inspections.

**Reviser's note:** Powers and duties of the department of social and health services and the secretary of social and health services transferred to the department of health and the secretary of health. See RCW 43.70.060.

*County hospitals:* Chapter 36.62 RCW.

*Hospital's lien:* Chapter 60.44 RCW.

*Labor regulations, collective bargaining—Health care activities:* Chapter 49.66 RCW.

**70.30.015 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Department" means the department of health.
- (2) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health or his or her designee.
- (3) "Tuberculosis control" refers to the procedures administered in the counties for the control, prevention, and treatment of tuberculosis. [1999 c 172 § 10.]

**Finding—Severability—1999 c 172:** See notes following RCW 70.28.010.

**70.30.045 Expenditures for tuberculosis control directed—Standards—Payment for treatment.** Tuberculosis is a communicable disease and tuberculosis prevention, treatment, control, and follow up of known cases of tuberculosis are the basic steps in the control of this major health problem. In order to carry on such work effectively in accordance with the standards set by the secretary under RCW 70.28.025, the legislative authority of each county shall budget a sum to be used for the control of tuberculosis, including case finding, prevention, treatment, and follow up of known cases of tuberculosis. Under no circumstances should this section be construed to mean that the legislative authority of each county shall budget sums to provide tuberculosis treatment when the patient has the ability to pay for the treatment. Each patient's ability to pay for the treatment shall be assessed by the local health department. [1999 c 172 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 79; 1971 ex.s. c 277 § 21; 1970 ex.s. c 47 § 7; 1967 ex.s. c 110 § 11; 1959 c 117 § 1; 1945 c 66 § 1; 1943 c 162 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6113-1. Formerly RCW 70.32.010.]

**Finding—Severability—1999 c 172:** See notes following RCW 70.28.010.

*County budget for tuberculosis facilities:* RCW 70.30.055.

*County treasurer:* Chapter 36.29 RCW.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.30.055 County budget for tuberculosis facilities.** In order to maintain adequate facilities and services for the residents of the state of Washington who are or may be suffering from tuberculosis and to assure their proper care, the legislative authority of each county shall budget annually a sum to provide such services in the county.

The funds may be retained by the county for operating its own services for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. None of the counties shall be required to make any payments to the state or any other agency from these funds except as authorized by the local health department. However, if the counties do not comply with the adopted standards of the

department, the secretary shall take action to provide the required services and to charge the affected county directly for the provision of these services by the state. [1999 c 172 § 9; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 4. Prior: 1973 1st ex.s. c 213 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 81; 1971 ex.s. c 277 § 18. Formerly RCW 70.33.040.]

**Finding—Severability—1999 c 172:** See notes following RCW 70.28.010.

*Expenditures for tuberculosis control directed—Standards—Payment for treatment:* RCW 70.30.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.30.061 Admissions to facility.** Any person residing in the state and needing treatment for tuberculosis may apply in person to the local health officer or to any licensed physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or licensed physician assistant for examination and if that health care provider has reasonable cause to believe that the person is suffering from tuberculosis in any form he or she may apply to the local health officer or designee for admission of the person to an appropriate facility for the care and treatment of tuberculosis. [1999 c 172 § 5; 1973 1st ex.s. c 213 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 143 § 2.]

**Finding—Severability—1999 c 172:** See notes following RCW 70.28.010.

**70.30.081 Annual inspections.** All hospitals established or maintained for the treatment of persons suffering from tuberculosis shall be subject to annual inspection, or more frequently if required by federal law, by agents of the department of health, and the medical director shall admit such agents into every part of the facility and its buildings, and give them access on demand to all records, reports, books, papers, and accounts pertaining to the facility. [1991 c 3 § 329; 1972 ex.s. c 143 § 4.]

## Chapter 70.37 RCW HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

### Sections

- 70.37.010 Declaration of public policies—Purpose.  
 70.37.020 Definitions.  
 70.37.030 Washington health care facilities authority established—Members—Chair—Terms—Quorum—Vacancies—Compensation and travel expenses.  
 70.37.040 Washington health care facilities authority—Powers—Special fund bonds—Revenue bonds.  
 70.37.050 Requests for financing—Financing plan—Bond issue, special fund authorized.  
 70.37.060 Bond issues—Terms—Payment—Legal investment, etc.  
 70.37.070 Bond issues—Special trust fund—Payments—Status—Administration of fund.  
 70.37.080 Bond issues—Disposition of proceeds—Special fund.  
 70.37.090 Payment of authority for expenses incurred in investigating and financing projects.  
 70.37.100 Powers of authority.  
 70.37.110 Advancements and contributions by political subdivisions.

**70.37.010 Declaration of public policies—Purpose.** The good health of the people of our state is a most important public concern. The state has a direct interest in seeing to it that health care facilities adequate for good public health are established and maintained in sufficient numbers and in proper locations. The rising costs of care of the infirm constitute a grave challenge not only to health care providers but to

our state and the people of our state who will seek such care. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of the state of Washington to assist and encourage the building, providing and utilization of modern, well equipped and reasonably priced health care facilities, and the improvement, expansion and modernization of health care facilities in a manner that will minimize the capital costs of construction, financing and use thereof and thereby the costs to the public of the use of such facilities, and to contribute to improving the quality of health care available to our citizens. In order to accomplish these and related purposes this chapter is adopted and shall be liberally construed to carry out its purposes and objects. [1974 ex.s. c 147 § 1.]

**70.37.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following words and terms have the following meanings, unless the context indicates or requires another or different meaning or intent and the singular of any term shall encompass the plural and the plural the singular unless the context indicates otherwise:

(1) "Authority" means the Washington health care facilities authority created by RCW 70.37.030 or any board, body, commission, department or officer succeeding to the principal functions thereof or to whom the powers conferred upon the authority shall be given by law.

(2) "Bonds" mean bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the authority issued pursuant hereto.

(3) "Health care facility" means any land, structure, system, machinery, equipment or other real or personal property or appurtenances useful for or associated with delivery of inpatient or outpatient health care service or support for such care or any combination thereof which is operated or undertaken in connection with hospital, clinic, health maintenance organization, diagnostic or treatment center, extended care facility, or any facility providing or designed to provide therapeutic, convalescent or preventive health care services, and shall include research and support facilities of a comprehensive cancer center, but excluding, however, any facility which is maintained by a participant primarily for rental or lease to self-employed health care professionals or as an independent nursing home or other facility primarily offering domiciliary care.

(4) "Participant" means any city, county or other municipal corporation or agency or political subdivision of the state or any corporation, hospital, comprehensive cancer center, or health maintenance organization authorized by law to operate nonprofit health care facilities, or any affiliate, as defined by regulations promulgated by the director of the department of financial institutions pursuant to RCW 21.20.450, which is a nonprofit corporation acting for the benefit of any entity described in this subsection.

(5) "Project" means a specific health care facility or any combination of health care facilities, constructed, purchased, acquired, leased, used, owned or operated by a participant, and alterations, additions to, renovations, enlargements, betterments and reconstructions thereof. [1994 c 92 § 505; 1989 c 65 § 1; 1983 c 210 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 147 § 2.]

**70.37.030 Washington health care facilities authority established—Members—Chair—Terms—Quorum—Vacancies—Compensation and travel expenses.** There is

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hereby established a public body corporate and politic, with perpetual corporate succession, to be known as the Washington health care facilities authority. The authority shall constitute a political subdivision of the state established as an instrumentality exercising essential governmental functions. The authority is a "public body" within the meaning of RCW 39.53.010. The authority shall consist of the governor who shall serve as chair, the lieutenant governor, the insurance commissioner, the secretary of health, and one member of the public who shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate, on the basis of the member's interest or expertise in health care delivery, for a term expiring on the fourth anniversary of the date of appointment. In the event that any of the offices referred to shall be abolished, the resulting vacancy on the authority shall be filled by the officer who shall succeed substantially to the powers and duties thereof. The members of the authority shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.240 and shall be entitled to reimbursement, solely from the funds of the authority, for travel expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties under this chapter, subject to the provisions of RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. A majority shall constitute a quorum.

The governor and the insurance commissioner each may designate an employee of his or her office to act on his or her behalf during the absence of the governor or the insurance commissioner at one or more of the meetings of the authority. The vote of the designee shall have the same effect as if cast by the governor or the insurance commissioner if the designation is in writing and is presented to the person presiding at the meetings included within the designation.

The governor may designate a member to preside during the governor's absence. [2012 c 117 § 373; 2002 c 91 § 1; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 261; 1984 c 287 § 103; 1983 c 210 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 157; 1974 ex.s. c 147 § 3.]

**Legislative findings—Severability—Effective date—1984 c 287:** See notes following RCW 43.03.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.37.040 Washington health care facilities authority—Powers—Special fund bonds—Revenue bonds.** (1) The authority is hereby empowered to issue bonds for the construction, purchase, acquisition, rental, leasing or use by participants of projects for which bonds to provide funds therefor have been approved by the authority. Such bonds shall be issued in the name of the authority. They shall not be obligations of the state of Washington or general obligations of the authority but shall be payable only from the special funds created by the authority for their payment. They shall contain a recital on their face that their payment and the payment of interest thereon shall be a valid claim only as against the special fund relating thereto derived by the authority in whole or in part from the revenues received by the authority from the operation by the participant of the health care facilities for which the bonds are issued but that they shall constitute a prior charge over all other charges or claims whatever against such special fund. The lien of any such pledge on such revenues shall attach thereto immediately on their receipt by the authority and shall be valid and binding as against parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract or otherwise against the participant, without recordation thereof

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and whether or not they have notice thereof. For inclusion in such special funds and for other uses in or for such projects of participants the authority is empowered to accept and receive funds, grants, gifts, pledges, guarantees, mortgages, trust deeds and other security instruments, and property from the federal government or the state of Washington or other public body, entity or agency and from any public or private institution, association, corporation or organization, including participants, except that it shall not accept or receive from the state or any taxing agency any money derived from taxes save money to be devoted to the purposes of a project of the state or taxing agency.

(2) For the purposes outlined in subsection (1) of this section the authority is empowered to provide for the issuance of its special fund bonds and other limited obligation security instruments subordinate to the first and prior lien bonds, if any, relating to a project or projects of a participant and to create special funds relating thereto against which such subordinate securities shall be liens, but the authority shall not have power to incur general obligations with respect thereto.

(3) The authority may also issue special fund bonds to redeem or to fund or refund outstanding bonds or any part thereof at maturity, or before maturity if subject to prior redemption, with the right in the authority to include various series and issues of such outstanding special fund bonds in a single issue of funding or refunding special fund bonds and to pay any redemption premiums out of the proceeds thereto. Such funding or refunding bonds shall be limited special fund bonds issued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, including this section and shall not be general obligations of the authority.

(4) Such special fund bonds of either first lien or subordinate lien nature may also be issued by the authority, the proceeds of which may be used to refund already existing mortgages or other obligations on health care facilities already constructed and operating incurred by a participant in the construction, purchase or acquisition thereof.

(5) The authority may also lease to participants, lease to them with option to purchase, or sell to them, facilities which it has acquired by construction, purchase, devise, gift, or leasing: PROVIDED, That the terms thereof shall at least fully reimburse the authority for its costs with respect to such facilities, including costs of financing, and provide fully for the debt service on any bonds issued by the authority to finance acquisition by it of the facilities. To pay the cost of acquiring or improving such facilities or to refund any bonds issued for such purpose, the authority may issue its revenue bonds secured solely by revenues derived from the sale or lease of the facility, but which may additionally be secured by mortgage, lease, pledge or assignment, trust agreement or other security device. Such bonds and such security devices shall not be obligations of the state of Washington or general obligations of the authority but shall be payable only from the special funds created by the authority for their payment. Such health care facilities may be acquired, constructed, reconstructed, and improved and may be leased, sold or otherwise disposed of in the manner determined by the authority in its sole discretion and any requirement of competitive bidding, lease performance bonds or other restriction imposed on the procedure for award of contracts for such purpose or the

lease, sale or other disposition of property of the state, or any agency thereof, is not applicable to any action so taken by the authority. [1974 ex.s. c 147 § 4.]

**70.37.050 Requests for financing—Financing plan—Bond issue, special fund authorized.** The authority shall establish rules concerning its exercise of the powers authorized by this chapter. The authority shall receive from applicants requests for the providing of bonds for financing of health care facilities and shall investigate and determine the need and the feasibility of providing such bonds. Whenever the authority deems it necessary or advisable for the benefit of the public health to provide financing for a health care facility, it shall adopt a financing plan therefor and shall declare the estimated cost thereof, as near as may be, including as part of such cost funds necessary for the expenses incurred in the financing as well as in the construction or purchase or other acquisition or in connection with the rental or other payment for the use thereof, interest during construction, reserve funds and any funds necessary for initial start-up costs, and shall issue and sell its bonds for the purposes of carrying out the proposed financing plan: PROVIDED, That if a certificate of need is required for the proposed project, no such financing plan shall be adopted until such certificate has been issued pursuant to chapter 70.38 RCW by the secretary of the department of social and health services. The authority shall have power as a part of such plan to create a special fund or funds for the purpose of defraying the cost of such project and for other projects of the same participant subsequently or at the same time approved by it and for their maintenance, improvement, reconstruction, remodeling, and rehabilitation, into which special fund or funds it shall obligate and bind the participant to set aside and pay from the gross revenues of the project or from other sources an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest of the bonds being issued, reserves and other requirements of the special fund and to issue and sell bonds payable as to both principal and interest out of such fund or funds relating to the project or projects of such participant.

Such bonds shall bear such date or dates, mature at such time or times, be in such denominations, be in such form, either coupon or registered, or both, as provided in RCW 39.46.030, carry such registration privileges, be made transferable, exchangeable, and interchangeable, be payable in such medium of payment, at such place or places, be subject to such terms of redemption, bear such fixed or variable rate or rates of interest, and be sold in such manner, at such price, as the authority shall determine. Such bonds shall be executed by the chair, by either its duly elected secretary or its executive director, and by the trustee if the authority determines to utilize a trustee for the bonds. Execution of the bonds may be by manual or facsimile signature: PROVIDED, That at least one signature placed thereon shall be manually subscribed. Any interest coupons appurtenant to the bonds shall be executed by facsimile or manual signature or signatures, as the authority shall determine. [2012 c 117 § 374. Prior: 1983 c 210 § 2; 1983 c 167 § 171; 1981 c 121 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 147 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.37.060 Bond issues—Terms—Payment—Legal investment, etc.** The bonds of the authority shall be subject to such terms, conditions and covenants and protective provisions as shall be found necessary or desirable by the authority, which may include but shall not be limited to provisions for the establishment and maintenance by the participant of rates for health services of the project, fees and other charges of every kind and nature sufficient in amount and adequate, over and above costs of operation and maintenance and all other costs other than costs and expenses of capital, associated with the project, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds payable out of the special fund or funds of the project, to set aside and maintain reserves as determined by the authority to secure the payment of such principal and interest, to set aside and maintain reserves for repairs and replacement, to maintain coverage which may be agreed upon over and above the requirements of payment of principal and interest, and for other needs found by the authority to be required for the security of the bonds. When issuing bonds the authority may provide for the future issuance of additional bonds on a parity with outstanding bonds, and the terms and conditions of their issuance.

All bonds issued under the authority of this chapter shall constitute legal investments for trustees and other fiduciaries and for savings and loan associations, banks, and insurance companies doing business in this state. All such bonds and all coupons appertaining thereto shall be negotiable instruments within the meaning of and for all purposes of the negotiable instruments law of this state. [1974 ex.s. c 147 § 6.]

**70.37.070 Bond issues—Special trust fund—Payments—Status—Administration of fund.** All revenues received by the authority from a participant derived from a particular project of such participant to be applied on principal and interest of bonds or for other bond requirements such as reserves and all other funds for the bond requirements of a particular project received from contributions or grants or in any other form shall be deposited by the authority in qualified public depositaries to the credit of a special trust fund to be designated as the authority special bond fund for the particular project or projects producing such revenue or to which the contribution or grant relates. Such fund shall not be or constitute funds of the state of Washington but at all times shall be kept segregated and set apart from other funds. From such funds, the authority shall make payment of principal and interest of the bonds of the particular project or projects; and the authority may set up subaccounts in the bond fund for reserve accounts for payment of principal and interest, for repairs and replacement and for other special requirements of the bonds of the project or projects as determined by the authority. In lieu of itself receiving and handling these moneys as here outlined the authority may appoint trustees, depositaries and paying agents to perform the functions outlined and to receive, hold, disburse, invest and reinvest such funds on its behalf and for the protection of the bondholders. [1974 ex.s. c 147 § 7.]

**70.37.080 Bond issues—Disposition of proceeds—Special fund.** Proceeds from the sale of all bonds of a project issued under the provisions of this chapter received by the authority shall be deposited forthwith by the authority in

qualified public depositaries in a special fund for the particular project for which the bonds were issued and sold, which money shall not be funds of the state of Washington. Such fund shall at all times be segregated and set apart from all other funds and in trust for the purposes of purchase, construction, acquisition, leasing, or use of a project or projects, and for other special needs of the project declared by the authority, including the manner of disposition of any money not finally needed in the construction, purchase, or other acquisition. Money other than bond sale proceeds received by the authority for these same purposes, such as contributions from a participant or a grant from the federal government may be deposited in the same project fund. Proceeds received from the sale of the bonds may also be used to defray the expenses of the authority in connection with and incidental to the issuance and sale of bonds for the project, as well as expenses for studies, surveys, estimates, inspections and examinations of or relating to the particular project, and other costs advanced therefor by the participant or by the authority. In lieu of itself receiving and handling these moneys in the manner here outlined the authority may appoint trustees, depositaries and paying agents to perform the functions outlined and to receive, hold, disburse, invest and reinvest such funds on its behalf and for the protection of the participants and of bondholders. [1974 ex.s. c 147 § 8.]

**70.37.090 Payment of authority for expenses incurred in investigating and financing projects.** The authority shall have power to require persons applying for its assistance in connection with the investigation and financing of projects to pay fees and charges to provide the authority with funds for investigation, financial feasibility studies, expenses of issuance and sale of bonds and other charges for services provided by the authority in connection with such projects. All other expenses of the authority including compensation of its employees and consultants, expenses of administration and conduct of its work and business and other expenses shall be paid out of such fees and charges, out of contributions and grants to it, out of the proceeds of bonds issued for projects of participants or out of revenues of such projects; none by the state of Washington. The authority shall have power to establish special funds into which such money shall be received and out of which it may be disbursed by the persons and with the procedure and in the manner established by the authority. [1974 ex.s. c 147 § 9.]

**70.37.100 Powers of authority.** The authority may make contracts, employ or engage engineers, architects, attorneys, an executive director, and other technical or professional assistants, and such other personnel as are necessary. It may delegate to the executive director or other appropriate persons the power to execute legal instruments on its behalf. It may enter into contracts with the United States, accept gifts for its purposes, and exercise any other power reasonably required to implement the principal powers granted in this chapter. No provision of this chapter shall be construed so as to limit the power of the authority to provide bond financing to more than one participant and/or project by means of a single issue of revenue bonds utilizing a single bond fund and/or a single special fund into which proceeds of such bonds are deposited. The authority shall have no power

to levy any taxes of any kind or nature and no power to incur obligations on behalf of the state of Washington. [1982 c 10 § 14. Prior: 1981 c 121 § 2; 1981 c 31 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 147 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.37.110 Advancements and contributions by political subdivisions.** Any city, county or other political subdivision of this state and any public health care facility is hereby authorized to advance or contribute to the authority real property, money, and other personal property of any kind towards the expense of preliminary surveys and studies and other preliminary expenses of projects which they are by other statutes of this state authorized to own or operate which are a part of a plan or system which has been submitted by them and is under consideration by the authority for assistance under the provisions of this chapter. [1974 ex.s. c 147 § 11.]

## Chapter 70.38 RCW

### HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

#### Sections

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**70.38.015 Declaration of public policy.** It is declared to be the public policy of this state:

(1) That strategic health planning efforts must be supported by appropriately tailored regulatory activities that can effectuate the goals and principles of the statewide health resources strategy developed pursuant to chapter 43.370 RCW. The implementation of the strategy can promote,

maintain, and assure the health of all citizens in the state, provide accessible health services, health manpower, health facilities, and other resources while controlling increases in costs, and recognize prevention as a high priority in health programs. Involvement in health planning from both consumers and providers throughout the state should be encouraged;

(2) That the certificate of need program is a component of a health planning regulatory process that is consistent with the statewide health resources strategy and public policy goals that are clearly articulated and regularly updated;

(3) That the development and maintenance of adequate health care information, statistics and projections of need for health facilities and services is essential to effective health planning and resources development;

(4) That the development of nonregulatory approaches to health care cost containment should be considered, including the strengthening of price competition; and

(5) That health planning should be concerned with public health and health care financing, access, and quality, recognizing their close interrelationship and emphasizing cost control of health services, including cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis. [2007 c 259 § 55; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 601; 1983 c 235 § 1; 1980 c 139 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 161 § 1.]

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

**70.38.018 Statewide health resources strategy—Consistency—Waivers.** (1) For the purposes of this section and RCW 70.38.015 and 70.38.135, "statewide health resource strategy" or "strategy" means the statewide health resource strategy developed by the office of financial management pursuant to chapter 43.370 RCW.

(2) Effective January 1, 2010, for those facilities and services covered by the certificate of need programs, certificate of need determinations must be consistent with the statewide health resources strategy developed pursuant to RCW 43.370.030, including any health planning policies and goals identified in the statewide health resources strategy in effect at the time of application. The department may waive specific terms of the strategy if the applicant demonstrates that consistency with those terms will create an undue burden on the population that a particular project would serve, or in emergency circumstances which pose a threat to public health. [2007 c 259 § 56.]

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

**70.38.025 Definitions.** When used in this chapter, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings indicated.

(1) "Board of health" means the state board of health created pursuant to chapter 43.20 RCW.

(2) "Capital expenditure" is an expenditure, including a force account expenditure (i.e., an expenditure for a construction project undertaken by a nursing home facility as its own contractor) which, under generally accepted accounting principles, is not properly chargeable as an expense of operation or maintenance. Where a person makes an acquisition under lease or comparable arrangement, or through donation, which would have required review if the acquisition had been made

by purchase, such expenditure shall be deemed a capital expenditure. Capital expenditures include donations of equipment or facilities to a nursing home facility which if acquired directly by such facility would be subject to certificate of need review under the provisions of this chapter and transfer of equipment or facilities for less than fair market value if a transfer of the equipment or facilities at fair market value would be subject to such review. The cost of any studies, surveys, designs, plans, working drawings, specifications, and other activities essential to the acquisition, improvement, expansion, or replacement of any plant or equipment with respect to which such expenditure is made shall be included in determining the amount of the expenditure.

(3) "Continuing care retirement community" means an entity which provides shelter and services under continuing care contracts with its members and which sponsors or includes a health care facility or a health service. A "continuing care contract" means a contract to provide a person, for the duration of that person's life or for a term in excess of one year, shelter along with nursing, medical, health-related, or personal care services, which is conditioned upon the transfer of property, the payment of an entrance fee to the provider of such services, or the payment of periodic charges for the care and services involved. A continuing care contract is not excluded from this definition because the contract is mutually terminable or because shelter and services are not provided at the same location.

(4) "Department" means the department of health.

(5) "Expenditure minimum" means, for the purposes of the certificate of need program, one million dollars adjusted by the department by rule to reflect changes in the United States department of commerce composite construction cost index; or a lesser amount required by federal law and established by the department by rule.

(6) "Health care facility" means hospices, hospice care centers, hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, kidney disease treatment centers, ambulatory surgical facilities, and home health agencies, and includes such facilities when owned and operated by a political subdivision or instrumentality of the state and such other facilities as required by federal law and implementing regulations, but does not include any health facility or institution conducted by and for those who rely exclusively upon treatment by prayer or spiritual means in accordance with the creed or tenets of any well-recognized church or religious denomination, or any health facility or institution operated for the exclusive care of members of a convent as defined in RCW 84.36.800 or rectory, monastery, or other institution operated for the care of members of the clergy. In addition, the term does not include any nonprofit hospital: (a) Which is operated exclusively to provide health care services for children; (b) which does not charge fees for such services; and (c) if not contrary to federal law as necessary to the receipt of federal funds by the state.

(7) "Health maintenance organization" means a public or private organization, organized under the laws of the state, which:

(a) Is a qualified health maintenance organization under Title XIII, section 1310(d) of the Public Health Services [Service] Act; or

(2016 Ed.)

(b)(i) Provides or otherwise makes available to enrolled participants health care services, including at least the following basic health care services: Usual physician services, hospitalization, laboratory, X-ray, emergency, and preventive services, and out-of-area coverage; (ii) is compensated (except for copayments) for the provision of the basic health care services listed in (b)(i) to enrolled participants by a payment which is paid on a periodic basis without regard to the date the health care services are provided and which is fixed without regard to the frequency, extent, or kind of health service actually provided; and (iii) provides physicians' services primarily (A) directly through physicians who are either employees or partners of such organization, or (B) through arrangements with individual physicians or one or more groups of physicians (organized on a group practice or individual practice basis).

(8) "Health services" means clinically related (i.e., preventive, diagnostic, curative, rehabilitative, or palliative) services and includes alcoholism, drug abuse, and mental health services and as defined in federal law.

(9) "Health service area" means a geographic region appropriate for effective health planning which includes a broad range of health services.

(10) "Person" means an individual, a trust or estate, a partnership, a corporation (including associations, joint stock companies, and insurance companies), the state, or a political subdivision or instrumentality of the state, including a municipal corporation or a hospital district.

(11) "Provider" generally means a health care professional or an organization, institution, or other entity providing health care but the precise definition for this term shall be established by rule of the department, consistent with federal law.

(12) "Public health" means the level of well-being of the general population; those actions in a community necessary to preserve, protect, and promote the health of the people for which government is responsible; and the governmental system developed to guarantee the preservation of the health of the people.

(13) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's designee.

(14) "Tertiary health service" means a specialized service that meets complicated medical needs of people and requires sufficient patient volume to optimize provider effectiveness, quality of service, and improved outcomes of care.

(15) "Hospital" means any health care institution which is required to qualify for a license under \*RCW 70.41.020(2); or as a psychiatric hospital under chapter 71.12 RCW. [2000 c 175 § 22; 1997 c 210 § 2; 1991 c 158 § 1; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 602; 1988 c 20 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 43; 1983 c 235 § 2; 1982 c 119 § 1; 1980 c 139 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 161 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.41.020 was amended by 2002 c 116 § 2, changing subsection (2) to subsection (4). RCW 70.41.020 was subsequently alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (4) to subsection (5). RCW 70.41.020 was subsequently amended by 2016 c 226 § 1, changing subsection (5) to subsection (7).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.38.095 Public disclosure.** Public accessibility to records shall be accorded by health systems agencies pursuant to Public Law 93-641 and chapter 42.56 RCW. A health

systems agency shall be considered a "public agency" for the sole purpose of complying with the public records act, chapter 42.56 RCW. [2005 c 274 § 332; 1979 ex.s. c 161 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.38.105 Health services and facilities requiring certificate of need—Fees.** (1) The department is authorized and directed to implement the certificate of need program in this state pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(2) There shall be a state certificate of need program which is administered consistent with the requirements of federal law as necessary to the receipt of federal funds by the state.

(3) No person shall engage in any undertaking which is subject to certificate of need review under subsection (4) of this section without first having received from the department either a certificate of need or an exception granted in accordance with this chapter.

(4) The following shall be subject to certificate of need review under this chapter:

(a) The construction, development, or other establishment of a new health care facility including, but not limited to, a hospital constructed, developed, or established by a health maintenance organization or by a combination of health maintenance organizations except as provided in subsection (7)(a) of this section;

(b) The sale, purchase, or lease of part or all of any existing hospital as defined in RCW 70.38.025 including, but not limited to, a hospital sold, purchased, or leased by a health maintenance organization or by a combination of health maintenance organizations except as provided in subsection (7)(b) of this section;

(c) Any capital expenditure for the construction, renovation, or alteration of a nursing home which substantially changes the services of the facility after January 1, 1981, provided that the substantial changes in services are specified by the department in rule;

(d) Any capital expenditure for the construction, renovation, or alteration of a nursing home which exceeds the expenditure minimum as defined by RCW 70.38.025. However, a capital expenditure which is not subject to certificate of need review under (a), (b), (c), or (e) of this subsection and which is solely for any one or more of the following is not subject to certificate of need review:

(i) Communications and parking facilities;

(ii) Mechanical, electrical, ventilation, heating, and air conditioning systems;

(iii) Energy conservation systems;

(iv) Repairs to, or the correction of, deficiencies in existing physical plant facilities which are necessary to maintain state licensure, however, other additional repairs, remodeling, or replacement projects that are not related to one or more deficiency citations and are not necessary to maintain state licensure are not exempt from certificate of need review except as otherwise permitted by (d)(vi) of this subsection or RCW 70.38.115(13);

(v) Acquisition of equipment, including data processing equipment, which is not or will not be used in the direct provision of health services;

(vi) Construction or renovation at an existing nursing home which involves physical plant facilities, including

administrative, dining areas, kitchen, laundry, therapy areas, and support facilities, by an existing licensee who has operated the beds for at least one year;

(vii) Acquisition of land; and

(viii) Refinancing of existing debt;

(e) A change in bed capacity of a health care facility which increases the total number of licensed beds or redistributes beds among acute care, nursing home care, and assisted living facility care if the bed redistribution is to be effective for a period in excess of six months, or a change in bed capacity of a rural health care facility licensed under RCW 70.175.100 that increases the total number of nursing home beds or redistributes beds from acute care or assisted living facility care to nursing home care if the bed redistribution is to be effective for a period in excess of six months. A health care facility certified as a critical access hospital under 42 U.S.C. 1395i-4 may increase its total number of licensed beds to the total number of beds permitted under 42 U.S.C. 1395i-4 for acute care and may redistribute beds permitted under 42 U.S.C. 1395i-4 among acute care and nursing home care without being subject to certificate of need review. If there is a nursing home licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW within twenty-seven miles of the critical access hospital, the critical access hospital is subject to certificate of need review except for:

(i) Critical access hospitals which had designated beds to provide nursing home care, in excess of five swing beds, prior to December 31, 2003;

(ii) Up to five swing beds; or

(iii) Up to twenty-five swing beds for critical access hospitals which do not have a nursing home licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW within the same city or town limits. Up to one-half of the additional beds designated for swing bed services under this subsection (4)(e)(iii) may be so designated before July 1, 2010, with the balance designated on or after July 1, 2010.

Critical access hospital beds not subject to certificate of need review under this subsection (4)(e) will not be counted as either acute care or nursing home care for certificate of need review purposes. If a health care facility ceases to be certified as a critical access hospital under 42 U.S.C. 1395i-4, the hospital may revert back to the type and number of licensed hospital beds as it had when it requested critical access hospital designation;

(f) Any new tertiary health services which are offered in or through a health care facility or rural health care facility licensed under RCW 70.175.100, and which were not offered on a regular basis by, in, or through such health care facility or rural health care facility within the twelve-month period prior to the time such services would be offered;

(g) Any expenditure for the construction, renovation, or alteration of a nursing home or change in nursing home services in excess of the expenditure minimum made in preparation for any undertaking under this subsection (4) of this section and any arrangement or commitment made for financing such undertaking. Expenditures of preparation shall include expenditures for architectural designs, plans, working drawings, and specifications. The department may issue certificates of need permitting predevelopment expenditures, only, without authorizing any subsequent undertaking with respect to which such predevelopment expenditures are made; and

(h) Any increase in the number of dialysis stations in a kidney disease center.

(5) The department is authorized to charge fees for the review of certificate of need applications and requests for exemptions from certificate of need review. The fees shall be sufficient to cover the full cost of review and exemption, which may include the development of standards, criteria, and policies.

(6) No person may divide a project in order to avoid review requirements under any of the thresholds specified in this section.

(7)(a) The requirement that a health maintenance organization obtain a certificate of need under subsection (4)(a) of this section for the construction, development, or other establishment of a hospital does not apply to a health maintenance organization operating a group practice that has been continuously licensed as a health maintenance organization since January 1, 2009;

(b) The requirement that a health maintenance organization obtain a certificate of need under subsection (4)(b) of this section to sell, purchase, or lease a hospital does not apply to a health maintenance organization operating a group practice that has been continuously licensed as a health maintenance organization since January 1, 2009. [2012 c 10 § 47. Prior: 2009 c 315 § 1; 2009 c 242 § 3; 2009 c 54 § 1; 2004 c 261 § 6; 1996 c 50 § 1; 1992 c 27 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 8 § 4; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 603; 1984 c 288 § 21; 1983 c 235 § 7; 1982 c 119 § 2; 1980 c 139 § 7; 1979 ex.s. c 161 § 10.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.38.111 Certificates of need—Exemptions.** (1) The department shall not require a certificate of need for the offering of an inpatient tertiary health service by:

(a) A health maintenance organization or a combination of health maintenance organizations if (i) the organization or combination of organizations has, in the service area of the organization or the service areas of the organizations in the combination, an enrollment of at least fifty thousand individuals, (ii) the facility in which the service will be provided is or will be geographically located so that the service will be reasonably accessible to such enrolled individuals, and (iii) at least seventy-five percent of the patients who can reasonably be expected to receive the tertiary health service will be individuals enrolled with such organization or organizations in the combination;

(b) A health care facility if (i) the facility primarily provides or will provide inpatient health services, (ii) the facility is or will be controlled, directly or indirectly, by a health maintenance organization or a combination of health maintenance organizations which has, in the service area of the organization or service areas of the organizations in the combination, an enrollment of at least fifty thousand individuals, (iii) the facility is or will be geographically located so that the service will be reasonably accessible to such enrolled individuals, and (iv) at least seventy-five percent of the patients who can reasonably be expected to receive the tertiary health service will be individuals enrolled with such organization or organizations in the combination; or

(c) A health care facility (or portion thereof) if (i) the facility is or will be leased by a health maintenance organiza-

tion or combination of health maintenance organizations which has, in the service area of the organization or the service areas of the organizations in the combination, an enrollment of at least fifty thousand individuals and, on the date the application is submitted under subsection (2) of this section, at least fifteen years remain in the term of the lease, (ii) the facility is or will be geographically located so that the service will be reasonably accessible to such enrolled individuals, and (iii) at least seventy-five percent of the patients who can reasonably be expected to receive the tertiary health service will be individuals enrolled with such organization;

if, with respect to such offering or obligation by a nursing home, the department has, upon application under subsection (2) of this section, granted an exemption from such requirement to the organization, combination of organizations, or facility.

(2) A health maintenance organization, combination of health maintenance organizations, or health care facility shall not be exempt under subsection (1) of this section from obtaining a certificate of need before offering a tertiary health service unless:

(a) It has submitted at least thirty days prior to the offering of services reviewable under RCW 70.38.105(4)(d) an application for such exemption; and

(b) The application contains such information respecting the organization, combination, or facility and the proposed offering or obligation by a nursing home as the department may require to determine if the organization or combination meets the requirements of subsection (1) of this section or the facility meets or will meet such requirements; and

(c) The department approves such application. The department shall approve or disapprove an application for exemption within thirty days of receipt of a completed application. In the case of a proposed health care facility (or portion thereof) which has not begun to provide tertiary health services on the date an application is submitted under this subsection with respect to such facility (or portion), the facility (or portion) shall meet the applicable requirements of subsection (1) of this section when the facility first provides such services. The department shall approve an application submitted under this subsection if it determines that the applicable requirements of subsection (1) of this section are met.

(3) A health care facility (or any part thereof) with respect to which an exemption was granted under subsection (1) of this section may not be sold or leased and a controlling interest in such facility or in a lease of such facility may not be acquired and a health care facility described in (1)(c) which was granted an exemption under subsection (1) of this section may not be used by any person other than the lessee described in (1)(c) unless:

(a) The department issues a certificate of need approving the sale, lease, acquisition, or use; or

(b) The department determines, upon application, that (i) the entity to which the facility is proposed to be sold or leased, which intends to acquire the controlling interest, or which intends to use the facility is a health maintenance organization or a combination of health maintenance organizations which meets the requirements of (1)(a)(i), and (ii) with respect to such facility, meets the requirements of (1)(a)(ii) or (iii) or the requirements of (1)(b)(i) and (ii).

(4) In the case of a health maintenance organization, an ambulatory care facility, or a health care facility, which ambulatory or health care facility is controlled, directly or indirectly, by a health maintenance organization or a combination of health maintenance organizations, the department may under the program apply its certificate of need requirements to the offering of inpatient tertiary health services to the extent that such offering is not exempt under the provisions of this section or RCW 70.38.105(7).

(5)(a) The department shall not require a certificate of need for the construction, development, or other establishment of a nursing home, or the addition of beds to an existing nursing home, that is owned and operated by a continuing care retirement community that:

- (i) Offers services only to contractual members;
- (ii) Provides its members a contractually guaranteed range of services from independent living through skilled nursing, including some assistance with daily living activities;
- (iii) Contractually assumes responsibility for the cost of services exceeding the member's financial responsibility under the contract, so that no third party, with the exception of insurance purchased by the retirement community or its members, but including the medicaid program, is liable for costs of care even if the member depletes his or her personal resources;
- (iv) Has offered continuing care contracts and operated a nursing home continuously since January 1, 1988, or has obtained a certificate of need to establish a nursing home;
- (v) Maintains a binding agreement with the state assuring that financial liability for services to members, including nursing home services, will not fall upon the state;
- (vi) Does not operate, and has not undertaken a project that would result in a number of nursing home beds in excess of one for every four living units operated by the continuing care retirement community, exclusive of nursing home beds; and
- (vii) Has obtained a professional review of pricing and long-term solvency within the prior five years which was fully disclosed to members.

(b) A continuing care retirement community shall not be exempt under this subsection from obtaining a certificate of need unless:

- (i) It has submitted an application for exemption at least thirty days prior to commencing construction of, is submitting an application for the licensure of, or is commencing operation of a nursing home, whichever comes first; and
- (ii) The application documents to the department that the continuing care retirement community qualifies for exemption.

(c) The sale, lease, acquisition, or use of part or all of a continuing care retirement community nursing home that qualifies for exemption under this subsection shall require prior certificate of need approval to qualify for licensure as a nursing home unless the department determines such sale, lease, acquisition, or use is by a continuing care retirement community that meets the conditions of (a) of this subsection.

(6) A rural hospital, as defined by the department, reducing the number of licensed beds to become a rural primary care hospital under the provisions of Part A Title XVIII of the Social Security Act Section 1820, 42 U.S.C., 1395c et seq.

may, within three years of the reduction of beds licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, increase the number of licensed beds to no more than the previously licensed number without being subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(7) A rural health care facility licensed under RCW 70.175.100 formerly licensed as a hospital under chapter 70.41 RCW may, within three years of the effective date of the rural health care facility license, apply to the department for a hospital license and not be subject to the requirements of RCW 70.38.105(4)(a) as the construction, development, or other establishment of a new hospital, provided there is no increase in the number of beds previously licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW and there is no redistribution in the number of beds used for acute care or long-term care, the rural health care facility has been in continuous operation, and the rural health care facility has not been purchased or leased.

(8) A rural hospital determined to no longer meet critical access hospital status for state law purposes as a result of participation in the Washington rural health access preservation pilot identified by the state office of rural health and formerly licensed as a hospital under chapter 70.41 RCW may apply to the department to renew its hospital license and not be subject to the requirements of RCW 70.38.105(4)(a) as the construction, development, or other establishment of a new hospital, provided there is no increase in the number of beds previously licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW. If all or part of a formerly licensed rural hospital is sold, purchased, or leased during the period the rural hospital does not meet critical access hospital status as a result of participation in the Washington rural health access preservation pilot and the new owner or lessor applies to renew the rural hospital's license, then the sale, purchase, or lease of part or all of the rural hospital is subject to the provisions of chapter 70.38 RCW.

(9)(a) A nursing home that voluntarily reduces the number of its licensed beds to provide assisted living, licensed assisted living facility care, adult day care, adult day health, respite care, hospice, outpatient therapy services, congregate meals, home health, or senior wellness clinic, or to reduce to one or two the number of beds per room or to otherwise enhance the quality of life for residents in the nursing home, may convert the original facility or portion of the facility back, and thereby increase the number of nursing home beds to no more than the previously licensed number of nursing home beds without obtaining a certificate of need under this chapter, provided the facility has been in continuous operation and has not been purchased or leased. Any conversion to the original licensed bed capacity, or to any portion thereof, shall comply with the same life and safety code requirements as existed at the time the nursing home voluntarily reduced its licensed beds; unless waivers from such requirements were issued, in which case the converted beds shall reflect the conditions or standards that then existed pursuant to the approved waivers.

(b) To convert beds back to nursing home beds under this subsection, the nursing home must:

- (i) Give notice of its intent to preserve conversion options to the department of health no later than thirty days after the effective date of the license reduction; and
- (ii) Give notice to the department of health and to the department of social and health services of the intent to convert beds back. If construction is required for the conversion

of beds back, the notice of intent to convert beds back must be given, at a minimum, one year prior to the effective date of license modification reflecting the restored beds; otherwise, the notice must be given a minimum of ninety days prior to the effective date of license modification reflecting the restored beds. Prior to any license modification to convert beds back to nursing home beds under this section, the licensee must demonstrate that the nursing home meets the certificate of need exemption requirements of this section.

The term "construction," as used in (b)(ii) of this subsection, is limited to those projects that are expected to equal or exceed the expenditure minimum amount, as determined under this chapter.

(c) Conversion of beds back under this subsection must be completed no later than four years after the effective date of the license reduction. However, for good cause shown, the four-year period for conversion may be extended by the department of health for one additional four-year period.

(d) Nursing home beds that have been voluntarily reduced under this section shall be counted as available nursing home beds for the purpose of evaluating need under RCW 70.38.115(2) (a) and (k) so long as the facility retains the ability to convert them back to nursing home use under the terms of this section.

(e) When a building owner has secured an interest in the nursing home beds, which are intended to be voluntarily reduced by the licensee under (a) of this subsection, the applicant shall provide the department with a written statement indicating the building owner's approval of the bed reduction.

(10)(a) The department shall not require a certificate of need for a hospice agency if:

(i) The hospice agency is designed to serve the unique religious or cultural needs of a religious group or an ethnic minority and commits to furnishing hospice services in a manner specifically aimed at meeting the unique religious or cultural needs of the religious group or ethnic minority;

(ii) The hospice agency is operated by an organization that:

(A) Operates a facility, or group of facilities, that offers a comprehensive continuum of long-term care services, including, at a minimum, a licensed, medicare-certified nursing home, assisted living, independent living, day health, and various community-based support services, designed to meet the unique social, cultural, and religious needs of a specific cultural and ethnic minority group;

(B) Has operated the facility or group of facilities for at least ten continuous years prior to the establishment of the hospice agency;

(iii) The hospice agency commits to coordinating with existing hospice programs in its community when appropriate;

(iv) The hospice agency has a census of no more than forty patients;

(v) The hospice agency commits to obtaining and maintaining medicare certification;

(vi) The hospice agency only serves patients located in the same county as the majority of the long-term care services offered by the organization that operates the agency; and

(vii) The hospice agency is not sold or transferred to another agency.

(b) The department shall include the patient census for an agency exempted under this subsection (10) in its calculations for future certificate of need applications.

(11) To alleviate the need to board psychiatric patients in emergency departments, for fiscal year 2015 the department shall suspend the certificate of need requirement for a hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW that changes the use of licensed beds to increase the number of beds to provide psychiatric services, including involuntary treatment services. A certificate of need exemption under this section shall be valid for two years. [2016 1st sp.s. c 31 § 4; 2014 c 225 § 106; 2012 c 10 § 48. Prior: 2009 c 315 § 2; 2009 c 89 § 1; 1997 c 210 § 1; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 71; 1993 c 508 § 5; 1992 c 27 § 2; 1991 c 158 § 2; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 604; 1982 c 119 § 3; 1980 c 139 § 9.]

**Finding—Intent—2016 1st sp.s. c 31:** See note following RCW 74.09.5225.

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.38.115 Certificates of need—Procedures—Rules—Criteria for review—Conditional certificates of need—Concurrent review—Review periods—Hearing—Adjudicative proceeding—Amended certificates of need.**

(1) Certificates of need shall be issued, denied, suspended, or revoked by the designee of the secretary in accord with the provisions of this chapter and rules of the department which establish review procedures and criteria for the certificate of need program.

(2) Criteria for the review of certificate of need applications, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section for health maintenance organizations, shall include but not be limited to consideration of the following:

(a) The need that the population served or to be served by such services has for such services;

(b) The availability of less costly or more effective alternative methods of providing such services;

(c) The financial feasibility and the probable impact of the proposal on the cost of and charges for providing health services in the community to be served;

(d) In the case of health services to be provided, (i) the availability of alternative uses of project resources for the provision of other health services, (ii) the extent to which such proposed services will be accessible to all residents of the area to be served, and (iii) the need for and the availability in the community of services and facilities for osteopathic physicians and surgeons and allopathic physicians and their patients. The department shall consider the application in terms of its impact on existing and proposed institutional training programs for doctors of osteopathic medicine and surgery and medicine at the student, internship, and residency training levels;

(e) In the case of a construction project, the costs and methods of the proposed construction, including the cost and methods of energy provision, and the probable impact of the construction project reviewed (i) on the cost of providing health services by the person proposing such construction project and (ii) on the cost and charges to the public of providing health services by other persons;

(f) The special needs and circumstances of osteopathic hospitals, nonallopathic services and children's hospitals;

(g) Improvements or innovations in the financing and delivery of health services which foster cost containment and serve to promote quality assurance and cost-effectiveness;

(h) In the case of health services proposed to be provided, the efficiency and appropriateness of the use of existing services and facilities similar to those proposed;

(i) In the case of existing services or facilities, the quality of care provided by such services or facilities in the past;

(j) In the case of hospital certificate of need applications, whether the hospital meets or exceeds the regional average level of charity care, as determined by the secretary; and

(k) In the case of nursing home applications:

(i) The availability of other nursing home beds in the planning area to be served; and

(ii) The availability of other services in the community to be served. Data used to determine the availability of other services will include but not be limited to data provided by the department of social and health services.

(3) A certificate of need application of a health maintenance organization or a health care facility which is controlled, directly or indirectly, by a health maintenance organization, shall be approved by the department if the department finds:

(a) Approval of such application is required to meet the needs of the members of the health maintenance organization and of the new members which such organization can reasonably be expected to enroll; and

(b) The health maintenance organization is unable to provide, through services or facilities which can reasonably be expected to be available to the organization, its health services in a reasonable and cost-effective manner which is consistent with the basic method of operation of the organization and which makes such services available on a long-term basis through physicians and other health professionals associated with it.

A health care facility, or any part thereof, with respect to which a certificate of need was issued under this subsection may not be sold or leased and a controlling interest in such facility or in a lease of such facility may not be acquired unless the department issues a certificate of need approving the sale, acquisition, or lease.

(4) Until the final expiration of the state health plan as provided under \*RCW 70.38.919, the decision of the department on a certificate of need application shall be consistent with the state health plan in effect, except in emergency circumstances which pose a threat to the public health. The department in making its final decision may issue a conditional certificate of need if it finds that the project is justified only under specific circumstances. The conditions shall directly relate to the project being reviewed. The conditions may be released if it can be substantiated that the conditions are no longer valid and the release of such conditions would be consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(5) Criteria adopted for review in accordance with subsection (2) of this section may vary according to the purpose for which the particular review is being conducted or the type of health service reviewed.

(6) The department shall specify information to be required for certificate of need applications. Within fifteen days of receipt of the application, the department shall request additional information considered necessary to the

application or start the review process. Applicants may decline to submit requested information through written notice to the department, in which case review starts on the date of receipt of the notice. Applications may be denied or limited because of failure to submit required and necessary information.

(7) Concurrent review is for the purpose of comparative analysis and evaluation of competing or similar projects in order to determine which of the projects may best meet identified needs. Categories of projects subject to concurrent review include at least new health care facilities, new services, and expansion of existing health care facilities. The department shall specify time periods for the submission of applications for certificates of need subject to concurrent review, which shall not exceed ninety days. Review of concurrent applications shall start fifteen days after the conclusion of the time period for submission of applications subject to concurrent review. Concurrent review periods shall be limited to one hundred fifty days, except as provided for in rules adopted by the department authorizing and limiting amendment during the course of the review, or for an unresolved pivotal issue declared by the department.

(8) Review periods for certificate of need applications other than those subject to concurrent review shall be limited to ninety days. Review periods may be extended up to thirty days if needed by a review agency, and for unresolved pivotal issues the department may extend up to an additional thirty days. A review may be extended in any case if the applicant agrees to the extension.

(9) The department or its designee, shall conduct a public hearing on a certificate of need application if requested unless the review is expedited or subject to emergency review. The department by rule shall specify the period of time within which a public hearing must be requested and requirements related to public notice of the hearing, procedures, record-keeping and related matters.

(10)(a) Any applicant denied a certificate of need or whose certificate of need has been suspended or revoked has the right to an adjudicative proceeding. The proceeding is governed by chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act.

(b) Any health care facility or health maintenance organization that: (i) Provides services similar to the services provided by the applicant and under review pursuant to this subsection; (ii) is located within the applicant's health service area; and (iii) testified or submitted evidence at a public hearing held pursuant to subsection (9) of this section, shall be provided an opportunity to present oral or written testimony and argument in a proceeding under this subsection: PROVIDED, That the health care facility or health maintenance organization had, in writing, requested to be informed of the department's decisions.

(c) If the department desires to settle with the applicant prior to the conclusion of the adjudicative proceeding, the department shall so inform the health care facility or health maintenance organization and afford them an opportunity to comment, in advance, on the proposed settlement.

(11) An amended certificate of need shall be required for the following modifications of an approved project:

(a) A new service requiring review under this chapter;

(b) An expansion of a service subject to review beyond that originally approved;

(c) An increase in bed capacity;

(d) A significant reduction in the scope of a nursing home project without a commensurate reduction in the cost of the nursing home project, or a cost increase (as represented in bids on a nursing home construction project or final cost estimates acceptable to the person to whom the certificate of need was issued) if the total of such increases exceeds twelve percent or fifty thousand dollars, whichever is greater, over the maximum capital expenditure approved. The review of reductions or cost increases shall be restricted to the continued conformance of the nursing home project with the review criteria pertaining to financial feasibility and cost containment.

(12) An application for a certificate of need for a nursing home capital expenditure which is determined by the department to be required to eliminate or prevent imminent safety hazards or correct violations of applicable licensure and accreditation standards shall be approved.

(13)(a) Replacement of existing nursing home beds in the same planning area by an existing licensee who has operated the beds for at least one year shall not require a certificate of need under this chapter. The licensee shall give written notice of its intent to replace the existing nursing home beds to the department and shall provide the department with information as may be required pursuant to rule. Replacement of the beds by a party other than the licensee is subject to certificate of need review under this chapter, except as otherwise permitted by subsection (14) of this section.

(b) When an entire nursing home ceases operation, the licensee or any other party who has secured an interest in the beds may reserve his or her interest in the beds for eight years or until a certificate of need to replace them is issued, whichever occurs first. However, the nursing home, licensee, or any other party who has secured an interest in the beds must give notice of its intent to retain the beds to the department of health no later than thirty days after the effective date of the facility's closure. Certificate of need review shall be required for any party who has reserved the nursing home beds except that the need criteria shall be deemed met when the applicant is the licensee who had operated the beds for at least one year, who has operated the beds for at least one year immediately preceding the reservation of the beds, and who is replacing the beds in the same planning area.

(14) In the event that a licensee, who has provided the department with notice of his or her intent to replace nursing home beds under subsection (13)(a) of this section, engages in unprofessional conduct or becomes unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety by reason of mental or physical condition, pursuant to chapter 18.130 RCW, or dies, the building owner shall be permitted to complete the nursing home bed replacement project, provided the building owner has secured an interest in the beds. [1996 c 178 § 22; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 72; 1993 c 508 § 6. Prior: 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 605; 1989 c 175 § 126; 1984 c 288 § 22; 1983 c 235 § 8; 1980 c 139 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 161 § 11.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.38.919 was repealed by 2007 c 259 § 67.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2016 Ed.)

**70.38.118 Certificates of need—Applications submitted by hospice agencies.** All certificate of need applications submitted by hospice agencies for the construction, development, or other establishment of a facility to be licensed as either a hospital under chapter 70.41 RCW or as a nursing home under chapter 18.51 RCW, for the purpose of operating the functional equivalent of a hospice care center shall not require a separate certificate of need for a hospice care center provided the certificate of need application was declared complete prior to July 1, 2001, the applicant has been issued a certificate of need, and has applied for and received an in-home services agency license by July 1, 2002. [2000 c 175 § 23.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.38.125 Certificates of need—Issuance—Duration—Penalties for violations.** (1) A certificate of need shall be valid for two years. One six-month extension may be made if it can be substantiated that substantial and continuing progress toward commencement of the project has been made as defined by regulations to be adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(2) A project for which a certificate of need has been issued shall be commenced during the validity period for the certificate of need.

(3) The department shall monitor the approved projects to assure conformance with certificates of need that have been issued. Rules and regulations adopted shall specify when changes in the project require reevaluation of the project. The department may require applicants to submit periodic progress reports on approved projects or other information as may be necessary to effectuate its monitoring responsibilities.

(4) The secretary, in the case of a new health facility, shall not issue any license unless and until a prior certificate of need shall have been issued by the department for the offering or development of such new health facility.

(5) Any person who engages in any undertaking which requires certificate of need review without first having received from the department either a certificate of need or an exception granted in accordance with this chapter shall be liable to the state in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars a day for each day of such unauthorized offering or development. Such amounts of money shall be recoverable in an action brought by the attorney general on behalf of the state in the superior court of any county in which the unauthorized undertaking occurred. Any amounts of money so recovered by the attorney general shall be deposited in the state general fund.

(6) The department may bring any action to enjoin a violation or the threatened violation of the provisions of this chapter or any rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, or may bring any legal proceeding authorized by law, including but not limited to the special proceedings authorized in Title 7 RCW, in the superior court in the county in which such violation occurs or is about to occur, or in the superior court of Thurston county. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 606; 1983 c 235 § 9; 1980 c 139 § 10; 1979 ex.s. c 161 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

[Title 70 RCW—page 65]

**70.38.128 Certificates of need—Elective percutaneous coronary interventions—Rules.** To promote the stability of Washington's cardiac care delivery system, by July 1, 2008, the department of health shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the issuance of a certificate of need under this chapter for the performance of elective percutaneous coronary interventions at hospitals that do not otherwise provide on-site cardiac surgery.

Prior to initiating rule making, the department shall contract for an independent evidence-based review of the circumstances under which elective percutaneous coronary interventions should be allowed in Washington at hospitals that do not otherwise provide on-site cardiac surgery. The review shall address, at a minimum, factors related to access to care, patient safety, quality outcomes, costs, and the stability of Washington's cardiac care delivery system and of existing cardiac care providers, and ensure that elective coronary intervention volumes at the University of Washington academic medical center are maintained at levels required for training of cardiologists consistent with applicable accreditation requirements. The department shall consider the results of this review, and any associated recommendations, in adopting these rules. [2007 c 440 § 1.]

**70.38.135 Services and surveys—Rules.** The secretary shall have authority to:

(1) Provide when needed temporary or intermittent services of experts or consultants or organizations thereof, by contract, when such services are to be performed on a part time or fee-for-service basis;

(2) Make or cause to be made such on-site surveys of health care or medical facilities as may be necessary for the administration of the certificate of need program;

(3) Upon review of recommendations, if any, from the board of health or the office of financial management as contained in the Washington health resources strategy:

(a) Promulgate rules under which health care facilities providers doing business within the state shall submit to the department such data related to health and health care as the department finds necessary to the performance of its functions under this chapter;

(b) Promulgate rules pertaining to the maintenance and operation of medical facilities which receive federal assistance under the provisions of Title XVI;

(c) Promulgate rules in implementation of the provisions of this chapter, including the establishment of procedures for public hearings for predecisions and post-decisions on applications for certificate of need;

(d) Promulgate rules providing circumstances and procedures of expedited certificate of need review if there has not been a significant change in existing health facilities of the same type or in the need for such health facilities and services;

(4) Grant allocated state funds to qualified entities, as defined by the department, to fund not more than seventy-five percent of the costs of regional planning activities, excluding costs related to review of applications for certificates of need, provided for in this chapter or approved by the department; and

(5) Contract with and provide reasonable reimbursement for qualified entities to assist in determinations of certificates

of need. [2007 c 259 § 57; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 607; 1983 c 235 § 10; 1979 ex.s. c 161 § 13.]

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

**70.38.155 Certificates of need—Savings—1979 ex.s. c 161.** The enactment of this chapter shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying the validity of any certificate of need which shall already have been issued prior to \*the effective date of this act. [1979 ex.s. c 161 § 15.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For "the effective date of this act," see RCW 70.38.915.

**70.38.156 Certificates of need—Savings—1980 c 139.** The enactment of this chapter as amended shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying the validity of any certificate of need which shall already have been issued prior to \*the effective date of this 1980 act. [1980 c 139 § 11.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For "the effective date of this 1980 act," see RCW 70.38.916.

**70.38.157 Certificates of need—Savings—1983 c 235.** The enactment of amendments to chapter 70.38 RCW by chapter 235, Laws of 1983 shall not have the effect of terminating or in any way modifying the validity of a certificate of need which was issued prior to \*the effective date of this 1983 act. [1983 c 235 § 11.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "the effective date of this 1983 act" [1983 c 235] for sections 16 and 17 of that act was May 17, 1983. For all other sections of that act the effective date was July 24, 1983.

**70.38.158 Certificates of need—Savings—1989 1st ex.s. c 9 §§ 601 through 607.** The enactment of \*sections 601 through 607 of this act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, the validity of any certificate of need which shall already have been issued prior to July 1, 1989. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 608.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "Sections 601 through 607 of this act" consist of the 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 amendments to RCW 70.38.015, 70.38.025, 70.38.105, 70.38.111, 70.38.115, 70.38.125, and 70.38.135.

**70.38.220 Ethnic minorities—Nursing home beds that reflect cultural differences.** (1) The legislature recognizes that in this state ethnic minorities currently use nursing home care at a lower rate than the general population. The legislature also recognizes and supports the federal mandate that nursing homes receiving federal funds provide residents with a homelike environment. The legislature finds that certain ethnic minorities have special cultural, language, dietary, and other needs not generally met by existing nursing homes which are intended to serve the general population. Accordingly, the legislature further finds that there is a need to foster the development of nursing homes designed to serve the special cultural, language, dietary, and other needs of ethnic minorities.

(2) The department shall establish a separate pool of no more than two hundred fifty beds for nursing homes designed to serve the special needs of ethnic minorities. The pool shall be made up of nursing home beds that become available on or after March 15, 1991, due to:

(a) Loss of license or reduction in licensed bed capacity if the beds are not otherwise obligated for replacement; or

(b) Expiration of a certificate of need.

(3) The department shall develop procedures for the fair and efficient award of beds from the special pool. In making its decisions regarding the award of beds from the pool, the department shall consider at least the following:

(a) The relative degree to which the long-term care needs of an ethnic minority are not otherwise being met;

(b) The percentage of low-income persons who would be served by the proposed nursing home;

(c) The financial feasibility of the proposed nursing home; and

(d) The impact of the proposal on the area's total need for nursing home beds.

(4) To be eligible to apply for or receive an award of beds from the special pool, an application must be to build a new nursing home, or add beds to a nursing home, that:

(a) Will be owned and operated by a nonprofit corporation, and at least fifty percent of the board of directors of the corporation are members of the ethnic minority the nursing home is intended to serve;

(b) Will be designed, managed, and administered to serve the special cultural, language, dietary, and other needs of an ethnic minority; and

(c) Will not discriminate in admissions against persons who are not members of the ethnic minority whose special needs the nursing home is designed to serve.

(5) If a nursing home or portion of a nursing home that is built as a result of an award from the special pool is sold or leased within ten years to a party not eligible under subsection (4) of this section:

(a) The purchaser or lessee may not operate those beds as nursing home beds without first obtaining a certificate of need for new beds under this chapter; and

(b) The beds that had been awarded from the special pool shall be returned to the special pool.

(6) The department shall initially award up to one hundred beds before that number of beds are actually in the special pool, provided that the number of beds so awarded are subtracted from the total of two hundred fifty beds that can be awarded from the special pool. [1991 c 271 § 1.]

#### **70.38.230 Residential hospice care centers—Defined—Change in bed capacity—Applicability of chapter.**

(1) A change in bed capacity at a residential hospice care center shall not be subject to certificate of need review under this chapter if the department determined prior to June 1994 that the construction, development, or other establishment of the residential hospice care center was not subject to certificate of need review under this chapter.

(2) For purposes of this section, a "residential hospice care center" means any building, facility, place, or equivalent that opened in December 1996 and is organized, maintained, and operated specifically to provide beds, accommodations, facilities, and services over a continuous period of twenty-four hours or more for palliative care of two or more individuals, not related to the operator, who are diagnosed as being in the latter stages of an advanced disease that is expected to lead to death. [1998 c 322 § 50.]

(2016 Ed.)

**70.38.250 Redistribution and addition of beds—Determination.** (1) The need for projects identified in \*RCW 70.38.240 shall be determined using the individual planning area's estimated nursing home bed need ratio and includes but is not limited to the following criteria:

(a) The current capacity of nursing homes and other long-term care services;

(b) The occupancy rates of nursing homes and other long-term care services over the previous two-year period; and

(c) The ability of the other long-term care services to serve all people regardless of payor source.

(2) For the purposes of this section, nursing home beds include long-term care units or distinct part long-term care units located in a hospital that is licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW. [1999 c 376 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.38.240 expired June 30, 2004.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.38.260 Certain hospitals not subject to certificate of need requirements for the addition of the number of new psychiatric beds. (Expires June 30, 2019.)** (1) For a grant awarded during fiscal years 2016 and 2017 by the department of commerce under this section, hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW and psychiatric hospitals licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW are not subject to certificate of need requirements for the addition of the number of new psychiatric beds indicated in the grant. The department of commerce may not make a prior approval of a certificate of need application a condition for a grant application under this section. The period during which an approved hospital project qualifies for a certificate of need exemption under this section is two years from the date of the grant award.

(2) This section expires June 30, 2019. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 22 § 2.]

**Intent—2015 3rd sp.s. c 22:** "To accommodate the urgent need for inpatient psychiatric services and to facilitate state compliance with the Washington state supreme court decision, *In re the Detention of D.W.*, No. 90110-4, August 7, 2014, which prohibits the practice of psychiatric boarding, the legislature intends to exempt certain hospital mental health projects provided grant funding by the department of commerce from certificate of need requirements." [2015 3rd sp.s. c 22 § 1.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 22:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [July 6, 2015]." [2015 3rd sp.s. c 22 § 4.]

**70.38.270 Psychiatric beds added under RCW 70.38.260.** New psychiatric beds added under RCW 70.38.260 must remain psychiatric beds unless a certificate of need is granted to change their use or the hospital or psychiatric hospital voluntarily reduces its licensed capacity. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 22 § 3.]

**Intent—Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 22:** See notes following RCW 70.38.260.

**70.38.905 Conflict with federal law—Construction.** In any case where the provisions of this chapter may directly conflict with federal law, or regulations promulgated thereunder, the federal law shall supersede and be paramount as necessary to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [1983 c 235 § 12; 1979 ex.s. c 161 § 16.]

[Title 70 RCW—page 67]

**70.38.914 Pending certificates of need—1983 c 235.**

A certificate of need application which was submitted and declared complete, but upon which final action had not been taken prior to \*the effective date of this act, shall be reviewed and action taken based on chapter 70.38 RCW, as in effect prior to \*the effective date of this act, and the rules adopted thereunder. [1983 c 235 § 14.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For "the effective date of this act," see note following RCW 70.38.157.

**70.38.915 Effective dates—Pending certificates of need—1979 ex.s. c 161.** (1) \*Sections 10, 11, 12, and 21 shall take effect on January 1, 1980.

(2) Any certificate of need application which was submitted and declared complete, but upon which final action had not been taken prior to January 1, 1980, shall be reviewed and action taken based on chapter 70.38 RCW, as in effect prior to \*\*the effective date of this 1979 act, and the regulations adopted thereunder. [1979 ex.s. c 161 § 19.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) Sections 10, 11, and 12 are codified as RCW 70.38.105, 70.38.115, and 70.38.125. Section 21 was a repealer which repealed RCW 70.38.020, 70.38.110 through 70.38.190, and 70.38.210.

\*\* (2) The effective date of those remaining sections of 1979 ex.s. c 161 which do not have a specific effective date indicated in this section is September 1, 1979.

**70.38.916 Effective date—1980 c 139.** \*Sections 7, 8, and 10 of this 1980 act shall take effect January 1, 1981. [1980 c 139 § 14.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) "Sections 7, 8, and 10 of this 1980 act" consist of amendments to RCW 70.38.105, 70.38.115, and 70.38.125.

(2) The effective date of those remaining sections of 1980 c 139 is June 12, 1980.

**70.38.918 Effective dates—Pending certificates of need—1989 1st ex.s. c 9.** Any certificate of need application which was submitted and declared complete, but upon which final action had not been taken prior to July 1, 1989, shall be reviewed and action taken based on chapter 70.38 RCW, as in effect prior to July 1, 1989, and the rules adopted thereunder. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 609.]

**70.38.920 Short title.** This act may be cited as the "State Health Planning and Resources Development Act". [1979 ex.s. c 161 § 22.]

**Chapter 70.40 RCW****HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL FACILITIES SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION ACT**

## Sections

70.40.005	Transfer of duties to the department of health.
70.40.010	Short title.
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70.40.030	Section of hospital and medical facility survey and construction established—Duties.
70.40.040	General duties of the secretary.
70.40.060	Development of program for construction of facilities needed.
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70.40.140 Inspection of project under construction—Certification as to federal funds due.

70.40.150 Hospital and medical facility construction fund—Deposits, use.

**70.40.005 Transfer of duties to the department of health.** The powers and duties of the department of social and health services and the secretary of social and health services under this chapter shall be performed by the department of health and the secretary of health. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 248.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.40.010 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the "Washington Hospital and Medical Facilities Survey and Construction Act." [1959 c 252 § 1; 1949 c 197 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-60.]

**70.40.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Secretary" means the secretary of the state department of health;

(2) "The federal act" means Title VI of the public health service act, as amended, or as hereafter amended by congress;

(3) "The surgeon general" means the surgeon general of the public health service of the United States;

(4) "Hospital" includes public health centers and general, tuberculosis, mental, chronic disease, and other types of hospitals, and related facilities, such as laboratories, outpatient departments, nurses' home and training facilities, and central service facilities operated in connection with hospitals;

(5) "Public health center" means a publicly owned facility for the provision of public health services, including related facilities such as laboratories, clinics, and administrative offices operated in connection with public health centers;

(6) "Nonprofit hospital" and "nonprofit medical facility" means any hospital or medical facility owned and operated by a corporation or association, no part of the net earnings of which inures, or may lawfully inure, to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual;

(7) "Medical facilities" means diagnostic or diagnostic and treatment centers, rehabilitation facilities and nursing homes as those terms are defined in the federal act. [1991 c 3 § 331; 1979 c 141 § 96; 1959 c 252 § 2; 1949 c 197 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-61.]

**70.40.030 Section of hospital and medical facility survey and construction established—Duties.** There is hereby established in the state department of health a "section of hospital and medical facility survey and construction" which shall be administered by a full time salaried head under the supervision and direction of the secretary. The state department of health, through such section, shall constitute the sole agency of the state for the purpose of:

(1) Making an inventory of existing hospitals and medical facilities, surveying the need for construction of hospitals and medical facilities, and developing a program of hospital and medical facility construction; and

(2) Developing and administering a state plan for the construction of public and other nonprofit hospitals and medical facilities as provided in this chapter. [1991 c 3 § 332; 1979 c 141 § 97; 1959 c 252 § 3; 1949 c 197 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-62.]

**70.40.040 General duties of the secretary.** In carrying out the purposes of the chapter the secretary is authorized and directed:

(1) To require such reports, make such inspections and investigations, and prescribe such regulations as he or she deems necessary;

(2) To provide such methods of administration, appoint a head and other personnel of the section, and take such other action as may be necessary to comply with the requirements of the federal act and the regulations thereunder;

(3) To procure in his or her discretion the temporary or intermittent services of experts or consultants or organizations thereof, by contract, when such services are to be performed on a part time or fee-for-service basis and do not involve the performance of administrative duties;

(4) To the extent that he or she considers desirable to effectuate the purposes of this chapter, to enter into agreements for the utilization of the facilities and services of other departments, agencies, and institutions public or private;

(5) To accept on behalf of the state and to deposit with the state treasurer, any grant, gift, or contribution made to assist in meeting the cost of carrying out the purposes of this chapter, and to expend the same for such purpose; and

(6) To make an annual report to the governor on activities pursuant to this chapter, including recommendations for such additional legislation as the secretary considers appropriate to furnish adequate hospital and medical facilities to the people of this state. [2012 c 117 § 375; 1979 c 141 § 98; 1977 c 75 § 83; 1959 c 252 § 4; 1949 c 197 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-63.]

**70.40.060 Development of program for construction of facilities needed.** The secretary is authorized and directed to make an inventory of existing hospitals and medical facilities, including public nonprofit and proprietary hospitals and medical facilities, to survey the need for construction of hospitals and medical facilities, and, on the basis of such inventory and survey, to develop a program for the construction of such public and other nonprofit hospitals and medical facilities as will, in conjunction with existing facilities, afford the necessary physical facilities for furnishing adequate hospital and medical facility services to all the people of the state. [1979 c 141 § 99; 1959 c 252 § 6; 1949 c 197 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-65.]

**70.40.070 Distribution of facilities.** The construction program shall provide, in accordance with regulations prescribed under the federal act, for adequate hospital and medical facilities for the people residing in this state and insofar as possible shall provide for their distribution throughout the state in such manner as to make all types of hospital and medical facility service reasonably accessible to all persons in the state. [1959 c 252 § 7; 1949 c 197 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-66.]

**70.40.080 Federal funds—Application for—Deposit, use.** The secretary is authorized to make application to the surgeon general for federal funds to assist in carrying out the survey and planning activities herein provided. Such funds shall be deposited with the state treasurer and shall be available to the secretary for expenditure in carrying out the pur-

poses of this part. Any such funds received and not expended for such purposes shall be repaid to the treasurer of the United States. [1979 c 141 § 100; 1949 c 197 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-67.]

**70.40.090 State plan—Publication—Hearing—Approval by surgeon general—Modifications.** The secretary shall prepare and submit to the surgeon general a state plan which shall include the hospital and medical facility construction program developed under this chapter and which shall provide for the establishment, administration, and operation of hospital and medical facility construction activities in accordance with the requirements of the federal act and the regulations thereunder. The secretary shall, prior to the submission of such plan to the surgeon general, give adequate publicity to a general description of all the provisions proposed to be included therein, and hold a public hearing at which all persons or organizations with a legitimate interest in such plan may be given an opportunity to express their views. After approval of the plan by the surgeon general, the secretary shall publish a general description of the provisions thereof in at least one newspaper having general circulation in the state, and shall make the plan, or a copy thereof, available upon request to all interested persons or organizations. The secretary shall from time to time review the hospital and medical facility construction program and submit to the surgeon general any modifications thereof which he or she may find necessary and may submit to the surgeon general such modifications of the state plan, not inconsistent with the requirements of the federal act, as he or she may deem advisable. [2012 c 117 § 376; 1979 c 141 § 101; 1959 c 252 § 8; 1949 c 197 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-68.]

**70.40.100 Plan shall provide for construction in order of relative needs.** The state plan shall set forth the relative need for the several projects included in the construction program determined in accordance with regulations prescribed pursuant to the federal act, and provide for the construction, insofar as financial resources available therefor and for maintenance and operations make possible, in the order of such relative need. [1949 c 197 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-70.]

**70.40.110 Minimum standards for maintenance and operation.** The secretary shall by regulation prescribe minimum standards for the maintenance and operation of hospitals and medical facilities which receive federal aid for construction under the state plan. [1979 c 141 § 102; 1959 c 252 § 9; 1949 c 197 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-69.]

**70.40.120 Applications for construction projects—Diagnostic, treatment centers.** Applications for hospital and medical facility construction projects for which federal funds are requested shall be submitted to the secretary and may be submitted by the state or any political subdivision thereof or by any public or nonprofit agency authorized to construct and operate a hospital or medical facility: PROVIDED, That except as may be permitted by federal law no application for a diagnostic or treatment center shall be approved unless the applicant is (1) a state, political subdivi-

sion, or public agency, or (2) a corporation or association which owns and operates a nonprofit hospital. Each application for a construction project shall conform to federal and state requirements. [1979 c 141 § 103; 1959 c 252 § 10; 1949 c 197 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-71.]

**70.40.130 Hearing—Approval.** The secretary shall afford to every applicant for a construction project an opportunity for a fair hearing. If the secretary, after affording reasonable opportunity for development and presentation of applications in the order of relative need, finds that a project application complies with the requirements of RCW 70.40.120 and is otherwise in conformity with the state plan, he or she shall approve such application and shall recommend and forward it to the surgeon general. [2012 c 117 § 377; 1979 c 141 § 104; 1949 c 197 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-72.]

**70.40.140 Inspection of project under construction—Certification as to federal funds due.** From time to time the secretary shall inspect each construction project approved by the surgeon general, and, if the inspection so warrants, the secretary shall certify to the surgeon general that work has been performed upon the project, or purchases have been made, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, and that payment of an installment of federal funds is due to the applicant. [1979 c 141 § 105; 1949 c 197 § 14; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-73.]

**70.40.150 Hospital and medical facility construction fund—Deposits, use.** The secretary is hereby authorized to receive federal funds in behalf of, and transmit them to, such applicants or to approve applicants for federal funds and authorize the payment of such funds directly to such applicants as may be allowed by federal law. To achieve that end there is hereby established, separate and apart from all public moneys and funds of this state, a trust fund to be known as the "hospital and medical facility construction fund", of which the state treasurer shall ex officio be custodian. Moneys received from the federal government for construction projects approved by the surgeon general shall be deposited to the credit of this fund, shall be used solely for payments due applicants for work performed, or purchases made, in carrying out approved projects. Vouchers covering all payments from the hospital and medical facility construction fund shall be prepared by the department of health and shall bear the signature of the secretary or his or her duly authorized agent for such purpose, and warrants therefor shall be signed by the state treasurer. [1991 c 3 § 333; 1973 c 106 § 31; 1959 c 252 § 11; 1949 c 197 § 15; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-74.]

**Chapter 70.41 RCW  
HOSPITAL LICENSING AND REGULATION**

Sections

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- 70.41.010 Declaration of purpose.
- 70.41.020 Definitions.
- 70.41.030 Standards and rules.
- 70.41.040 Enforcement of chapter—Personnel—Merit system.
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- 70.41.480 Findings—Intent—Authority to prescribe prepackaged emergency medications—Definitions.
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*Actions for negligence against hospitals, evidence and proof required to prevail: RCW 4.24.290.*

*Employment of dental hygienist without supervision of dentist authorized: RCW 18.29.056.*

*Hospitals, hospital personnel, actions against, limitation of: RCW 4.16.350.*

*Identification of potential anatomical parts donors—Procurement organizations: RCW 68.64.120.*

*Immunity from civil liability for certain types of medical care: RCW 4.24.300, 18.71.220.*

*Labor regulations, collective bargaining—Health care activities: Chapter 49.66 RCW.*

*Records of hospital committee or board, immunity from process: RCW 4.24.250.*

*Standards and procedures for hospital staff membership or privileges: Chapter 70.43 RCW.*

**70.41.005 Transfer of duties to the department of health.** The powers and duties of the department of social and health services under this chapter shall be performed by the department of health. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 249.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.010 Declaration of purpose.** The primary purpose of this chapter is to promote safe and adequate care of individuals in hospitals through the development, establishment and enforcement of minimum hospital standards for maintenance and operation. To accomplish these purposes, this chapter provides for:

- (1) The licensing and inspection of hospitals;
- (2) The establishment of a Washington state hospital advisory council;
- (3) The establishment by the department of standards, rules and regulations for the construction, maintenance and operation of hospitals;
- (4) The enforcement by the department of the standards, rules, and regulations established under this chapter. [1985 c 213 § 15; 1979 c 141 § 106; 1955 c 267 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms, whenever used in this chapter, shall be deemed to have the following meanings:

(1) "Aftercare" means the assistance provided by a lay caregiver to a patient under this chapter after the patient's discharge from a hospital. The assistance may include, but is not limited to, assistance with activities of daily living, wound care, medication assistance, and the operation of medical equipment. "Aftercare" includes assistance only for conditions that were present at the time of the patient's discharge from the hospital. "Aftercare" does not include:

(a) Assistance related to conditions for which the patient did not receive medical care, treatment, or observation in the hospital; or

(b) Tasks the performance of which requires licensure as a health care provider.

(2) "Department" means the Washington state department of health.

(3) "Discharge" means a patient's release from a hospital following the patient's admission to the hospital.

(4) "Distant site" means the site at which a physician or other licensed provider, delivering a professional service, is

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physically located at the time the service is provided through telemedicine.

(5) "Emergency care to victims of sexual assault" means medical examinations, procedures, and services provided by a hospital emergency room to a victim of sexual assault following an alleged sexual assault.

(6) "Emergency contraception" means any health care treatment approved by the food and drug administration that prevents pregnancy, including but not limited to administering two increased doses of certain oral contraceptive pills within seventy-two hours of sexual contact.

(7) "Hospital" means any institution, place, building, or agency which provides accommodations, facilities and services over a continuous period of twenty-four hours or more, for observation, diagnosis, or care, of two or more individuals not related to the operator who are suffering from illness, injury, deformity, or abnormality, or from any other condition for which obstetrical, medical, or surgical services would be appropriate for care or diagnosis. "Hospital" as used in this chapter does not include hotels, or similar places furnishing only food and lodging, or simply domiciliary care; nor does it include clinics, or physician's offices where patients are not regularly kept as bed patients for twenty-four hours or more; nor does it include nursing homes, as defined and which come within the scope of chapter 18.51 RCW; nor does it include birthing centers, which come within the scope of chapter 18.46 RCW; nor does it include psychiatric hospitals, which come within the scope of chapter 71.12 RCW; nor any other hospital, or institution specifically intended for use in the diagnosis and care of those suffering from mental illness, intellectual disability, convulsive disorders, or other abnormal mental condition. Furthermore, nothing in this chapter or the rules adopted pursuant thereto shall be construed as authorizing the supervision, regulation, or control of the remedial care or treatment of residents or patients in any hospital conducted for those who rely primarily upon treatment by prayer or spiritual means in accordance with the creed or tenets of any well recognized church or religious denominations.

(8) "Lay caregiver" means any individual designated as such by a patient under this chapter who provides aftercare assistance to a patient in the patient's residence. "Lay caregiver" does not include a long-term care worker as defined in RCW 74.39A.009.

(9) "Originating site" means the physical location of a patient receiving health care services through telemedicine.

(10) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, or joint stock association, and the legal successor thereof.

(11) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

(12) "Sexual assault" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.125.030.

(13) "Telemedicine" means the delivery of health care services through the use of interactive audio and video technology, permitting real-time communication between the patient at the originating site and the provider, for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, or treatment. "Telemedicine" does not include the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile, or email.

(14) "Victim of sexual assault" means a person who alleges or is alleged to have been sexually assaulted and who

presents as a patient. [2016 c 226 § 1. Prior: 2015 c 23 § 5; 2010 c 94 § 17; 2002 c 116 § 2; 1991 c 3 § 334; 1985 c 213 § 16; 1971 ex.s. c 189 § 8; 1955 c 267 § 2.]

**Intent—2015 c 23:** See note following RCW 41.05.700.

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

**Findings—2002 c 116:** See note following RCW 70.41.350.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.030 Standards and rules.** The department shall establish and adopt such minimum standards and rules pertaining to the construction, maintenance, and operation of hospitals, and rescind, amend, or modify such rules from time to time, as are necessary in the public interest, and particularly for the establishment and maintenance of standards of hospitalization required for the safe and adequate care and treatment of patients. To the extent possible, the department shall endeavor to make such minimum standards and rules consistent in format and general content with the applicable hospital survey standards of the joint commission on the accreditation of health care organizations. The department shall adopt standards that are at least equal to recognized applicable national standards pertaining to medical gas piping systems. [1995 c 282 § 1; 1989 c 175 § 127; 1985 c 213 § 17; 1971 ex.s. c 189 § 9; 1955 c 267 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.040 Enforcement of chapter—Personnel—Merit system.** The enforcement of the provisions of this chapter and the standards, rules and regulations established under this chapter, shall be the responsibility of the department which shall cooperate with the joint commission on the accreditation of health care organizations. The department shall advise on the employment of personnel and the personnel shall be under the merit system or its successor. [1995 c 282 § 3; 1985 c 213 § 18; 1955 c 267 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.045 Hospital surveys or audits—Frequent problems to be posted on agency web sites—Hospital evaluation of survey or audit, form—Notice.** (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Agency" means a department of state government created under RCW 43.17.010 and the office of the state auditor.

(b) "Audit" means an examination of records or financial accounts to evaluate accuracy and monitor compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements.

(c) "Hospital" means a hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW.

(d) "Survey" means an inspection, examination, or site visit conducted by an agency to evaluate and monitor the compliance of a hospital or hospital services or facilities with statutory or regulatory requirements.

(2) By July 1, 2004, each state agency which conducts hospital surveys or audits shall post to its agency web site a list of the most frequent problems identified in its hospital surveys or audits along with information on how to avoid or address the identified problems, and a person within the

agency that a hospital may contact with questions or for further assistance.

(3) By July 1, 2004, the department of health, in cooperation with other state agencies which conduct hospital surveys or audits, shall develop an instrument, to be provided to every hospital upon completion of a state survey or audit, which allows the hospital to anonymously evaluate the survey or audit process in terms of quality, efficacy, and the extent to which it supported improved patient care and compliance with state law without placing an unnecessary administrative burden on the hospital. The evaluation may be returned to the department of health for distribution to the appropriate agency.

(4) Except when responding to complaints or immediate public health and safety concerns or when such prior notice would conflict with other state or federal law, any state agency that provides notice of a hospital survey or audit must provide such notice to the hospital no less than four weeks prior to the date of the survey or audit. [2016 c 197 § 7; 2004 c 261 § 2.]

**70.41.080 Fire protection.** Standards for fire protection and the enforcement thereof, with respect to all hospitals to be licensed hereunder shall be the responsibility of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, who shall adopt, after approval by the department, the recognized standards applicable to hospitals for the protection of life against the cause and spread of fire and fire hazards adopted by the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services for hospitals that care for medicare or medicaid beneficiaries. The standards used for an inspection of an existing hospital, or existing portion thereof, shall be standards for existing buildings and not standards for new construction. The department upon receipt of an application for a license, shall submit to the director of fire protection in writing, a request for an inspection, giving the applicant's name and the location of the premises to be licensed. Upon receipt of such a request, the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, or his or her deputy, shall make an inspection of the hospital to be licensed during the department's inspection. If it is found that the premises do not comply with the required safety standards and fire regulations as adopted pursuant to this chapter, the director of fire protection, or his or her deputy, shall promptly make a written report to the department listing the corrective actions required. The department shall incorporate the written report into the department's final inspection report. The applicant or licensee shall submit corrections to comply with the fire protection standards along with any other licensing inspection corrections to the department. The department shall submit the section of the statement of corrections from the applicant or licensee regarding fire protection standards to the director of fire protection. If extensive and serious corrections are required, the director of fire protection, or his or her deputy, may reinspect the premises. The director of fire protection, or his or her deputy, shall utilize the scope and severity matrix developed by the centers for medicare and medicaid services when determining what corrections will require a reinspection. Whenever the hospital to be licensed meets with the approval of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, he or she shall submit to the

department, in a timely manner so the license will not be delayed, a written report approving the hospital with respect to fire protection, and such report is required before a full license can be issued. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall make or cause to be made inspections of such hospitals on average at least once every eighteen months. Inspections conducted by the joint commission on hospitals accredited by it shall be deemed equivalent to an inspection by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, for purposes of meeting the requirements for the inspections specified in this section.

The director of fire protection shall designate one lead deputy state fire marshal on a regional basis to provide consistency with each of the department's survey teams for the purpose of conducting the fire protection inspection during the department's licensing inspection. The director of fire protection shall ensure deputy state fire marshals are provided orientation with the department on the unique environment of hospitals before they conduct fire protection inspections in hospitals. The orientation shall include, but not be limited to: Clinical environment of hospitals; operating room environment; fire protection practices in hospitals; full participation in a complete licensing inspection of at least one urban hospital; and full participation in a complete licensing inspection of at least one rural hospital.

In cities which have in force a comprehensive building code, the provisions of which are determined by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, to be equal to the minimum standards of the code for hospitals adopted by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, the chief of the fire department, provided the latter is a paid chief of a paid fire department, shall make the inspection with the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, or his or her deputy and they shall jointly approve the premises before a full license can be issued. [2008 c 155 § 1; 2004 c 261 § 3; 1995 c 369 § 40; 1986 c 266 § 94; 1985 c 213 § 19; 1955 c 267 § 8.]

*State fire protection: Chapter 43.44 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.090 Hospital license required—Certificate of need required—Participation in Washington rural health access preservation pilot.** (1) No person or governmental unit of the state of Washington, acting separately or jointly with any other person or governmental unit, shall establish, maintain, or conduct a hospital in this state, or use the word "hospital" to describe or identify an institution, without a license under this chapter: PROVIDED, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to state mental institutions and psychiatric hospitals which come within the scope of chapter 71.12 RCW.

(2) After June 30, 1989, no hospital shall initiate a tertiary health service as defined in RCW 70.38.025(14) unless it has received a certificate of need as provided in RCW 70.38.105 and 70.38.115.

(3) A rural health care facility licensed under RCW 70.175.100 formerly licensed as a hospital under this chapter may, within three years of the effective date of the rural health care facility license, apply to the department for a hos-

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pital license and not be required to meet certificate of need requirements under chapter 70.38 RCW as a new health care facility and not be required to meet new construction requirements as a new hospital under this chapter. These exceptions are subject to the following: The facility at the time of initial conversion was considered by the department to be in compliance with the hospital licensing rules and the condition of the physical plant and equipment is equal to or exceeds the level of compliance that existed at the time of conversion to a rural health care facility. The department shall inspect and determine compliance with the hospital rules prior to reissuing a hospital license.

(4) A rural hospital, as defined by the department, reducing the number of licensed beds to become a rural primary care hospital under the provisions of Part A Title XVIII of the Social Security Act Section 1820, 42 U.S.C., 1395c et seq. may, within three years of the reduction of licensed beds, increase the number of beds licensed under this chapter to no more than the previously licensed number of beds without being subject to the provisions of chapter 70.38 RCW and without being required to meet new construction requirements under this chapter. These exceptions are subject to the following: The facility at the time of the reduction in licensed beds was considered by the department to be in compliance with the hospital licensing rules and the condition of the physical plant and equipment is equal to or exceeds the level of compliance that existed at the time of the reduction in licensed beds. The department may inspect and determine compliance with the hospital rules prior to increasing the hospital license.

(5) If a rural hospital is determined to no longer meet critical access hospital status for state law purposes as a result of participation in the Washington rural health access preservation pilot identified by the state office of rural health, the rural hospital may renew its license by applying to the department for a hospital license and the previously licensed number of beds without being subject to the provisions of chapter 70.38 RCW and without being required to meet new construction review requirements under this chapter. These exceptions are subject to the following: The hospital, at the time it began participation in the pilot, was considered by the department to be in compliance with the hospital licensing rules, and the condition of the physical plant and equipment is equal to or exceeds the level of compliance that existed at the time of the reduction in licensed beds. The department may inspect and determine compliance with the hospital licensing rules. If all or part of a formerly licensed rural hospital is sold, purchased, or leased during the period the rural hospital does not meet critical access hospital status as a result of participation in the Washington rural health access preservation pilot and the new owner or lessor applies to renew the rural hospital's license, then the sale, purchase, or lease of part or all of the rural hospital is subject to the provisions of chapter 70.38 RCW. [2016 1st sp.s. c 31 § 3; 1992 c 27 § 3; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 611; 1955 c 267 § 9.]

**Finding—Intent—2016 1st sp.s. c 31:** See note following RCW 74.09.5225.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.100 Applications for licenses and renewals—Fees.** An application for license shall be made to the department upon forms provided by it and shall contain such information as the department reasonably requires which may include affirmative evidence of ability to comply with the standards, rules, and regulations as are lawfully prescribed hereunder. An application for renewal of license shall be made to the department upon forms provided by it and submitted thirty days prior to the date of expiration of the license. Each application for a license or renewal thereof by a hospital as defined by this chapter shall be accompanied by a fee as established by the department under RCW 43.20B.110. [1987 c 75 § 8; 1982 c 201 § 9; 1955 c 267 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.110 Licenses, provisional licenses—Issuance, duration, assignment, posting.** Upon receipt of an application for license and the license fee, the department shall issue a license or a provisional license if the applicant and the hospital facilities meet the requirements of this chapter and the standards, rules and regulations established by the department. All licenses issued under the provisions of this chapter shall expire on a date to be set by the department: PROVIDED, That no license issued pursuant to this chapter shall exceed thirty-six months in duration. Each license shall be issued only for the premises and persons named in the application, and no license shall be transferable or assignable except with the written approval of the department. Licenses shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the licensed premises.

If there be a failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter or the standards, rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, the department may in its discretion issue to an applicant for a license, or for the renewal of a license, a provisional license which will permit the operation of the hospital for a period to be determined by the department. [1985 c 213 § 20; 1982 c 201 § 12; 1971 ex.s. c 247 § 3; 1955 c 267 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.115 Specialty hospitals—Licenses—Exemptions.** (1) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Emergency services" means health care services medically necessary to evaluate and treat a medical condition that manifests itself by the acute onset of a symptom or symptoms, including severe pain, that would lead a prudent layperson acting reasonably to believe that a health condition exists that requires immediate medical attention, and that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in serious impairment to bodily functions or serious dysfunction of an organ or part of the body, or would place the person's health, or in the case of a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child, in serious jeopardy.

(b) "General hospital" means a hospital that provides general acute care services, including emergency services.

(c) "Specialty hospital" means a subclass of hospital that is primarily or exclusively engaged in the care and treatment of one of the following categories: (i) Patients with a cardiac condition; (ii) patients with an orthopedic condition; (iii)

patients receiving a surgical procedure; and (iv) any other specialized category of services that the secretary of health and human services designates as a specialty hospital.

(d) "Transfer agreement" means a written agreement providing an effective process for the transfer of a patient requiring emergency services to a general hospital providing emergency services and for continuity of care for that patient.

(e) "Health service area" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.38.025.

(2) To be licensed under this chapter, a specialty hospital shall:

(a) Be significantly engaged in providing inpatient care;

(b) Comply with all standards and rules adopted by the department for hospitals;

(c) Provide appropriate discharge planning;

(d) Provide staff proficient in resuscitation and respiration maintenance twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week;

(e) Participate in the medicare and medicaid programs and provide at least the same percentage of services to medicare and medicaid beneficiaries, as a percent of gross revenues, as the lowest percentage of services provided to medicare and medicaid beneficiaries by a general hospital in the same health service area. The lowest percentage of services provided to medicare and medicaid beneficiaries shall be determined by the department in consultation with the general hospitals in the health service area but shall not be the percentage of medicare and medicaid services of a hospital that serves primarily members of a particular health plan or government sponsor;

(f) Provide at least the same percentage of charity care, as a percent of gross revenues, as the lowest percentage of charity care provided by a general hospital in the same health service area. The lowest percentage of charity care shall be determined by the department in consultation with the general hospitals in the health service area but shall not be the percentage of charity care of a hospital that serves primarily members of a particular health plan or government sponsor;

(g) Require any physician owner to: (i) In accordance with chapter 19.68 RCW, disclose a financial interest in the specialty hospital and provide a list of alternative hospitals before referring a patient to the specialty hospital; and (ii) if the specialty hospital does not have an intensive care unit, notify the patient that if intensive care services are required, the patient will be transferred to another hospital;

(h) Provide emergency services twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week in a designated area of the hospital, and comply with requirements for emergency facilities that are established by the department;

(i) Establish procedures to stabilize a patient with an emergency medical condition until the patient is transported or transferred to another hospital if emergency services cannot be provided at the specialty hospital to meet the needs of the patient in an emergency, and maintain a transfer agreement with a general hospital in the same health service area that establishes a process for patient transfers in a situation in which the specialty hospital cannot provide continuing care for a patient because of the specialty hospital's scope of services and for the transfer of patients; and

(j) Accept the transfer of patients from general hospitals when the patients require the category of care or treatment provided by the specialty hospital.

(3) This section does not apply to:

(a) A specialty hospital that provides only psychiatric, pediatric, long-term acute care, cancer, or rehabilitative services; or

(b) A hospital that was licensed under this chapter before January 1, 2007. [2007 c 102 § 2.]

**Finding—2007 c 102:** "The legislature finds that specialty hospitals jeopardize the financial balance of community hospitals by selectively providing care to less ill patients, treating fewer medicare, medicaid, and uninsured patients, providing primarily care that is profitable to investors, and reducing community hospital staffing. To assure that private and public hospitals in Washington remain financially viable institutions able to provide general acute care in their communities and maintain the capacity to respond to local, state, and national emergencies, the legislature has concluded that specialty hospitals must meet certain conditions in order to be licensed. These conditions will ensure that specialty hospitals and community hospitals compete on a level playing field and, therefore, will minimize the adverse impacts of specialty hospitals on community general hospitals while assuring quality patient care." [2007 c 102 § 1.]

**70.41.120 Inspection of hospitals—Final report—Alterations or additions, new facilities—Coordination with state and local agencies—Notice of inspection.** (1) The department shall make or cause to be made an unannounced inspection of all hospitals on average at least every eighteen months. Every inspection of a hospital may include an inspection of every part of the premises. The department may make an examination of all phases of the hospital operation necessary to determine compliance with the law and the standards, rules and regulations adopted thereunder.

(2) The department shall not issue its final report regarding an unannounced inspection by the department until: (a) The hospital is given at least two weeks following the inspection to provide any information or documentation requested by the department during the unannounced inspection that was not available at the time of the request; and (b) at least one person from the department conducting the inspection meets personally with the chief administrator or executive officer of the hospital following the inspection or the chief administrator or executive officer declines such a meeting.

(3) Any licensee or applicant desiring to make alterations or additions to its facilities or to construct new facilities shall, before commencing such alteration, addition or new construction, comply with the regulations prescribed by the department.

(4) No hospital licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be required to be inspected or licensed under other state laws or rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, or local ordinances, relative to hotels, restaurants, lodging houses, boarding houses, places of refreshment, nursing homes, maternity homes, or psychiatric hospitals.

(5) To avoid unnecessary duplication in inspections, the department shall coordinate with the department of social and health services, the office of the state fire marshal, and local agencies when inspecting facilities over which each agency has jurisdiction, the facilities including but not necessarily being limited to hospitals with both acute care and skilled nursing or psychiatric nursing functions. The department shall notify the office of the state fire marshal and the relevant local agency at least four weeks prior to any inspection

conducted under this section and invite their attendance at the inspection, and shall provide a copy of its inspection report to each agency upon completion. [2009 c 242 § 1; 2005 c 447 § 1; 2004 c 261 § 4; 1995 c 282 § 4; 1985 c 213 § 21; 1955 c 267 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.122 Exemption from RCW 70.41.120 for hospitals accredited by other entities.** Surveys conducted on hospitals by the joint commission on the accreditation of health care organizations, the American osteopathic association, or Det Norske Veritas shall be deemed equivalent to a department survey for purposes of meeting the requirements for the survey specified in RCW 70.41.120 if the department determines that the applicable survey standards are substantially equivalent to its own.

(1) Hospitals so surveyed shall provide to the department within thirty days of learning the result of a survey documentary evidence that the hospital has been certified as a result of a survey and the date of the survey.

(2) Hospitals shall make available to department surveyors the written reports of such surveys during department surveys, upon request. [2009 c 242 § 2; 2005 c 447 § 2; 1999 c 41 § 1; 1995 c 282 § 6.]

**70.41.125 Hospital construction review process—Coordination with state and local agencies.** (1) The department shall coordinate its hospital construction review process with other state and local agencies having similar review responsibilities, including the department of labor and industries, the office of the state fire marshal, and local building and fire officials. Inconsistencies or conflicts among the agencies shall be identified and eliminated. The department shall provide local agencies with relevant information derived from its construction review process.

(2) By September 1, 2004, the department shall report to the legislature regarding its implementation of subsection (1) of this section. [2004 c 261 § 5.]

**70.41.130 Denial, suspension, revocation, modification of license—Procedure.** The department is authorized to deny, suspend, revoke, or modify a license or provisional license in any case in which it finds that there has been a failure or refusal to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the standards or rules adopted under this chapter or the requirements of RCW 71.34.375. RCW 43.70.115 governs notice of a license denial, revocation, suspension, or modification and provides the right to an adjudicative proceeding. [2011 c 302 § 3; 1991 c 3 § 335; 1989 c 175 § 128; 1985 c 213 § 22; 1955 c 267 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.150 Denial, suspension, revocation of license—Disclosure of information.** Information received by the department through filed reports, inspection, or as otherwise authorized under this chapter, may be disclosed publicly, as permitted under chapter 42.56 RCW, subject to the following provisions:

(1) Licensing inspections, or complaint investigations regardless of findings, shall, as requested, be disclosed no

sooner than three business days after the hospital has received the resulting assessment report;

(2) Information regarding administrative action against the license shall, as requested, be disclosed after the hospital has received the documents initiating the administrative action;

(3) Information about complaints that did not warrant an investigation shall not be disclosed except to notify the hospital and the complainant that the complaint did not warrant an investigation. If requested, the individual complainant shall receive information on other like complaints that have been reported against the hospital; and

(4) Information disclosed pursuant to this section shall not disclose individual names. [2005 c 274 § 333; 2000 c 6 § 1; 1985 c 213 § 24; 1955 c 267 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.155 Duty to investigate patient well-being.** Any complaint against a hospital and event notification required by the department that concerns patient well-being shall be investigated. [2000 c 6 § 2.]

**70.41.160 Remedies available to department—Duty of attorney general.** Notwithstanding the existence or pursuit of any other remedy, the department may, in the manner provided by law, upon the advice of the attorney general who shall represent the department in the proceedings, maintain an action in the name of the state for an injunction or other process against any person or governmental unit to restrain or prevent the establishment, conduct, or operation of a hospital without a license under this law. [1985 c 213 § 25; 1955 c 267 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.170 Operating or maintaining unlicensed hospital or unapproved tertiary health service—Penalty.** Any person operating or maintaining a hospital without a license under this chapter, or, after June 30, 1989, initiating a tertiary health service as defined in RCW 70.38.025(14) that is not approved under RCW 70.38.105 and 70.38.115, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and each day of operation of an unlicensed hospital or unapproved tertiary health service, shall constitute a separate offense. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 612; 1955 c 267 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.180 Physicians' services.** Nothing contained in this chapter shall in any way authorize the department to establish standards, rules and regulations governing the professional services rendered by any physician. [1985 c 213 § 26; 1955 c 267 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.190 Medical records of patients—Retention and preservation.** Unless specified otherwise by the department, a hospital shall retain and preserve all medical records which relate directly to the care and treatment of a patient for a period of no less than ten years following the most recent discharge of the patient; except the records of minors, which shall be retained and preserved for a period of no less than

three years following attainment of the age of eighteen years, or ten years following such discharge, whichever is longer.

If a hospital ceases operations, it shall make immediate arrangements, as approved by the department, for preservation of its records.

The department shall by regulation define the type of records and the information required to be included in the medical records to be retained and preserved under this section; which records may be retained in photographic form pursuant to chapter 5.46 RCW. [1985 c 213 § 27; 1975 1st ex.s. c 175 § 1.]

*Medical records, disclosure: Chapter 70.02 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.200 Quality improvement and medical malpractice prevention program—Quality improvement committee—Sanction and grievance procedures—Information collection, reporting, and sharing.** (1) Every hospital shall maintain a coordinated quality improvement program for the improvement of the quality of health care services rendered to patients and the identification and prevention of medical malpractice. The program shall include at least the following:

(a) The establishment of one or more quality improvement committees with the responsibility to review the services rendered in the hospital, both retrospectively and prospectively, in order to improve the quality of medical care of patients and to prevent medical malpractice. Different quality improvement committees may be established as a part of a quality improvement program to review different health care services. Such committees shall oversee and coordinate the quality improvement and medical malpractice prevention program and shall ensure that information gathered pursuant to the program is used to review and to revise hospital policies and procedures;

(b) A process, including a medical staff privileges sanction procedure which must be conducted substantially in accordance with medical staff bylaws and applicable rules, regulations, or policies of the medical staff through which credentials, physical and mental capacity, professional conduct, and competence in delivering health care services are periodically reviewed as part of an evaluation of staff privileges;

(c) A process for the periodic review of the credentials, physical and mental capacity, professional conduct, and competence in delivering health care services of all other health care providers who are employed or associated with the hospital;

(d) A procedure for the prompt resolution of grievances by patients or their representatives related to accidents, injuries, treatment, and other events that may result in claims of medical malpractice;

(e) The maintenance and continuous collection of information concerning the hospital's experience with negative health care outcomes and incidents injurious to patients including health care-associated infections as defined in RCW 43.70.056, patient grievances, professional liability premiums, settlements, awards, costs incurred by the hospital for patient injury prevention, and safety improvement activities;

(f) The maintenance of relevant and appropriate information gathered pursuant to (a) through (e) of this subsection concerning individual physicians within the physician's personnel or credential file maintained by the hospital;

(g) Education programs dealing with quality improvement, patient safety, medication errors, injury prevention, infection control, staff responsibility to report professional misconduct, the legal aspects of patient care, improved communication with patients, and causes of malpractice claims for staff personnel engaged in patient care activities; and

(h) Policies to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of this section.

(2) Any person who, in substantial good faith, provides information to further the purposes of the quality improvement and medical malpractice prevention program or who, in substantial good faith, participates on the quality improvement committee shall not be subject to an action for civil damages or other relief as a result of such activity. Any person or entity participating in a coordinated quality improvement program that, in substantial good faith, shares information or documents with one or more other programs, committees, or boards under subsection (8) of this section is not subject to an action for civil damages or other relief as a result of the activity. For the purposes of this section, sharing information is presumed to be in substantial good faith. However, the presumption may be rebutted upon a showing of clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that the information shared was knowingly false or deliberately misleading.

(3) Information and documents, including complaints and incident reports, created specifically for, and collected and maintained by, a quality improvement committee are not subject to review or disclosure, except as provided in this section, or discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil action, and no person who was in attendance at a meeting of such committee or who participated in the creation, collection, or maintenance of information or documents specifically for the committee shall be permitted or required to testify in any civil action as to the content of such proceedings or the documents and information prepared specifically for the committee. This subsection does not preclude: (a) In any civil action, the discovery of the identity of persons involved in the medical care that is the basis of the civil action whose involvement was independent of any quality improvement activity; (b) in any civil action, the testimony of any person concerning the facts which form the basis for the institution of such proceedings of which the person had personal knowledge acquired independently of such proceedings; (c) in any civil action by a health care provider regarding the restriction or revocation of that individual's clinical or staff privileges, introduction into evidence information collected and maintained by quality improvement committees regarding such health care provider; (d) in any civil action, disclosure of the fact that staff privileges were terminated or restricted, including the specific restrictions imposed, if any and the reasons for the restrictions; or (e) in any civil action, discovery and introduction into evidence of the patient's medical records required by regulation of the department of health to be made regarding the care and treatment received.

(4) Each quality improvement committee shall, on at least a semiannual basis, report to the governing board of the hospital in which the committee is located. The report shall

review the quality improvement activities conducted by the committee, and any actions taken as a result of those activities.

(5) The department of health shall adopt such rules as are deemed appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this section.

(6) The medical quality assurance commission or the board of osteopathic medicine and surgery, as appropriate, may review and audit the records of committee decisions in which a physician's privileges are terminated or restricted. Each hospital shall produce and make accessible to the commission or board the appropriate records and otherwise facilitate the review and audit. Information so gained shall not be subject to the discovery process and confidentiality shall be respected as required by subsection (3) of this section. Failure of a hospital to comply with this subsection is punishable by a civil penalty not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars.

(7) The department, the joint commission on accreditation of health care organizations, and any other accrediting organization may review and audit the records of a quality improvement committee or peer review committee in connection with their inspection and review of hospitals. Information so obtained shall not be subject to the discovery process, and confidentiality shall be respected as required by subsection (3) of this section. Each hospital shall produce and make accessible to the department the appropriate records and otherwise facilitate the review and audit.

(8) A coordinated quality improvement program may share information and documents, including complaints and incident reports, created specifically for, and collected and maintained by, a quality improvement committee or a peer review committee under RCW 4.24.250 with one or more other coordinated quality improvement programs maintained in accordance with this section or RCW 43.70.510, a coordinated quality improvement committee maintained by an ambulatory surgical facility under RCW 70.230.070, a quality assurance committee maintained in accordance with RCW 18.20.390 or 74.42.640, or a peer review committee under RCW 4.24.250, for the improvement of the quality of health care services rendered to patients and the identification and prevention of medical malpractice. The privacy protections of chapter 70.02 RCW and the federal health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 and its implementing regulations apply to the sharing of individually identifiable patient information held by a coordinated quality improvement program. Any rules necessary to implement this section shall meet the requirements of applicable federal and state privacy laws. Information and documents disclosed by one coordinated quality improvement program to another coordinated quality improvement program or a peer review committee under RCW 4.24.250 and any information and documents created or maintained as a result of the sharing of information and documents shall not be subject to the discovery process and confidentiality shall be respected as required by subsection (3) of this section, RCW 18.20.390 (6) and (8), 74.42.640 (7) and (9), and 4.24.250.

(9) A hospital that operates a nursing home as defined in RCW 18.51.010 may conduct quality improvement activities for both the hospital and the nursing home through a quality improvement committee under this section, and such activities shall be subject to the provisions of subsections (2) through (8) of this section.

(10) Violation of this section shall not be considered negligence per se. [2013 c 301 § 2. Prior: 2007 c 273 § 22; 2007 c 261 § 3; prior: 2005 c 291 § 3; 2005 c 33 § 7; 2004 c 145 § 3; 2000 c 6 § 3; 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 742; 1993 c 492 § 415; 1991 c 3 § 336; 1987 c 269 § 5; 1986 c 300 § 4.]

**Effective date—Implementation—2007 c 273:** See RCW 70.230.900 and 70.230.901.

**Finding—2007 c 261:** See note following RCW 43.70.056.

**Findings—2005 c 33:** See note following RCW 18.20.390.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Legislative findings—Severability—1986 c 300:** See notes following RCW 18.57.245.

*Board of osteopathic medicine and surgery: Chapter 18.57 RCW.*

*Medical quality assurance commission: Chapter 18.71 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.210 Duty to report restrictions on health care practitioners' privileges based on unprofessional conduct—Penalty.** (1) The chief administrator or executive officer of a hospital shall report to the department when the practice of a health care practitioner as defined in subsection (2) of this section is restricted, suspended, limited, or terminated based upon a conviction, determination, or finding by the hospital that the health care practitioner has committed an action defined as unprofessional conduct under RCW 18.130.180. The chief administrator or executive officer shall also report any voluntary restriction or termination of the practice of a health care practitioner as defined in subsection (2) of this section while the practitioner is under investigation or the subject of a proceeding by the hospital regarding unprofessional conduct, or in return for the hospital not conducting such an investigation or proceeding or not taking action. The department will forward the report to the appropriate disciplining authority.

(2) The reporting requirements apply to the following health care practitioners: Pharmacists as defined in chapter 18.64 RCW; advanced registered nurse practitioners as defined in chapter 18.79 RCW; dentists as defined in chapter 18.32 RCW; naturopaths as defined in chapter 18.36A RCW; optometrists as defined in chapter 18.53 RCW; osteopathic physicians and surgeons as defined in chapter 18.57 RCW; osteopathic physicians' assistants as defined in chapter 18.57A RCW; physicians as defined in chapter 18.71 RCW; physician assistants as defined in chapter 18.71A RCW; podiatric physicians and surgeons as defined in chapter 18.22 RCW; and psychologists as defined in chapter 18.83 RCW.

(3) Reports made under subsection (1) of this section shall be made within fifteen days of the date: (a) A conviction, determination, or finding is made by the hospital that the health care practitioner has committed an action defined as unprofessional conduct under RCW 18.130.180; or (b) the voluntary restriction or termination of the practice of a health care practitioner, including his or her voluntary resignation, while under investigation or the subject of proceedings regarding unprofessional conduct under RCW 18.130.180 is accepted by the hospital.

(4) Failure of a hospital to comply with this section is punishable by a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars.

(5) A hospital, its chief administrator, or its executive officer who files a report under this section is immune from

suit, whether direct or derivative, in any civil action related to the filing or contents of the report, unless the conviction, determination, or finding on which the report and its content are based is proven to not have been made in good faith. The prevailing party in any action brought alleging the conviction, determination, finding, or report was not made in good faith, shall be entitled to recover the costs of litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

(6) The department shall forward reports made under subsection (1) of this section to the appropriate disciplining authority designated under Title 18 RCW within fifteen days of the date the report is received by the department. The department shall notify a hospital that has made a report under subsection (1) of this section of the results of the disciplining authority's case disposition decision within fifteen days after the case disposition. Case disposition is the decision whether to issue a statement of charges, take informal action, or close the complaint without action against a practitioner. In its biennial report to the legislature under RCW 18.130.310, the department shall specifically identify the case dispositions of reports made by hospitals under subsection (1) of this section.

(7) The department shall not increase hospital license fees to carry out this section before July 1, 2008. [2008 c 134 § 14; 2005 c 470 § 1; 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 743; 1986 c 300 § 7.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—2008 c 134:** See notes following RCW 18.130.020.

**Legislative findings—Severability—1986 c 300:** See notes following RCW 18.57.245.

*Medical quality assurance commission: Chapter 18.71 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.220 Duty to keep records of restrictions on practitioners' privileges—Penalty.** Each hospital shall keep written records of decisions to restrict or terminate privileges of practitioners. Copies of such records shall be made available to the board within thirty days of a request and all information so gained shall remain confidential in accordance with RCW 70.41.200 and 70.41.230 and shall be protected from the discovery process. Failure of a hospital to comply with this section is punishable by [a] civil penalty not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars. [1986 c 300 § 8.]

**Legislative findings—Severability—1986 c 300:** See notes following RCW 18.57.245.

**70.41.230 Duty of hospital to request information on physicians granted privileges.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, prior to granting or renewing clinical privileges or association of any physician or hiring a physician, a hospital or facility approved pursuant to this chapter shall request from the physician and the physician shall provide the following information:

(a) The name of any hospital or facility with or at which the physician had or has any association, employment, privileges, or practice during the prior five years: PROVIDED, That the hospital may request additional information going back further than five years, and the physician shall use his or her best efforts to comply with such a request for additional information;

(b) Whether the physician has ever been or is in the process of being denied, revoked, terminated, suspended,

restricted, reduced, limited, sanctioned, placed on probation, monitored, or not renewed for any professional activity listed in (b)(i) through (x) of this subsection, or has ever voluntarily or involuntarily relinquished, withdrawn, or failed to proceed with an application for any professional activity listed in (b)(i) through (x) of this subsection in order to avoid an adverse action or to preclude an investigation or while under investigation relating to professional competence or conduct:

- (i) License to practice any profession in any jurisdiction;
- (ii) Other professional registration or certification in any jurisdiction;
- (iii) Specialty or subspecialty board certification;
- (iv) Membership on any hospital medical staff;
- (v) Clinical privileges at any facility, including hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, or skilled nursing facilities;
- (vi) Medicare, medicaid, the food and drug administration, the national institute of health (office of human research protection), governmental, national, or international regulatory agency, or any public program;
- (vii) Professional society membership or fellowship;
- (viii) Participation or membership in a health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, independent practice association, physician-hospital organization, or other entity;
- (ix) Academic appointment;
- (x) Authority to prescribe controlled substances (drug enforcement agency or other authority);

(c) Any pending professional medical misconduct proceedings or any pending medical malpractice actions in this state or another state, the substance of the allegations in the proceedings or actions, and any additional information concerning the proceedings or actions as the physician deems appropriate;

(d) The substance of the findings in the actions or proceedings and any additional information concerning the actions or proceedings as the physician deems appropriate;

(e) A waiver by the physician of any confidentiality provisions concerning the information required to be provided to hospitals pursuant to this subsection; and

(f) A verification by the physician that the information provided by the physician is accurate and complete.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, prior to granting privileges or association to any physician or hiring a physician, a hospital or facility approved pursuant to this chapter shall request from any hospital with or at which the physician had or has privileges, was associated, or was employed, during the preceding five years, the following information concerning the physician:

(a) Any pending professional medical misconduct proceedings or any pending medical malpractice actions, in this state or another state;

(b) Any judgment or settlement of a medical malpractice action and any finding of professional misconduct in this state or another state by a licensing or disciplinary board; and

(c) Any information required to be reported by hospitals pursuant to RCW 18.71.0195.

(3) In lieu of the requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of this section, when granting or renewing privileges or association of any physician providing telemedicine or store and forward services, an originating site hospital may rely on a distant site hospital's decision to grant or renew clinical priv-

ileges or association of the physician if the originating site hospital obtains reasonable assurances, through a written agreement with the distant site hospital, that all of the following provisions are met:

(a) The distant site hospital providing the telemedicine or store and forward services is a medicare participating hospital;

(b) Any physician providing telemedicine or store and forward services at the distant site hospital will be fully privileged to provide such services by the distant site hospital;

(c) Any physician providing telemedicine or store and forward services will hold and maintain a valid license to perform such services issued or recognized by the state of Washington; and

(d) With respect to any distant site physician who holds current privileges at the originating site hospital whose patients are receiving the telemedicine or store and forward services, the originating site hospital has evidence of an internal review of the distant site physician's performance of these privileges and sends the distant site hospital such performance information for use in the periodic appraisal of the distant site physician. At a minimum, this information must include all adverse events, as defined in RCW 70.56.010, that result from the telemedicine or store and forward services provided by the distant site physician to the originating site hospital's patients and all complaints the originating site hospital has received about the distant site physician.

(4) The medical quality assurance commission or the board of osteopathic medicine and surgery shall be advised within thirty days of the name of any physician denied staff privileges, association, or employment on the basis of adverse findings under subsection (1) of this section.

(5) A hospital or facility that receives a request for information from another hospital or facility pursuant to subsections (1) through (3) of this section shall provide such information concerning the physician in question to the extent such information is known to the hospital or facility receiving such a request, including the reasons for suspension, termination, or curtailment of employment or privileges at the hospital or facility. A hospital, facility, or other person providing such information in good faith is not liable in any civil action for the release of such information.

(6) Information and documents, including complaints and incident reports, created specifically for, and collected, and maintained by a quality improvement committee are not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil action, and no person who was in attendance at a meeting of such committee or who participated in the creation, collection, or maintenance of information or documents specifically for the committee shall be permitted or required to testify in any civil action as to the content of such proceedings or the documents and information prepared specifically for the committee. This subsection does not preclude: (a) In any civil action, the discovery of the identity of persons involved in the medical care that is the basis of the civil action whose involvement was independent of any quality improvement activity; (b) in any civil action, the testimony of any person concerning the facts which form the basis for the institution of such proceedings of which the person had personal knowledge acquired independently of such proceedings; (c) in any civil action by a health care provider regarding the restriction

or revocation of that individual's clinical or staff privileges, introduction into evidence information collected and maintained by quality improvement committees regarding such health care provider; (d) in any civil action, disclosure of the fact that staff privileges were terminated or restricted, including the specific restrictions imposed, if any and the reasons for the restrictions; or (e) in any civil action, discovery and introduction into evidence of the patient's medical records required by regulation of the department of health to be made regarding the care and treatment received.

(7) Hospitals shall be granted access to information held by the medical quality assurance commission and the board of osteopathic medicine and surgery pertinent to decisions of the hospital regarding credentialing and recredentialing of practitioners.

(8) Violation of this section shall not be considered negligence per se. [2016 c 68 § 6; 2015 c 23 § 6; 2013 c 301 § 3; 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 744; 1993 c 492 § 416; 1991 c 3 § 337; 1987 c 269 § 6; 1986 c 300 § 11.]

**Intent—2016 c 68:** See note following RCW 48.43.735.

**Intent—2015 c 23:** See note following RCW 41.05.700.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Legislative findings—Severability—1986 c 300:** See notes following RCW 18.57.245.

*Medical quality assurance commission: Chapter 18.71 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.235 Doctor of osteopathic medicine and surgery—Discrimination based on board certification is prohibited.** A hospital that provides health care services to the general public may not discriminate against a qualified doctor of osteopathic medicine and surgery licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, who has applied to practice with the hospital, solely because that practitioner was board certified or eligible under an approved osteopathic certifying board instead of board certified or eligible respectively under an approved medical certifying board. [1995 c 64 § 3.]

**70.41.240 Information regarding conversion of hospitals to nonhospital health care facilities.** The department of health shall compile and make available to the public information regarding medicare health care facility certification options available to hospitals licensed under this title that desire to convert to nonhospital health care facilities. The information provided shall include standards and requirements for certification and procedures for acquiring certification. [1991 c 3 § 338; 1988 c 207 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.250 Cost disclosure to health care providers.** (1) The legislature finds that the spiraling costs of health care continue to surmount efforts to contain them, increasing at approximately twice the inflationary rate. The causes of this phenomenon are complex. By making physicians and other health care providers with hospital admitting privileges more aware of the cost consequences of health care services for consumers, these providers may be inclined to exercise more restraint in providing only the most relevant and cost-beneficial hospital services, with a potential for reducing the utilization of those services. The requirement of the hospital to inform physicians and other health care providers of the

charges of the health care services that they order may have a positive effect on containing health costs. Further, the option of the physician or other health care provider to inform the patient of these charges may strengthen the necessary dialogue in the provider-patient relationship that tends to be diminished by intervening third-party payers.

(2) The chief executive officer of a hospital licensed under this chapter and the superintendent of a state hospital shall establish and maintain a procedure for disclosing to physicians and other health care providers with admitting privileges the charges of all health care services ordered for their patients. Copies of hospital charges shall be made available to any physician and/or other health care provider ordering care in hospital inpatient/outpatient services. The physician and/or other health care provider may inform the patient of these charges and may specifically review them. Hospitals are also directed to study methods for making daily charges available to prescribing physicians through the use of interactive software and/or computerized information thereby allowing physicians and other health care providers to review not only the costs of present and past services but also future contemplated costs for additional diagnostic studies and therapeutic medications. [1993 c 492 § 265.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.300 Long-term care—Definitions.** "Cost-effective care" and "long-term care services," where used in RCW 70.41.310 and 70.41.320, shall have the same meaning as that given in \*RCW 74.39A.008. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 74.39A.008 was repealed by 1997 c 392 § 530.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.310 Long-term care—Program information to be provided to hospitals—Information on options to be provided to patients.** (1)(a) The department of social and health services, in consultation with hospitals and acute care facilities, shall promote the most appropriate and cost-effective use of long-term care services by developing and distributing to hospitals and other appropriate health care settings information on the various chronic long-term care programs that it administers directly or through contract. The information developed by the department of social and health services shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(i) An identification and detailed description of each long-term care service available in the state;

(ii) Functional, cognitive, and medicaid eligibility criteria that may be required for placement or admission to each long-term care service; and

(iii) A long-term care services resource manual for each hospital, that identifies the long-term care services operating within each hospital's patient service area. The long-term care services resource manual shall, at a minimum, identify the name, address, and telephone number of each entity known to be providing long-term care services; a brief description of the programs or services provided by each of the identified entities; and the name or names of a person or persons who may be contacted for further information or assistance in accessing the programs or services at each of the identified entities.

(b) The information required in (a) of this subsection shall be periodically updated and distributed to hospitals by the department of social and health services so that the information reflects current long-term care service options available within each hospital's patient service area.

(2) To the extent that a patient will have continuing care needs, once discharged from the hospital setting, hospitals shall, during the course of the patient's hospital stay, promote each patient's family member's and/or legal representative's understanding of available long-term care service discharge options by, at a minimum:

(a) Discussing the various and relevant long-term care services available, including eligibility criteria;

(b) Making available, to patients, their family members, and/or legal representative, a copy of the most current long-term care services resource manual;

(c) Responding to long-term care questions posed by patients, their family members, and/or legal representative;

(d) Assisting the patient, their family members, and/or legal representative in contacting appropriate persons or entities to respond to the question or questions posed; and

(e) Linking the patient and family to the local, state-designated aging and long-term care network to ensure effective transitions to appropriate levels of care and ongoing support. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.320 Long-term care—Patient discharge requirements for hospitals and acute care facilities—Pilot projects.** (1) Hospitals and acute care facilities shall:

(a) Work cooperatively with the department of social and health services, area agencies on aging, and local long-term care information and assistance organizations in the planning and implementation of patient discharges to long-term care services.

(b) Establish and maintain a system for discharge planning and designate a person responsible for system management and implementation.

(c) Establish written policies and procedures to:

(i) Identify patients needing further nursing, therapy, or supportive care following discharge from the hospital;

(ii) Subject to RCW 70.41.322, develop a documented discharge plan for each identified patient, including relevant patient history, specific care requirements, and date such follow-up care is to be initiated;

(iii) Coordinate with patient, family, caregiver, lay caregiver as provided in RCW 70.41.322, and appropriate members of the health care team which may include a long-term care worker or a home and community-based service provider. For the purposes of this subsection (1)(c)(iii), long-term care worker has the meaning provided in RCW 74.39A.009 and home and community-based service provider includes an adult family home as defined in RCW 70.128.010, an assisted living facility as defined in RCW 18.20.020, or a home care agency as defined in RCW 70.127.010;

(iv) Provide any patient, regardless of income status, written information and verbal consultation regarding the array of long-term care options available in the community, including the relative cost, eligibility criteria, location, and contact persons;

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(v) Promote an informed choice of long-term care services on the part of patients, family members, and legal representatives;

(vi) Coordinate with the department and specialized case management agencies, including area agencies on aging and other appropriate long-term care providers, as necessary, to ensure timely transition to appropriate home, community residential, or nursing facility care; and

(vii) Inform the patient or his or her surrogate decision maker designated under RCW 7.70.065 if it is necessary to complete a valid disclosure authorization as required by state and federal laws governing health information privacy and security, including chapter 70.02 RCW and the federal health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 and related regulations, in order to allow disclosure of health care information, including the discharge plan, to an individual or entity that will be involved in the patient's care upon discharge, including a lay caregiver as defined in RCW 70.41.020, a long-term care worker as defined in RCW 74.39A.009, a home and community-based service provider such as an adult family home as defined in RCW 70.128.010, an assisted living facility as defined in RCW 18.20.020, or a home care agency as defined in RCW 70.127.010. If a valid disclosure authorization is obtained, the hospital may release information as designated by the patient for care coordination or other specified purposes.

(d) Work in cooperation with the department which is responsible for ensuring that patients eligible for medicaid long-term care receive prompt assessment and appropriate service authorization.

(2) In partnership with selected hospitals, the department of social and health services shall develop and implement pilot projects in up to three areas of the state with the goal of providing information about appropriate in-home and community services to individuals and their families early during the individual's hospital stay.

The department shall not delay hospital discharges but shall assist and support the activities of hospital discharge planners. The department also shall coordinate with home health and hospice agencies whenever appropriate. The role of the department is to assist the hospital and to assist patients and their families in making informed choices by providing information regarding home and community options.

In conducting the pilot projects, the department shall:

(a) Assess and offer information regarding appropriate in-home and community services to individuals who are medicaid clients or applicants; and

(b) Offer assessment and information regarding appropriate in-home and community services to individuals who are reasonably expected to become medicaid recipients within one hundred eighty days of admission to a nursing facility. [2016 c 226 § 5; 1998 c 245 § 127; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.322 Discharge planning—Requirements—Lay caregivers.** (1) In addition to the requirements in RCW 70.41.320, hospital discharge policies must ensure that the discharge plan is appropriate for the patient's physical condition, emotional and social needs, and, if a lay caregiver is dis-

ignated takes into consideration, to the extent possible, the lay caregiver's abilities as disclosed to the hospital.

(2) As part of a patient's individualized treatment plan, discharge criteria must include, but not be limited to, the following components:

- (a) The details of the discharge plan;
- (b) Hospital staff assessment of the patient's ability for self-care after discharge;
- (c) An opportunity for the patient to designate a lay caregiver;
- (d) Documentation of any designated lay caregiver's contact information;
- (e) A description of aftercare tasks necessary to promote the patient's ability to stay at home;
- (f) An opportunity for the patient and, if designated, the patient's lay caregiver to participate in the discharge planning;

(g) Instruction or training provided to the patient and, if designated, the patient's lay caregiver, prior to discharge, to perform aftercare tasks. Instruction or training may include education and counseling about the patient's medications, including dosing and proper use of medication delivery devices when applicable; and

(h) Notification to a lay caregiver, if designated, of the patient's discharge or transfer.

(3) In the event that a hospital is unable to contact a designated lay caregiver, the lack of contact may not interfere with, delay, or otherwise affect the medical care provided to the patient, or an appropriate discharge of the patient. [2016 c 226 § 2.]

**70.41.324 Discharge planning—Certain policies and criteria not required.** RCW 70.41.322 does not require a hospital to adopt discharge policies or criteria that:

- (1) Delay a patient's discharge or transfer to another facility or to home; or
- (2) Require the disclosure of protected health information to a lay caregiver without obtaining a patient's consent as required by state and federal laws governing health information privacy and security, including chapter 70.02 RCW and the federal health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 and related regulations. [2016 c 226 § 3.]

**70.41.326 Discharge planning—Construction—Liability.** Nothing in RCW 70.41.322 may be construed to:

- (1) Interfere with the rights or duties of an agent operating under a valid health care directive under RCW 70.122.030;
- (2) Interfere with designations made by a patient pursuant to a physician order for life-sustaining treatment under RCW 43.70.480;
- (3) Interfere with the rights or duties of an authorized surrogate decision maker under RCW 7.70.065;
- (4) Establish a new requirement to reimburse or otherwise pay for services performed by the lay caregiver for after-care;
- (5) Create a private right of action against a hospital or any of its directors, trustees, officers, employees, or agents, or any contractors with whom the hospital has a contractual relationship;

(6) Hold liable, in any way, a hospital, hospital employee, or any consultants or contractors with whom the hospital has a contractual relationship for the services rendered or not rendered by the lay caregiver to the patient at the patient's residence;

(7) Obligate a designated lay caregiver to perform any aftercare tasks for any patient;

(8) Require a patient to designate any individual as a lay caregiver as defined in RCW 70.41.020;

(9) Obviate the obligation of a health carrier as defined in RCW 48.43.005 or any other entity issuing health benefit plans to provide coverage required under a health benefit plan; and

(10) Impact, impede, or otherwise disrupt or reduce the reimbursement obligations of a health carrier or any other entity issuing health benefit plans. [2016 c 226 § 4.]

**70.41.330 Hospital complaint toll-free telephone number.** Every hospital shall post in conspicuous locations a notice of the department's hospital complaint toll-free telephone number. The form of the notice shall be approved by the department. [2000 c 6 § 4.]

**70.41.340 Investigation of hospital complaints—Rules.** The department is authorized to adopt rules necessary to implement RCW 70.41.150, 70.41.155, and 70.41.330. [2000 c 6 § 6.]

**70.41.350 Emergency care provided to victims of sexual assault—Development of informational materials on emergency contraception—Rules.** (1) Every hospital providing emergency care to a victim of sexual assault shall:

- (a) Provide the victim with medically and factually accurate and unbiased written and oral information about emergency contraception;
- (b) Orally inform each victim of sexual assault of her option to be provided emergency contraception at the hospital; and
- (c) If not medically contraindicated, provide emergency contraception immediately at the hospital to each victim of sexual assault who requests it.

(2) The secretary, in collaboration with community sexual assault programs and other relevant stakeholders, shall develop, prepare, and produce informational materials relating to emergency contraception for the prevention of pregnancy in rape victims for distribution to and use in all emergency rooms in the state, in quantities sufficient to comply with the requirements of this section. The secretary, in collaboration with community sexual assault programs and other relevant stakeholders, may also approve informational materials from other sources for the purposes of this section. The informational materials must be clearly written and readily comprehensible in a culturally competent manner, as the secretary, in collaboration with community sexual assault programs and other relevant stakeholders, deems necessary to inform victims of sexual assault. The materials must explain the nature of emergency contraception, including that it is effective in preventing pregnancy, treatment options, and where they can be obtained.

(3) The secretary shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section. [2002 c 116 § 3.]

**Findings—2002 c 116:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Each year, over three hundred thousand women are sexually assaulted in the United States;

(b) Nationally, over thirty-two thousand women become pregnant each year as a result of sexual assault. Approximately fifty percent of these pregnancies end in abortion;

(c) Approximately thirty-eight percent of women in Washington are sexually assaulted over the course of their lifetime. This is twenty percent more than the national average;

(d) Only fifteen percent of sexual assaults in Washington are reported; however, even the numbers of reported attacks are staggering. For example, last year, two thousand six hundred fifty-nine rapes were reported in Washington, this is more than seven rapes per day.

(2) The legislature deems it essential that all hospital emergency rooms provide emergency contraception as a treatment option to any woman who seeks treatment as a result of a sexual assault." [2002 c 116 § 1.]

**70.41.360 Emergency care provided to victims of sexual assault—Department to respond to violations—Task force.** The department must respond to complaints of violations of RCW 70.41.350. The department shall convene a task force, composed of representatives from community sexual assault programs and other relevant stakeholders including advocacy agencies, medical agencies, and hospital associations, to provide input into the development and evaluation of the education materials and rule development. The task force shall expire on January 1, 2004. [2002 c 116 § 4.]

**Findings—2002 c 116:** See note following RCW 70.41.350.

**70.41.365 Statewide sexual assault kit tracking system—Participation by hospitals.** Hospitals licensed under this chapter shall participate in the statewide sexual assault kit tracking system established in RCW 43.43.545 for the purpose of tracking the status of all sexual assault kits collected by or in the custody of hospitals and other entities contracting with hospitals. Hospitals shall begin full participation in the system according to the implementation schedule established by the Washington state patrol. [2016 c 173 § 6.]

**Finding—Intent—2016 c 173:** See note following RCW 43.43.545.

**70.41.370 Investigation of complaints of violations concerning nursing technicians.** The department shall investigate complaints of violations of RCW 18.79.350 and 18.79.360 by an employer. The department shall maintain records of all employers that have violated RCW 18.79.350 and 18.79.360. [2003 c 258 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.380 Notice of unanticipated outcomes.** Hospitals shall have in place policies to assure that, when appropriate, information about unanticipated outcomes is provided to patients or their families or any surrogate decision makers identified pursuant to RCW 7.70.065. Notifications of unanticipated outcomes under this section do not constitute an acknowledgment or admission of liability, nor can the fact of notification, the content disclosed, or any and all statements, affirmations, gestures, or conduct expressing apology be introduced as evidence in a civil action. [2005 c 118 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.41.390 Safe patient handling.** (1) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Lift team" means hospital employees specially trained to conduct patient lifts, transfers, and repositioning using lifting equipment when appropriate.

(b) "Safe patient handling" means the use of engineering controls, lifting and transfer aids, or assistive devices, by lift teams or other staff, instead of manual lifting to perform the acts of lifting, transferring, and repositioning health care patients and residents.

(c) "Musculoskeletal disorders" means conditions that involve the nerves, tendons, muscles, and supporting structures of the body.

(2) By February 1, 2007, each hospital must establish a safe patient handling committee either by creating a new committee or assigning the functions of a safe patient handling committee to an existing committee. The purpose of the committee is to design and recommend the process for implementing a safe patient handling program. At least half of the members of the safe patient handling committee shall be frontline nonmanagerial employees who provide direct care to patients unless doing so will adversely affect patient care.

(3) By December 1, 2007, each hospital must establish a safe patient handling program. As part of this program, a hospital must:

(a) Implement a safe patient handling policy for all shifts and units of the hospital. Implementation of the safe patient handling policy may be phased-in with the acquisition of equipment under subsection (4) of this section;

(b) Conduct a patient handling hazard assessment. This assessment should consider such variables as patient-handling tasks, types of nursing units, patient populations, and the physical environment of patient care areas;

(c) Develop a process to identify the appropriate use of the safe patient handling policy based on the patient's physical and medical condition and the availability of lifting equipment or lift teams. The policy shall include a means to address circumstances under which it would be medically contraindicated to use lifting or transfer aids or assistive devices for particular patients;

(d) Conduct an annual performance evaluation of the program to determine its effectiveness, with the results of the evaluation reported to the safe patient handling committee. The evaluation shall determine the extent to which implementation of the program has resulted in a reduction in musculoskeletal disorder claims and days of lost work attributable to musculoskeletal disorder caused by patient handling, and include recommendations to increase the program's effectiveness; and

(e) When developing architectural plans for constructing or remodeling a hospital or a unit of a hospital in which patient handling and movement occurs, consider the feasibility of incorporating patient handling equipment or the physical space and construction design needed to incorporate that equipment at a later date.

(4) By January 30, 2010, each hospital must complete, at a minimum, acquisition of their choice of: (a) One readily available lift per acute care unit on the same floor unless the safe patient handling committee determines a lift is unnecessary in the unit; (b) one lift for every ten acute care available inpatient beds; or (c) equipment for use by lift teams. Hospitals must train staff on policies, equipment, and devices at least annually.

(5) Nothing in this section precludes lift team members from performing other duties as assigned during their shift.

(6) A hospital shall develop procedures for hospital employees to refuse to perform or be involved in patient handling or movement that the hospital employee believes in good faith will expose a patient or a hospital employee to an unacceptable risk of injury. A hospital employee who in good faith follows the procedure developed by the hospital in accordance with this subsection shall not be the subject of disciplinary action by the hospital for the refusal to perform or be involved in the patient handling or movement. [2006 c 165 § 2.]

**Findings—2006 c 165:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Patients are not at optimum levels of safety while being lifted, transferred, or repositioned manually. Mechanical lift programs can reduce skin tears suffered by patients by threefold. Nurses, thirty-eight percent of whom have previous back injuries, can drop patients if their pain thresholds are triggered.

(2) According to the bureau of labor statistics, hospitals in Washington have a nonfatal employee injury incidence rate that exceeds the rate of construction, agriculture, manufacturing, and transportation.

(3) The physical demands of the nursing profession lead many nurses to leave the profession. Research shows that the annual prevalence rate for nursing back injury is over forty percent and many nurses who suffer a back injury do not return to nursing. Considering the present nursing shortage in Washington, measures must be taken to protect nurses from disabling injury.

(4) Washington hospitals have made progress toward implementation of safe patient handling programs that are effective in decreasing employee injuries. It is not the intent of this act to place an undue financial burden on hospitals." [2006 c 165 § 1.]

**70.41.400 Patient billing—Written statement describing who may be billing the patient required—Contact phone numbers—Exceptions.** (1) Prior to or upon discharge, a hospital must furnish each patient receiving inpatient services a written statement providing a list of physician groups and other professional partners that commonly provide care for patients at the hospital and from whom the patient may receive a bill, along with contact phone numbers for those groups. The statement must prominently display a phone number that a patient can call for assistance if the patient has any questions about any of the bills they receive after discharge that relate to their hospital stay.

(2) This section does not apply to any hospital owned or operated by a health maintenance organization under chapter 48.46 RCW when providing prepaid health care services to enrollees of the health maintenance organization or any of its wholly owned subsidiary carriers. [2006 c 60 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 60:** "The legislature finds that the implementation of health information technologies in hospitals, including electronic medical records, has the potential to significantly reduce cost, improve patient outcomes, and simplify the administration of health care. Further, the legislature finds that the number of and complexity of the bills that result from a hospital stay can be confusing to patients. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to encourage hospitals to design the implementation of health information technologies so as to allow the hospital to provide the patient, prior to or upon discharge, clearly understandable information about the services provided during the hospital stay, and the bills the patient is likely to receive related to each of those services. Recognizing that complete implementation of the technologies required to achieve this goal will take a number of years, the legislature intends to require that hospitals immediately begin working toward the goal by compiling and communicating information to assist patients in understanding their bills." [2006 c 60 § 1.]

**70.41.410 Nurse staffing committee—Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this section

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and RCW 70.41.420 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Hospital" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 70.41.020, and also includes state hospitals as defined in RCW 72.23.010.

(2) "Intensity" means the level of patient need for nursing care, as determined by the nursing assessment.

(3) "Nursing personnel" means registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and unlicensed assistive nursing personnel providing direct patient care.

(4) "Nurse staffing committee" means the committee established by a hospital under RCW 70.41.420.

(5) "Patient care unit" means any unit or area of the hospital that provides patient care by registered nurses.

(6) "Skill mix" means the number and relative percentages of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and unlicensed assistive personnel among the total number of nursing personnel. [2008 c 47 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2008 c 47:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Research evidence demonstrates that registered nurses play a critical role in patient safety and quality of care. The ever-worsening shortage of nurses available to provide care in acute care hospitals has necessitated multiple strategies to generate more nurses and improve the recruitment and retention of nurses in hospitals; and

(b) Evidence-based nurse staffing that can help ensure quality and safe patient care while increasing nurse satisfaction in the work environment is key to solving an urgent public health issue in Washington state. Hospitals and nursing organizations recognize a mutual interest in patient safety initiatives that create a healthy environment for nurses and safe care for patients.

(2) In order to protect patients and to support greater retention of registered nurses, and to promote evidence-based nurse staffing, the legislature intends to establish a mechanism whereby direct care nurses and hospital management shall participate in a joint process regarding decisions about nurse staffing." [2008 c 47 § 1.]

**70.41.420 Nurse staffing committee.** (1) By September 1, 2008, each hospital shall establish a nurse staffing committee, either by creating a new committee or assigning the functions of a nurse staffing committee to an existing committee. At least one-half of the members of the nurse staffing committee shall be registered nurses currently providing direct patient care and up to one-half of the members shall be determined by the hospital administration. The selection of the registered nurses providing direct patient care shall be according to the collective bargaining agreement if there is one in effect at the hospital. If there is no applicable collective bargaining agreement, the members of the nurse staffing committee who are registered nurses providing direct patient care shall be selected by their peers.

(2) Participation in the nurse staffing committee by a hospital employee shall be on scheduled work time and compensated at the appropriate rate of pay. Nurse staffing committee members shall be relieved of all other work duties during meetings of the committee.

(3) Primary responsibilities of the nurse staffing committee shall include:

(a) Development and oversight of an annual patient care unit and shift-based nurse staffing plan, based on the needs of patients, to be used as the primary component of the staffing budget. Factors to be considered in the development of the plan should include, but are not limited to:

(i) Census, including total numbers of patients on the unit on each shift and activity such as patient discharges, admissions, and transfers;

(ii) Level of intensity of all patients and nature of the care to be delivered on each shift;

(iii) Skill mix;

(iv) Level of experience and specialty certification or training of nursing personnel providing care;

(v) The need for specialized or intensive equipment;

(vi) The architecture and geography of the patient care unit, including but not limited to placement of patient rooms, treatment areas, nursing stations, medication preparation areas, and equipment; and

(vii) Staffing guidelines adopted or published by national nursing professional associations, specialty nursing organizations, and other health professional organizations;

(b) Semiannual review of the staffing plan against patient need and known evidence-based staffing information, including the nursing sensitive quality indicators collected by the hospital;

(c) Review, assessment, and response to staffing concerns presented to the committee.

(4) In addition to the factors listed in subsection (3)(a) of this section, hospital finances and resources may be taken into account in the development of the nurse staffing plan.

(5) The staffing plan must not diminish other standards contained in state or federal law and rules, or the terms of an applicable collective bargaining agreement, if any, between the hospital and a representative of the nursing staff.

(6) The committee will produce the hospital's annual nurse staffing plan. If this staffing plan is not adopted by the hospital, the chief executive officer shall provide a written explanation of the reasons why to the committee.

(7) Each hospital shall post, in a public area on each patient care unit, the nurse staffing plan and the nurse staffing schedule for that shift on that unit, as well as the relevant clinical staffing for that shift. The staffing plan and current staffing levels must also be made available to patients and visitors upon request.

(8) A hospital may not retaliate against or engage in any form of intimidation of:

(a) An employee for performing any duties or responsibilities in connection with the nurse staffing committee; or

(b) An employee, patient, or other individual who notifies the nurse staffing committee or the hospital administration of his or her concerns on nurse staffing.

(9) This section is not intended to create unreasonable burdens on critical access hospitals under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395i-4. Critical access hospitals may develop flexible approaches to accomplish the requirements of this section that may include but are not limited to having nurse staffing committees work by telephone or electronic mail. [2008 c 47 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2008 c 47:** See note following RCW 70.41.410.

**70.41.430 Licensed hospitals must adopt a policy regarding methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)—Elements.** (1) Each hospital licensed under this chapter shall, by January 1, 2010, adopt a policy regarding methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus. The policy shall, at a minimum, contain the following elements:

(a) A requirement to test any patient for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus who is a member of a patient population identified as appropriate to test based on the hos-

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pital's risk assessment for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus;

(b) A requirement that a patient in the hospital's adult or pediatric, but not neonatal, intensive care unit be tested for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus within twenty-four hours of admission unless the patient has been previously tested during that hospital stay or has a known history of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus;

(c) Appropriate procedures to help prevent patients who test positive for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus from transmitting to other patients. For purposes of this subsection, "appropriate procedures" include, but are not limited to, isolation or cohorting of patients colonized or infected with methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus. In a hospital where patients, whose methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus status is either unknown or uncolonized, may be roomed with colonized or infected patients, patients must be notified they may be roomed with patients who have tested positive for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus; and

(d) A requirement that every patient who has a methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus infection receive oral and written instructions regarding aftercare and precautions to prevent the spread of the infection to others.

(2) A hospital that has identified a hospitalized patient who has a diagnosis of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus shall report the infection to the department using the department's comprehensive hospital abstract reporting system. When making its report, the hospital shall use codes used by the United States centers for medicare and medicaid services, when available. [2009 c 244 § 1.]

**70.41.440 Duty to report violent injuries—Preservation of evidence—Immunity—Privilege.** (1) A hospital shall report to a local law enforcement authority as soon as reasonably possible, taking into consideration a patient's emergency care needs, when the hospital provides treatment for a bullet wound, gunshot wound, or stab wound to a patient. A hospital shall establish a written policy to identify the person or persons responsible for making the report.

(2) The report required under subsection (1) of this section must include the following information, if known:

(a) The name, residence, sex, and age of the patient;

(b) Whether the patient has received a bullet wound, gunshot wound, or stab wound; and

(c) The name of the health care provider providing treatment for the bullet wound, gunshot wound, or stab wound.

(3) Nothing in this section shall limit a person's duty to report under RCW 26.44.030 or 74.34.035.

(4) Any bullets, clothing, or other foreign objects that are removed from a patient for whom a hospital is required to make a report pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be preserved and kept in custody in such a way that the identity and integrity thereof are reasonably maintained until the bullets, clothing, or other foreign objects are taken into possession by a law enforcement authority or the hospital's normal period for retention of such items expires, whichever occurs first.

(5) Any hospital or person who in good faith, and without gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct, makes a report required by this section, cooperates in an investigation or criminal or judicial proceeding related to such report,

or maintains bullets, clothing, or other foreign objects, or provides such items to a law enforcement authority as described in subsection (4) of this section, is immune from civil or criminal liability or professional licensure action arising out of or related to the report and its contents or the absence of information in the report, cooperation in an investigation or criminal or judicial proceeding, and the maintenance or provision to a law enforcement authority of bullets, clothing, or other foreign objects under subsection (4) of this section.

(6) The physician-patient privilege described in RCW 5.60.060(4), the registered nurse-patient privilege described in RCW 5.62.020, and any other health care provider-patient privilege created or recognized by law are not a basis for excluding as evidence in any criminal proceeding any report, or information contained in a report made under this section.

(7) All reporting, preservation, or other requirements of this section are secondary to patient care needs and may be delayed or compromised without penalty to the hospital or person required to fulfill the requirements of this section.

(8) If the patient states his or her injury is the result of domestic violence, the hospital shall follow its established processes to inform the patient of resources to assure the safety of the patient and his or her family. [2013 c 252 § 1; 2009 c 359 § 2.]

**70.41.450 Estimated charges of hospital services—Notice.** Hospitals licensed under this chapter shall post a sign in patient registration areas containing at least the following language: "Information about the estimated charges of your hospital services is available upon request. Please do not hesitate to ask for information." [2009 c 529 § 2.]

**70.41.460 Contract with department of corrections.** As a condition of licensure, a hospital must contract with the department of corrections pursuant to RCW 72.10.030. [2012 c 237 § 3.]

**70.41.470 Information to be made widely available by certain hospitals—Community health needs assessment—Description of community served—Community benefit implementation strategy.** (1) As of January 1, 2013, each hospital that is recognized by the internal revenue service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity must make its federally required community health needs assessment widely available to the public within fifteen days of submission to the internal revenue service. Following completion of the initial community health needs assessment, each hospital in accordance with the internal revenue service, shall complete and make widely available to the public an assessment once every three years.

(2) Unless contained in the community health needs assessment under subsection (1) of this section, a hospital subject to the requirements under subsection (1) of this section shall make public a description of the community served by the hospital, including both a geographic description and a description of the general population served by the hospital; and demographic information such as leading causes of death, levels of chronic illness, and descriptions of the medically underserved, low-income, and minority, or chronically ill populations in the community.

(3)(a) Each hospital subject to the requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall make widely available to the public a community benefit implementation strategy within one year of completing its community health needs assessment. In developing the implementation strategy, hospitals shall consult with community-based organizations and stakeholders, and local public health jurisdictions, as well as any additional consultations the hospital decides to undertake. Unless contained in the implementation strategy under this subsection (3)(a), the hospital must provide a brief explanation for not accepting recommendations for community benefit proposals identified in the assessment through the stakeholder consultation process, such as excessive expense to implement or infeasibility of implementation of the proposal.

(b) Implementation strategies must be evidence-based, when available; or development and implementation of innovative programs and practices should be supported by evaluation measures.

(4) For the purposes of this section, the term "widely available to the public" has the same meaning as in the internal revenue service guidelines. [2012 c 103 § 1.]

**70.41.480 Findings—Intent—Authority to prescribe prepackaged emergency medications—Definitions.** (1) The legislature finds that high quality, safe, and compassionate health care services for patients of Washington state must be available at all times. The legislature further finds that there is a need for patients being released from hospital emergency departments to maintain access to emergency medications when community or hospital pharmacy services are not available. It is the intent of the legislature to accomplish this objective by allowing practitioners with prescriptive authority to prescribe limited amounts of prepackaged emergency medications to patients being discharged from hospital emergency departments when access to community or outpatient hospital pharmacy services is not otherwise available.

(2) A hospital may allow a practitioner to prescribe prepackaged emergency medications and allow a practitioner or a registered nurse licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW to distribute prepackaged emergency medications to patients being discharged from a hospital emergency department during times when community or outpatient hospital pharmacy services are not available within fifteen miles by road or when, in the judgment of the practitioner and consistent with hospital policies and procedures, a patient has no reasonable ability to reach the local community or outpatient pharmacy. A hospital may only allow this practice if: The director of the hospital pharmacy, in collaboration with appropriate hospital medical staff, develops policies and procedures regarding the following:

(a) Development of a list, preapproved by the pharmacy director, of the types of emergency medications to be prepackaged and distributed;

(b) Assurances that emergency medications to be prepackaged pursuant to this section are prepared by a pharmacist or under the supervision of a pharmacist licensed under chapter 18.64 RCW;

(c) Development of specific criteria under which emergency prepackaged medications may be prescribed and distributed consistent with the limitations of this section;

(d) Assurances that any practitioner authorized to prescribe prepackaged emergency medication or any nurse authorized to distribute prepackaged emergency medication is trained on the types of medications available and the circumstances under which they may be distributed;

(e) Procedures to require practitioners intending to prescribe prepackaged emergency medications pursuant to this section to maintain a valid prescription either in writing or electronically in the patient's records prior to a medication being distributed to a patient;

(f) Establishment of a limit of no more than a forty-eight hour supply of emergency medication as the maximum to be dispensed to a patient, except when community or hospital pharmacy services will not be available within forty-eight hours. In no case may the policy allow a supply exceeding ninety-six hours be dispensed;

(g) Assurances that prepackaged emergency medications will be kept in a secure location in or near the emergency department in such a manner as to preclude the necessity for entry into the pharmacy; and

(h) Assurances that nurses or practitioners will distribute prepackaged emergency medications to patients only after a practitioner has counseled the patient on the medication.

(3) The delivery of a single dose of medication for immediate administration to the patient is not subject to the requirements of this section.

(4) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Emergency medication" means any medication commonly prescribed to emergency room patients, including those drugs, substances or immediate precursors listed in schedules II through V of the uniform controlled substances act, chapter 69.50 RCW, as now or hereafter amended.

(b) "Distribute" means the delivery of a drug or device other than by administering or dispensing.

(c) "Practitioner" means any person duly authorized by law or rule in the state of Washington to prescribe drugs as defined in \*RCW 18.64.011(24).

(d) "Nurse" means a registered nurse as defined in RCW 18.79.020. [2015 c 234 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 18.64.011 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (24) to subsection (29).

Effective date—2015 c 234 § 1: "Section 1 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 11, 2015]." [2015 c 234 § 5.]

**70.41.490 Authorization for certain transfers of drugs between hospitals and their affiliated companies.**

(1) The legislature recognizes that in order for hospitals to ensure drugs are accessible to patients and the public to meet hospital and community health care needs, certain transfers of drugs must be authorized between hospitals and their affiliated or related companies under common ownership and control of the corporate entity and for emergency medical reasons.

(2) A licensed hospital pharmacy is permitted, without a wholesaler license, to:

(a) Engage in intracompany sales, being defined as any transaction or transfer between any division, subsidiary, parent company, affiliated company, or related company under common ownership and control of the corporate entity,

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unless the transfer occurs between a wholesale distributor and a health care entity or practitioner; and

(b) Sell, purchase, or trade a drug or offer to sell, purchase, or trade a drug for emergency medical reasons. For the purposes of this subsection, "emergency medical reasons" includes transfers of prescription drugs to alleviate a temporary shortage, except that the gross dollar value of the transfers may not exceed five percent of the total prescription drug sale revenue of either the transferor or transferee pharmacy during any twelve consecutive month period. [2015 c 234 § 2.]

**70.41.500 Down syndrome—Parent information.** A hospital that provides a parent with a positive prenatal or postnatal diagnosis of Down syndrome shall provide the parent with the information prepared by the department under RCW 43.70.738 at the time the hospital provides the parent with the Down syndrome diagnosis. [2016 c 70 § 9.]

**70.41.900 Severability—1955 c 267.** If any part, or parts, of this chapter shall be held unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall be given full force and effect, as completely as if the part held unconstitutional had not been included herein, if any such remaining part can then be administered for the purpose of establishing and maintaining standards for hospitals. [1955 c 267 § 21.]

**Chapter 70.42 RCW  
MEDICAL TEST SITES**

Sections

70.42.005	Intent—Construction.
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70.42.030	Waiver of license—Conditions.
70.42.040	Sites approved under federal law—Automatic licensure.
70.42.050	Permission to perform tests not covered by license—License amendment.
70.42.060	Quality control, quality assurance, recordkeeping, and personnel standards.
70.42.070	Proficiency testing program.
70.42.080	Test site supervisor.
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70.42.160	Penalties—Acts constituting violations.
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70.42.180	Operating without a license—Injunctions or other remedies—Penalty.
70.42.190	Petition of superior court for review of disciplinary action.
70.42.200	Persons who may not own or operate test site.
70.42.210	Confidentiality of certain information.
70.42.220	Rules.
70.42.900	Effective dates—1989 c 386.

**70.42.005 Intent—Construction.** The legislature intends that medical test sites meet criteria known to promote accurate and reliable analysis, thus improving health care through uniform test site licensure and regulation including quality control, quality assurance, and proficiency testing. The legislature also intends to meet the requirements of federal laws licensing and regulating medical testing.

The legislature intends that nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted to place any liability whatsoever on the state

for the action or inaction of test sites or test site personnel. The legislature further intends that nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted to expand the state's role regarding medical testing beyond the provisions of this chapter. [1989 c 386 § 1.]

**70.42.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means the \*department of health if enacted, otherwise the department of social and health services.

(2) "Designated test site supervisor" means the available individual who is responsible for the technical functions of the test site and who meets the department's qualifications set out in rule by the department.

(3) "Person" means any individual, or any public or private organization, agent, agency, corporation, firm, association, partnership, or business.

(4) "Proficiency testing program" means an external service approved by the department which provides samples to evaluate the accuracy, reliability and performance of the tests at each test site.

(5) "Quality assurance" means a comprehensive set of policies, procedures, and practices to assure that a test site's results are accurate and reliable. Quality assurance means a total program of internal and external quality control, equipment preventative maintenance, calibration, recordkeeping, and proficiency testing evaluation, including a written quality assurance plan.

(6) "Quality control" means internal written procedures and day-to-day analysis of laboratory reference materials at each test site to insure precision and accuracy of test methodology, equipment, and results.

(7) "Test" means any examination or procedure conducted on a sample taken from the human body, including screening.

(8) "Test site" means any facility or site, public or private, which analyzes materials derived from the human body for the purposes of health care, treatment, or screening. A test site does not mean a facility or site, including a residence, where a test approved for home use by the federal food and drug administration is used by an individual to test himself or herself without direct supervision or guidance by another and where this test is not part of a commercial transaction. [1989 c 386 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: 1989 1st ex.s. c 14 created the department of health.

**70.42.020 License required.** After July 1, 1990, no person may advertise, operate, manage, own, conduct, open, or maintain a test site without first obtaining a license for the tests to be performed, except as provided in RCW 70.42.030. [1989 c 386 § 3.]

**70.42.030 Waiver of license—Conditions.** (1) As a part of the application for licensure, a test site may request a waiver from licensure under this chapter if the test site performs only examinations which are determined to have insignificant risk of an erroneous result, including those which (a) are approved by the federal food and drug administration for home use; (b) are so simple and accurate as to render the like-

likelihood of erroneous results negligible; or (c) pose no reasonable risk of harm to the patient if performed incorrectly.

(2) The department shall determine by rule which tests meet the criteria in subsection (1) of this section and shall be exempt from coverage of this chapter. The standards applied in developing the list shall be consistent with federal law and regulations.

(3) The department shall grant a waiver from licensure for two years for a valid request based on subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

(4) Any test site which has received a waiver under subsection (3) of this section shall report to the department any changes in the type of tests it intends to perform thirty days in advance of the changes. In no case shall a test site with a waiver perform tests which require a license under this chapter. [1989 c 386 § 4.]

**70.42.040 Sites approved under federal law—Automatic licensure.** Test sites accredited, certified, or licensed by an organization or agency approved by the department consistent with federal law and regulations shall receive a license under RCW 70.42.110. [1989 c 386 § 5.]

**70.42.050 Permission to perform tests not covered by license—License amendment.** A licensee that desires to perform tests for which it is not currently licensed shall notify the department. To the extent allowed by federal law and regulations, upon notification and pending the department's determination, the department shall grant the licensee temporary permission to perform the additional tests. The department shall amend the license if it determines that the licensee meets all applicable requirements. [1989 c 386 § 6.]

**70.42.060 Quality control, quality assurance, recordkeeping, and personnel standards.** The department shall adopt standards established in rule governing test sites for quality control, quality assurance, recordkeeping, and personnel consistent with federal laws and regulations. "Recordkeeping" for purposes of this chapter means books, files, or records necessary to show compliance with the quality control and quality assurance requirements adopted by the department. [1989 c 386 § 7.]

**70.42.070 Proficiency testing program.** (1) Except where there is no reasonable proficiency test, each licensed test site must participate in a department-approved proficiency testing program appropriate to the test or tests which it performs. The department may approve proficiency testing programs offered by private or public organizations when the program meets the standards set by the department. Testing shall be conducted quarterly except as otherwise provided for in rule.

(2) The department shall establish proficiency testing standards by rule which include a measure of acceptable performance for tests, and a system for grading proficiency testing performance for tests. The standards may include an evaluation of the personnel performing tests. [1989 c 386 § 8.]

**70.42.080 Test site supervisor.** A test site shall have a designated test site supervisor who shall meet the qualifications determined by the department in rule. The designated

test site supervisor shall be responsible for the testing functions of the test site. [1989 c 386 § 9.]

**70.42.090 Fees—Account.** (1) The department shall establish a schedule of fees for license applications, renewals, amendments, and waivers. In fixing said fees, the department shall set the fees at a sufficient level to defray the cost of administering the licensure program. All such fees shall be fixed by rule adopted in accordance with the provisions of the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. In determining the fee schedule, the department shall consider the following: (a) Complexity of the license required; (b) number and type of tests performed at the test site; (c) degree of supervision required from the department staff; (d) whether the license is granted under RCW 70.42.040; and (e) general administrative costs of the test site licensing program established under this chapter. For each category of license, fees charged shall be related to program costs.

(2) The medical test site licensure account is created in the state treasury. The state treasurer shall transfer into the medical test site licensure account all revenue received from medical test site license fees. Funds for this account may only be appropriated for the support of the activities defined under this chapter. For the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, moneys in the account may be spent for laboratory services in the department of health.

(3) The department may establish separate fees for repeat inspections and repeat audits it performs under RCW 70.42.170. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 988; 1989 c 386 § 10.]

**Effective dates—2013 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**70.42.100 Applicants—Requirements.** An applicant for issuance or renewal of a medical test site license shall:

(1) File a written application on a form provided by the department;

(2) Demonstrate ability to comply with this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter;

(3) Cooperate with any on-site review which may be conducted by the department prior to licensure or renewal. [1989 c 386 § 11.]

**70.42.110 Issuance of license—Renewal.** Upon receipt of an application for a license and the license fee, the department shall issue a license if the applicant meets the requirements established under this chapter. All persons operating test sites before July 1, 1990, shall submit applications by July 1, 1990. A license issued under this chapter shall not be transferred or assigned without thirty days' prior notice to the department and the department's timely approval. A license, unless suspended or revoked, shall be effective for a period of two years. The department may establish penalty fees or take other appropriate action pursuant to this chapter for failure to apply for licensure or renewal as required by this chapter. [1989 c 386 § 12.]

**70.42.120 Denial of license.** Under this chapter, and chapter 34.05 RCW, the department may deny a license to any applicant who:

(1) Refuses to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the standards or rules adopted under this chapter;

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(2) Was the holder of a license under this chapter which was revoked for cause and never reissued by the department;

(3) Has knowingly or with reason to know made a false statement of a material fact in the application for a license or in any data attached thereto or in any record required by the department;

(4) Refuses to allow representatives of the department to examine any book, record, or file required by this chapter to be maintained;

(5) Willfully prevented, interfered with, or attempted to impede in any way the work of a representative of the department; or

(6) Misrepresented, or was fraudulent in, any aspect of the applicant's business. [1989 c 386 § 13.]

**70.42.130 Conditions upon license.** Under this chapter, and chapter 34.05 RCW, the department may place conditions on a license which limit or cancel a test site's authority to conduct any of the tests or groups of tests of any licensee who:

(1) Fails or refuses to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter;

(2) Has knowingly or with reason to know made a false statement of a material fact in the application for a license or in any data attached thereto or in any record required by the department;

(3) Refuses to allow representatives of the department to examine any book, record, or file required by this chapter to be maintained;

(4) Willfully prevented, interfered with, or attempted to impede in any way the work of a representative of the department;

(5) Willfully prevented or interfered with preservation of evidence of a known violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter; or

(6) Misrepresented, or was fraudulent in, any aspect of the licensee's business. [1989 c 386 § 14.]

**70.42.140 Suspension of license.** Under this chapter, and chapter 34.05 RCW, the department may suspend the license of any licensee who:

(1) Fails or refuses to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter;

(2) Has knowingly or with reason to know made a false statement of a material fact in the application for a license or in any data attached thereto or in any record required by the department;

(3) Refuses to allow representatives of the department to examine any book, record, or file required by this chapter to be maintained;

(4) Willfully prevented, interfered with, or attempted to impede in any way the work of a representative of the department;

(5) Willfully prevented or interfered with preservation of evidence of a known violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter;

(6) Misrepresented, or was fraudulent in, any aspect of the licensee's business;

(7) Used false or fraudulent advertising; or

(8) Failed to pay any civil monetary penalty assessed by the department under this chapter within twenty-eight days after the assessment becomes final. [1989 c 386 § 15.]

**70.42.150 Revocation of license.** Under this chapter, and chapter 34.05 RCW, the department may revoke the license of any licensee who:

(1) Fails or refuses to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter;

(2) Has knowingly or with reason to know made a false statement of a material fact in the application for a license or in any data attached thereto or in any record required by the department;

(3) Refuses to allow representatives of the department to examine any book, record, or file required by this chapter to be maintained;

(4) Willfully prevented, interfered with, or attempted to impede in any way the work of a representative of the department;

(5) Willfully prevented or interfered with preservation of evidence of a known violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter;

(6) Misrepresented, or was fraudulent in, any aspect of the licensee's business;

(7) Used false or fraudulent advertising; or

(8) Failed to pay any civil monetary penalty assessed by the department pursuant to this chapter within twenty-eight days after the assessment becomes final.

The department may summarily revoke a license when it finds continued licensure of a test site immediately jeopardizes the public health, safety, or welfare. [1989 c 386 § 16.]

**70.42.160 Penalties—Acts constituting violations.** Under this chapter, and chapter 34.05 RCW, the department may assess monetary penalties of up to ten thousand dollars per violation in addition to or in lieu of conditioning, suspending, or revoking a license. A violation occurs when a licensee:

(1) Fails or refuses to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the standards or rules adopted under this chapter;

(2) Has knowingly or with reason to know made a false statement of a material fact in the application for a license or in any data attached thereto or in any record required by the department;

(3) Refuses to allow representatives of the department to examine any book, record, or file required by this chapter to be maintained;

(4) Willfully prevents, interferes with, or attempts to impede in any way the work of any representative of the department;

(5) Willfully prevents or interferes with preservation of evidence of any known violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter;

(6) Misrepresents or was fraudulent in any aspect of the applicant's business; or

(7) Uses advertising which is false or fraudulent.

Each day of a continuing violation is a separate violation. [1989 c 386 § 17.]

**70.42.170 On-site reviews.** The department may at any time conduct an on-site review of a licensee or applicant in order to determine compliance with this chapter. When the department has reason to believe a waived site is conducting tests requiring a license, the department may conduct an on-site review of the waived site in order to determine compliance. The department may also examine and audit records necessary to determine compliance with this chapter. The right to conduct an on-site review and audit and examination of records shall extend to any premises and records of persons whom the department has reason to believe are opening, owning, conducting, maintaining, managing, or otherwise operating a test site without a license.

Following an on-site review, the department shall give written notice of any violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter. The notice shall describe the reasons for noncompliance and inform the licensee or applicant or test site operator that it shall comply within a specified reasonable time. If the licensee or applicant or test site operator fails to comply, the department may take disciplinary action under RCW 70.42.120 through 70.42.150, or further action as authorized by this chapter. [1989 c 386 § 18.]

**70.42.180 Operating without a license—Injunctions or other remedies—Penalty.** Notwithstanding the existence or use of any other remedy, the department may, in the manner provided by law and upon the advice of the attorney general, who shall represent the department in the proceedings, maintain an action in the name of the state for an injunction or other process against any person to restrain or prevent the advertising, operating, maintaining, managing, or opening of a test site without a license under this chapter. It is a misdemeanor to own, operate, or maintain a test site without a license. [1989 c 386 § 19.]

**70.42.190 Petition of superior court for review of disciplinary action.** Any test site which has had a denial, condition, suspension, or revocation of its license, or a civil monetary penalty upheld after administrative review under chapter 34.05 RCW, may, within sixty days of the administrative determination, petition the superior court for review of the decision. [1989 c 386 § 20.]

**70.42.200 Persons who may not own or operate test site.** No person who has owned or operated a test site that has had its license revoked may own or operate a test site within two years of the final adjudication of a license revocation. [1989 c 386 § 21.]

**70.42.210 Confidentiality of certain information.** All information received by the department through filed reports, audits, or on-site reviews, as authorized under this chapter shall not be disclosed publicly in any manner that would identify persons who have specimens of material from their bodies at a test site, absent a written release from the person, or a court order. [1989 c 386 § 22.]

**70.42.220 Rules.** The department shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW necessary to implement the purposes of this chapter. [1989 c 386 § 23.]

**70.42.900 Effective dates—1989 c 386.** (1) RCW 70.42.005 through 70.42.210 shall take effect July 1, 1990.

(2) RCW 70.42.220 is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1989. [1989 c 386 § 25.]

### Chapter 70.43 RCW

#### HOSPITAL STAFF MEMBERSHIP OR PRIVILEGES

##### Sections

- 70.43.010 Applications for membership or privileges—Standards and procedures.  
 70.43.020 Applications for membership or privileges—Discrimination based on type of license prohibited—Exception.  
 70.43.030 Violations of RCW 70.43.010 or 70.43.020—Injunctive relief.

**70.43.010 Applications for membership or privileges—Standards and procedures.** Within one hundred eighty days of June 11, 1986, the governing body of every hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW shall set standards and procedures to be applied by the hospital and its medical staff in considering and acting upon applications for staff membership or professional privileges. [1986 c 205 § 1.]

**70.43.020 Applications for membership or privileges—Discrimination based on type of license prohibited—Exception.** The governing body of any hospital, except any hospital which employs its medical staff, in considering and acting upon applications for staff membership or professional privileges within the scope of the applicants' respective licenses, shall not discriminate against a qualified person solely on the basis of whether such person is licensed under chapters 18.71, 18.57, or 18.22 RCW. [1986 c 205 § 2.]

**70.43.030 Violations of RCW 70.43.010 or 70.43.020—Injunctive relief.** Any person may apply to superior court for a preliminary or permanent injunction restraining a violation of RCW 70.43.010 or 70.43.020. This action is an additional remedy not dependent on the adequacy of the remedy at law. Nothing in this chapter shall require a hospital to grant staff membership or professional privileges until a final determination is made upon the merits by the hospital governing body. [1986 c 205 § 3.]

### Chapter 70.44 RCW

#### PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICTS

##### Sections

- 70.44.003 Purpose.  
 70.44.007 Definitions.  
 70.44.010 Districts authorized.  
 70.44.015 Validation of existing districts.  
 70.44.016 Validation of districts.  
 70.44.020 Resolution—Petition for countywide district—Conduct of elections.  
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- 70.44.045 Commissioners—Vacancies.  
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 70.44.053 Increase in number of commissioners—Proposition to voters.  
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 70.44.059 Chaplains—Authority to employ.  
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 70.44.062 Commissioners' meetings, proceedings, and deliberations concerning health care providers' clinical or staff privileges to be confidential—Final action in public session.  
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*County hospitals: Chapter 36.62 RCW.*

*Limitation of indebtedness prescribed: RCW 39.36.020.*

*Tortious conduct of political subdivisions, municipal corporations and quasi municipal corporations, liability for damages: Chapter 4.96 RCW.*

**70.44.003 Purpose.** The purpose of chapter 70.44 RCW is to authorize the establishment of public hospital districts to own and operate hospitals and other health care facilities and to provide hospital services and other health care services for the residents of such districts and other persons. [1982 c 84 § 1.]

**70.44.007 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following words have the meanings indicated:

(1) "Other health care facilities" means nursing home, extended care, long-term care, outpatient and rehabilitative facilities, ambulances, and such other facilities as are appropriate to the health needs of the population served.

(2) "Other health care services" means nursing home, extended care, long-term care, outpatient, rehabilitative, health maintenance, and ambulance services and such other services as are appropriate to the health needs of the population served.

(3) "Public hospital district" or "district" means public health care service district. [1997 c 332 § 15; 1982 c 84 § 12; 1974 ex.s. c 165 § 5.]

**70.44.010 Districts authorized.** Municipal corporations, to be known as public hospital districts, are hereby authorized and may be established within the several counties of the state as hereinafter provided. [1947 c 225 § 1; 1945 c 264 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6090-31. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1945 c 264 § 1 now codified as RCW 70.44.005.]

**70.44.015 Validation of existing districts.** Each and all of the respective areas of land heretofore attempted to be organized into public hospital districts under the provisions of this chapter are validated and declared to be duly existing hospital districts having the respective boundaries set forth in their organization proceedings as shown by the files in the office of the board of county commissioners of the county in question, and by the files of such districts. [1955 c 135 § 2.]

**70.44.016 Validation of districts.** Each and all of the respective areas of land attempted to be organized into public hospital districts prior to June 10, 1982, under the provisions of chapter 70.44 RCW where the canvass of the election on the proposition of creating a public hospital district shows the passage of the proposition are validated and declared to be duly existing public hospital districts having the respective boundaries set forth in their organization proceedings as shown by the files in the office of the legislative authority of the county in question, and by the files of such districts. [1982 c 84 § 10.]

**70.44.020 Resolution—Petition for countywide district—Conduct of elections.** At any general election or at any special election which may be called for that purpose, the county legislative authority of a county may, or on petition of ten percent of the registered voters of the county based on the total vote cast in the last general county election, shall, by resolution, submit to the voters of the county the proposition of creating a public hospital district coextensive with the limits of the county. The petition shall be filed with the county auditor, who shall within fifteen days examine the signatures thereon and certify to the sufficiency thereof, and for that purpose the auditor shall have access to all registration books in the possession of election officers in the county. If the petition is found to be insufficient, it shall be returned to the persons filing it, who may amend or add names thereto for ten days, when it shall be returned to the auditor, who shall have an additional fifteen days to examine it and attach the certificate thereto. No person signing the petition may withdraw his or her name therefrom after filing. When the petition is certified as sufficient, the auditor shall forthwith transmit it, together with the certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the county legislative authority, who shall immediately transmit the proposition to the supervisor of elections or other election officer of the county, and he or she shall submit the

proposition to the voters at the next general election or if such petition so requests, shall call a special election on such proposition in accordance with RCW 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330. The notice of the election shall state the boundaries of the proposed district and the object of the election, and shall in other respects conform to the requirements of law governing the time and manner of holding elections. In submitting the question to the voters, the proposition shall be expressed on the ballot substantially in the following terms:

For public hospital district No. . . . .

Against public hospital district No. . . . .

[2012 c 117 § 378; 1990 c 259 § 38; 1955 c 135 § 1; 1945 c 264 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-32.]

**70.44.028 Limitation on legal challenges.** Unless commenced within thirty days after the date of the filing of the certificate of the canvass of an election on the proposition of creating a new public hospital district pursuant to chapter 70.44 RCW, no lawsuit whatever may be maintained challenging in any way the legal existence of such district or the validity of the proceedings had for the organization and creation thereof. If the creation of a district is not challenged within the period specified in this section, the district conclusively shall be deemed duly and regularly organized under the laws of this state. [1982 c 84 § 9.]

**70.44.030 Petition for lesser district—Procedure.** Any petition for the formation of a public hospital district may describe a less area than the entire county in which the petition is filed, the boundaries of which shall follow the then existing precinct boundaries and not divide any voting precinct; and in the event that such a petition is filed containing not less than ten percent of the voters of the proposed district who voted at the last general election, certified by the auditor in like manner as for a countywide district, the board of county commissioners shall fix a date for a hearing on such petition, and shall publish the petition, without the signatures thereto appended, for two weeks prior to the date of the hearing, together with a notice stating the time of the meeting when such petition will be heard. Such publications required by this chapter shall be in a newspaper published in the proposed or established public hospital district, or, if there be no such newspaper, then in a newspaper published in the county in which such district is situated, and of general circulation in such county. The hearing on such petition may be adjourned from time to time, not exceeding four weeks in all. If upon the final hearing the board of county commissioners shall find that any lands have been unjustly or improperly included within the proposed public hospital district the said board shall change and fix the boundary lines in such manner as it shall deem reasonable and just and conducive to the welfare and convenience, and make and enter an order establishing and defining the boundary lines of the proposed public hospital district: PROVIDED, That no lands shall be included within the boundaries so fixed lying outside the boundaries described in the petition, except upon the written request of the owners of such lands. Thereafter the same procedure shall be followed as prescribed in this chapter for the formation of a public hospital district including an entire county, except that the petition and election shall be confined solely to the

lesser public hospital district. [1945 c 264 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-33.]

**70.44.035 Petition for district lying in more than one county—Procedure.** Any petition for the formation of a public hospital district may describe an area lying in more than one county, the boundaries of which shall follow the then existing precinct boundaries and not divide a voting precinct; and if a petition is filed with the county auditor of the respective counties in which a portion of the proposed district is located, containing not less than ten percent of the voters of that area of each county of the proposed district who voted at the last general election, certified by the said respective auditors in like manner as for a countywide district, the board of county commissioners of each of the counties in which a portion of the proposed district is located shall fix a date for a hearing on the petition, and shall publish the petition, without the signatures thereto appended, for two weeks prior to the hearing, together with a notice stating the time of the meeting when the petition will be heard. The publication required by this chapter shall be in a newspaper published in the portion of each county lying within the proposed district, or if there be no such newspaper published in any such portion of a county, then in one published in the county wherein such portion of said district is situated, and of general circulation in the county. The hearing before the respective county commissioners may be adjourned from time to time not exceeding four weeks in all. If upon the final hearing the respective boards of county commissioners find that any land has been unjustly or improperly included within the proposed district they may change and fix the boundary lines of the portion of said district located within their respective counties in such manner as they deem reasonable and just and conducive to the welfare and convenience, and enter an order establishing and defining the boundary lines of the proposed district located within their respective counties: PROVIDED, That no lands shall be included within the boundaries so fixed lying outside the boundaries described in the petition, except upon the written request of the owners of the land to be so included. Thereafter the same procedure shall be followed as prescribed for the formation of a district including an entire county, except that the petition and election shall be confined solely to the portions of each county lying within the proposed district. [1953 c 267 § 1.]

**70.44.040 Elections—Commissioners, terms, districts.** (1) The provisions of Title 29A RCW relating to elections shall govern public hospital districts, except as provided in this chapter.

A public hospital district shall be created when the ballot proposition authorizing the creation of the district is approved by a simple majority vote of the voters of the proposed district voting on the proposition and the total vote cast upon the proposition exceeds forty percent of the total number of votes cast in the proposed district at the preceding state general election.

A public hospital district initially may be created with three, five, or seven commissioner districts. At the election at which the proposition is submitted to the voters as to whether a district shall be formed, three, five, or seven commissioners shall be elected from either three, five, or seven commis-

sioner districts, or at large positions, or both, as determined by resolution of the county commissioners of the county or counties in which the proposed public hospital district is located, all in accordance with RCW 70.44.054. The election of the initial commissioners shall be null and void if the district is not authorized to be created.

No primary shall be held. A special filing period shall be opened as provided in RCW 29A.24.171 and 29A.24.181. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for the commissioner of each commissioner district or at large position shall be elected as the commissioner of that district. The terms of office of the initial public hospital district commissioners shall be staggered, with the length of the terms assigned so that the person or persons who are elected receiving the greater number of votes being assigned a longer term or terms of office and each term of an initial commissioner running until a successor assumes office who is elected at one of the next three following district general elections the first of which occurs at least one hundred twenty days after the date of the election where voters approved the ballot proposition creating the district, as follows:

(a) If the public hospital district will have three commissioners, the successor to one initial commissioner shall be elected at such first following district general election, the successor to one initial commissioner shall be elected at the second following district general election, and the successor to one initial commissioner shall be elected at the third following district general election;

(b) If the public hospital district will have five commissioners, the successor to one initial commissioner shall be elected at such first following district general election, the successors to two initial commissioners shall be elected at the second following district general election, and the successors to two initial commissioners shall be elected at the third following district general election;

(c) If the public hospital district will have seven commissioners, the successors to two initial commissioners shall be elected at such first following district general election, the successors to two initial commissioners shall be elected at the second following district general election, and the successors to three initial commissioners shall be elected at the third following district general election.

The initial commissioners shall take office immediately when they are elected and qualified. The term of office of each successor shall be six years. Each commissioner shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with \*RCW 29A.20.040.

(2) Only a registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the commissioner district. Voters of the entire public hospital district may vote at a primary or general election to elect a person as a commissioner of the commissioner district.

If the proposed public hospital district initially will have three commissioner districts and the public hospital district is countywide, and if the county has three county legislative authority districts, the county legislative authority districts shall be used as public hospital district commissioner districts. In all other instances the county auditor of the county in which all or the largest portion of the proposed public hospital district is located shall draw the initial public hospital

district commissioner districts and designate at large positions, if appropriate, as provided in RCW 70.44.054. Each of the commissioner positions shall be numbered consecutively and associated with the commissioner district or at large position of the same number.

The commissioners of a public hospital district that is not coterminous with the boundaries of a county that has three county legislative authority districts shall at the times required in chapter 29A.76 RCW and may from time to time redraw commissioner district boundaries in a manner consistent with chapter 29A.76 RCW.

(3) No person may hold office as a commissioner while serving as an employee of the public hospital district. [2006 c 322 § 1; 1997 c 99 § 1; 1994 c 223 § 78; 1990 c 259 § 39; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 41; 1957 c 11 § 1; 1955 c 82 § 1; 1953 c 267 § 2; 1947 c 229 § 1; 1945 c 264 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6090-34.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 29A.20.040 was recodified as RCW 29A.60.280 pursuant to 2013 c 11 § 93.

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.44.041 Validity of appointment or election of commissioners—Compliance with 1994 c 223.** No appointment to fill a vacant position on or election to the board of commissioners of any public hospital district made after June 9, 1994, and before April 21, 1997, is deemed to be invalid solely due to the public hospital district's failure to redraw its commissioner district boundaries if necessary to comply with chapter 223, Laws of 1994. [1997 c 99 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.44.042 Commissioner districts—Resolution to abolish—Proposition to reestablish.** Notwithstanding any provision in RCW 70.44.040 to the contrary, any board of public hospital district commissioners may, by resolution, abolish commissioner districts and permit candidates for any position on the board to reside anywhere in the public hospital district.

At any general or special election which may be called for that purpose, the board of public hospital district commissioners may, on petition of ten percent of the voters based on the total vote cast in the last district general election in the public hospital district shall, by resolution, submit to the voters of the district the proposition to reestablish commissioner districts. [1997 c 99 § 2; 1967 c 227 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.44.045 Commissioners—Vacancies.** A vacancy in the office of commissioner shall occur as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW or by nonattendance at meetings of the commission for sixty days, unless excused by the commission. A vacancy shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. [1994 c 223 § 79; 1982 c 84 § 13; 1955 c 82 § 2.]

**70.44.047 Redrawn boundaries—Assignment of commissioners to districts.** If, as the result of redrawing the boundaries of commissioner districts as permitted or required under the provisions of this chapter, chapter 29A.76 RCW, or any other statute, more than the correct number of commissioners who are associated with commissioner districts reside

in the same commissioner district, a commissioner or commissioners residing in that redrawn commissioner district equal in number to the number of commissioners in excess of the correct number shall be assigned to the drawn commissioner district or districts in which less than the correct number of commissioners associated with commissioner districts reside. The commissioner or commissioners who are so assigned shall be those with the shortest unexpired term or terms of office, but if the number of such commissioners with the same terms of office exceeds the number that are to be assigned, the board of commissioners shall select by lot from those commissioners which one or ones are assigned. A commissioner who is so assigned shall be deemed to be a resident of the commissioner district to which he or she is assigned for purposes of determining whether a position is vacant. [2015 c 53 § 93; 1997 c 99 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.44.050 Commissioners—Compensation and expenses—Insurance—Resolutions by majority vote—Officers—Rules.** Each commissioner shall receive ninety dollars for each day or portion thereof spent in actual attendance at official meetings of the district commission, or in performance of other official services or duties on behalf of the district, to include meetings of the commission of his or her own district, or meetings attended by one or more commissioners of two or more districts called to consider business common to them, except that the total compensation paid to such commissioner during any one year shall not exceed eight thousand six hundred forty dollars. The commissioners may not be compensated for services performed of a ministerial or professional nature.

Any commissioner may waive all or any portion of his or her compensation payable under this section as to any month or months during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the district as provided in this section. The waiver, to be effective, must be filed any time after the commissioner's election and prior to the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made.

Any district providing group insurance for its employees, covering them, their immediate family, and dependents, may provide insurance for its commissioners with the same coverage. Each commissioner shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with such business and meetings, including his or her subsistence and lodging and travel while away from his or her place of residence. No resolution shall be adopted without a majority vote of the whole commission. The commission shall organize by election of its own members of a president and secretary, shall by resolution adopt rules governing the transaction of its business and shall adopt an official seal. All proceedings of the commission shall be by motion or resolution recorded in a book or books kept for such purpose, which shall be public records.

The dollar thresholds established in this section must be adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management every five years, beginning July 1, 2008, based upon changes in the consumer price index during that time period. "Consumer price index" means, for any calendar year, that year's annual average consumer price index, for Washington state,

for wage earners and clerical workers, all items, compiled by the bureau of labor and statistics, United States department of labor. If the bureau of labor and statistics develops more than one consumer price index for areas within the state, the index covering the greatest number of people, covering areas exclusively within the boundaries of the state, and including all items shall be used for the adjustments for inflation in this section. The office of financial management must calculate the new dollar threshold and transmit it to the office of the code reviser for publication in the Washington State Register at least one month before the new dollar threshold is to take effect.

A person holding office as commissioner for two or more special purpose districts shall receive only that per diem compensation authorized for one of his or her commissioner positions as compensation for attending an official meeting or conducting official services or duties while representing more than one of his or her districts. However, such commissioner may receive additional per diem compensation if approved by resolution of all boards of the affected commissions. [2008 c 31 § 2; 2007 c 469 § 7; 1998 c 121 § 7; 1985 c 330 § 7; 1982 c 84 § 14; 1975 c 42 § 1; 1965 c 157 § 1; 1945 c 264 § 15; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-44.]

**70.44.053 Increase in number of commissioners—Proposition to voters.** At any general or special election which may be called for that purpose the board of public hospital district commissioners may, or on petition of ten percent of the voters based on the total vote cast in the last district general election in the public hospital district shall, by resolution, submit to the voters of the district the proposition increasing the number of commissioners to either five or seven members. The petition or resolution shall specify whether it is proposed to increase the number of commissioners to either five or seven members. [1997 c 99 § 3; 1994 c 223 § 80; 1967 c 77 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.44.054 Increase in number of commissioners—Commissioner districts.** If the voters of the district approve the ballot proposition authorizing the increase in the number of commissioners to either five or seven members, the additional commissioners shall be elected at large from the entire district; provided that, the board of commissioners of the district may by resolution redistrict the public hospital district into five commissioner districts if the district has five commissioners or seven commissioner districts if the district has seven commissioners. The board of commissioners shall draw the boundaries of each commissioner district to include as nearly as possible equal portions of the total population of the public hospital district.

If the board of commissioners increases the number of commissioner districts as provided in this section, one commissioner shall be elected from each commissioner district, and no commissioner may be elected from a commissioner district in which another commissioner resides. [1997 c 99 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2016 Ed.)

**70.44.056 Increase in number of commissioners—Appointments—Election—Terms.** In all existing public hospital districts in which an increase in the number of district commissioners is proposed, the additional commissioner positions shall be deemed to be vacant and the board of commissioners of the public hospital district shall appoint qualified persons to fill those vacancies in accordance with RCW 42.12.070.

Each person who is appointed shall serve until a qualified person is elected at the next general election of the district occurring one hundred twenty days or more after the date of the election at which the voters of the district approved the ballot proposition authorizing the increase in the number of commissioners. If needed, special filing periods shall be authorized as provided in RCW 29A.24.171 and 29A.24.181 for qualified persons to file for the vacant office. A primary shall be held to nominate candidates if sufficient time exists to hold a primary and more than two candidates file for the vacant office. Otherwise, no primary shall be held and the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each position shall be elected. Except for the initial terms of office, persons elected to each of these additional commissioner positions shall be elected to a six-year term. The newly elected commissioners shall assume office as provided in RCW 29A.60.280.

The initial terms of the new commissioners shall be staggered as follows: (1) When the number of commissioners is increased from three to five, the person elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to a six-year term of office, and the other person shall be elected to a four-year term; (2) when the number of commissioners is increased from three or five to seven, the terms of the new commissioners shall be staggered over the next three district general elections so that two commissioners will be elected at the first district general election following the election where the additional commissioners are elected, two commissioners will be at the second district general election after the election of the additional commissioners, and three commissioners will be elected at the third district general election following the election of the additional commissioners, with the persons elected receiving the greatest number of votes elected to serve the longest terms. [2015 c 53 § 94; 1997 c 99 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.44.059 Chaplains—Authority to employ.** Public hospital districts may employ chaplains for their hospitals, health care facilities, and hospice programs. [1993 c 234 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.44.060 Powers and duties.** All public hospital districts organized under the provisions of this chapter shall have power:

(1) To make a survey of existing hospital and other health care facilities within and without such district.

(2) To construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, lease, add to, maintain, operate, develop and regulate, sell and convey all lands, property, property rights, equipment, hospital and other health care facilities and systems for the maintenance of hospitals, buildings, structures, and any and all other facilities, and to exercise the right of

eminent domain to effectuate the foregoing purposes or for the acquisition and damaging of the same or property of any kind appurtenant thereto, and such right of eminent domain shall be exercised and instituted pursuant to a resolution of the commission and conducted in the same manner and by the same procedure as in or may be provided by law for the exercise of the power of eminent domain by incorporated cities and towns of the state of Washington in the acquisition of property rights: PROVIDED, That no public hospital district shall have the right of eminent domain and the power of condemnation against any health care facility.

(3) To lease existing hospital and other health care facilities and equipment and/or other property used in connection therewith, including ambulances, and to pay such rental therefor as the commissioners shall deem proper; to provide hospital and other health care services for residents of said district by facilities located outside the boundaries of said district, by contract or in any other manner said commissioners may deem expedient or necessary under the existing conditions; and said hospital district shall have the power to contract with other communities, corporations, or individuals for the services provided by said hospital district; and they may further receive in said hospitals and other health care facilities and furnish proper and adequate services to all persons not residents of said district at such reasonable and fair compensation as may be considered proper: PROVIDED, That it must at all times make adequate provision for the needs of the district and residents of said district shall have prior rights to the available hospital and other health care facilities of said district, at rates set by the district commissioners.

(4) For the purpose aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any district so organized to take, condemn and purchase, lease, or acquire, any and all property, and property rights, including state and county lands, for any of the purposes aforesaid, and any and all other facilities necessary or convenient, and in connection with the construction, maintenance, and operation of any such hospitals and other health care facilities, subject, however, to the applicable limitations provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(5) To contract indebtedness or borrow money for corporate purposes on the credit of the corporation or the revenues of the hospitals thereof, and the revenues of any other facilities or services that the district is or hereafter may be authorized by law to provide, and to issue and sell: (a) Revenue bonds, revenue warrants, or other revenue obligations therefor payable solely out of a special fund or funds into which the district may pledge such amount of the revenues of the hospitals thereof, and the revenues of any other facilities or services that the district is or hereafter may be authorized by law to provide, to pay the same as the commissioners of the district may determine, such revenue bonds, warrants, or other obligations to be issued and sold in the same manner and subject to the same provisions as provided for the issuance of revenue bonds, warrants, or other obligations by cities or towns under the municipal revenue bond act, chapter 35.41 RCW, as may hereafter be amended; (b) general obligation bonds therefor in the manner and form as provided in RCW 70.44.110 and 70.44.130, as may hereafter be amended; or (c) interest-bearing warrants to be drawn on a fund pending deposit in such fund of money sufficient to redeem such warrants and to be issued and paid in such man-

ner and upon such terms and conditions as the board of commissioners may deem to be in the best interest of the district; and to assign or sell hospital accounts receivable, and accounts receivable for the use of other facilities or services that the district is or hereafter may be authorized by law to provide, for collection with or without recourse. General obligation bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. Revenue bonds, revenue warrants, or other revenue obligations may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. In connection with the issuance of bonds, a public hospital district is, in addition to its other powers, authorized to grant a lien on any or all of its property, whether then owned or thereafter acquired, including the revenues and receipts from the property, pursuant to a mortgage, deed of trust, security agreement, or any other security instrument now or hereafter authorized by applicable law: PROVIDED, That such bonds are issued in connection with a federal program providing mortgage insurance, including but not limited to the mortgage insurance programs administered by the United States department of housing and urban development pursuant to sections 232, 241, and 242 of Title II of the national housing act, as amended.

(6) To raise revenue by the levy of an annual tax on all taxable property within such public hospital district not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, and an additional annual tax on all taxable property within such public hospital district not to exceed twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, or such further amount as has been or shall be authorized by a vote of the people. Although public hospital districts are authorized to impose two separate regular property tax levies, the levies shall be considered to be a single levy for purposes of the limitation provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW. Public hospital districts are authorized to levy such a general tax in excess of their regular property taxes when authorized so to do at a special election conducted in accordance with and subject to all of the requirements of the Constitution and the laws of the state of Washington now in force or hereafter enacted governing the limitation of tax levies. The said board of district commissioners is authorized and empowered to call a special election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the hospital district a proposition or propositions to levy taxes in excess of its regular property taxes. The superintendent shall prepare a proposed budget of the contemplated financial transactions for the ensuing year and file the same in the records of the commission on or before the first day of November. Notice of the filing of said proposed budget and the date and place of hearing on the same shall be published for at least two consecutive weeks, at least one time each week, in a newspaper printed and of general circulation in said county. On or before the fifteenth day of November the commission shall hold a public hearing on said proposed budget at which any taxpayer may appear and be heard against the whole or any part of the proposed budget. Upon the conclusion of said hearing, the commission shall, by resolution, adopt the budget as finally determined and fix the final amount of expenditures for the ensuing year. Taxes levied by the commission shall be certified to and collected by the proper county officer of the county in which such public hospital district is located in the same manner as is or may be provided by law for the certification and collection of port

district taxes. The commission is authorized, prior to the receipt of taxes raised by levy, to borrow money or issue warrants of the district in anticipation of the revenue to be derived by such district from the levy of taxes for the purpose of such district, and such warrants shall be redeemed from the first money available from such taxes when collected, and such warrants shall not exceed the anticipated revenues of one year, and shall bear interest at a rate or rates as authorized by the commission.

(7) To enter into any contract with the United States government or any state, municipality, or other hospital district, or any department of those governing bodies, for carrying out any of the powers authorized by this chapter.

(8) To sue and be sued in any court of competent jurisdiction: PROVIDED, That all suits against the public hospital district shall be brought in the county in which the public hospital district is located.

(9) To pay actual necessary travel expenses and living expenses incurred while in travel status for (a) qualified physicians or other health care practitioners who are candidates for medical staff positions, and (b) other qualified persons who are candidates for superintendent or other managerial and technical positions, which expenses may include expenses incurred by family members accompanying the candidate, when the district finds that hospitals or other health care facilities owned and operated by it are not adequately staffed and determines that personal interviews with said candidates to be held in the district are necessary or desirable for the adequate staffing of said facilities.

(10) To employ superintendents, attorneys, and other technical or professional assistants and all other employees; to make all contracts useful or necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, including, but not limited to, (a) contracts with private or public institutions for employee retirement programs, and (b) contracts with current or prospective employees, physicians, or other health care practitioners providing for the payment or reimbursement by the public hospital district of health care training or education expenses, including but not limited to debt obligations, incurred by current or prospective employees, physicians, or other health care practitioners in return for their agreement to provide services beneficial to the public hospital district; to print and publish information or literature; and to do all other things necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(11) To solicit and accept gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real or personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise, and to sell, lease, exchange, invest, or expend gifts or the proceeds, rents, profits, and income therefrom, and to enter into contracts with for-profit or nonprofit organizations to support the purposes of this subsection, including, but not limited to, contracts providing for the use of district facilities, property, personnel, or services. [2011 c 37 § 1; 2010 c 95 § 1; 2003 c 125 § 1; 2001 c 76 § 1; 1997 c 3 § 206 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1990 c 234 § 2; 1984 c 186 § 59; 1983 c 167 § 172; 1982 c 84 § 15; 1979 ex.s. c 155 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 143 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 211 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 165 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 83; 1971 ex.s. c 218 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 85; 1969 ex.s. c 65 § 1; 1967 c 164 § 7; 1965 c 157 § 2; 1949 c 197 § 18; 1945 c 264 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6090-35.]

**Intent—1997 c 3 §§ 201-207:** See note following RCW 84.55.010.

(2016 Ed.)

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Purpose—Severability—1967 c 164:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

*Eminent domain*

*by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

*generally: State Constitution Art. 1 § 16.*

*Limitation on levies: State Constitution Art. 7 § 2; RCW 84.52.050.*

*Port districts, collection of taxes: RCW 53.36.020.*

*Tortious conduct of political subdivisions, municipal corporations and quasi-municipal corporations, liability for damages: Chapter 4.96 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.44.062 Commissioners' meetings, proceedings, and deliberations concerning health care providers' clinical or staff privileges to be confidential—Final action in public session.** (1) All meetings, proceedings, and deliberations of the board of commissioners, its staff or agents, concerning the granting, denial, revocation, restriction, or other consideration of the status of the clinical or staff privileges of a physician or other health care provider as that term is defined in RCW 7.70.020, if such other providers at the discretion of the district's commissioners are considered for such privileges, shall be confidential and may be conducted in executive session: PROVIDED, That the final action of the board as to the denial, revocation, or restriction of clinical or staff privileges of a physician or other health care provider as defined in RCW 7.70.020 shall be done in public session.

(2) All meetings, proceedings, and deliberations of a quality improvement committee established under RCW 4.24.250, 43.70.510, or 70.41.200 and all meetings, proceedings, and deliberations of the board of commissioners, its staff or agents, to review the report or the activities of a quality improvement committee established under RCW 4.24.250, 43.70.510, or 70.41.200 may, at the discretion of the quality improvement committee or the board of commissioners, be confidential and may be conducted in executive session. Any review conducted by the board of commissioners or quality improvement committee, or their staffs or agents, shall be subject to the same protections, limitations, and exemptions that apply to quality improvement committee activities under RCW 4.24.240, 4.24.250, 43.70.510, and 70.41.200. However, any final action of the board of commissioners on the report of the quality improvement committee shall be done in public session. [2005 c 169 § 1; 1985 c 166 § 1.]

(2) All meetings, proceedings, and deliberations of a quality improvement committee established under RCW 4.24.250, 43.70.510, or 70.41.200 and all meetings, proceedings, and deliberations of the board of commissioners, its staff or agents, to review the report or the activities of a quality improvement committee established under RCW 4.24.250, 43.70.510, or 70.41.200 may, at the discretion of the quality improvement committee or the board of commissioners, be confidential and may be conducted in executive session. Any review conducted by the board of commissioners or quality improvement committee, or their staffs or agents, shall be subject to the same protections, limitations, and exemptions that apply to quality improvement committee activities under RCW 4.24.240, 4.24.250, 43.70.510, and 70.41.200. However, any final action of the board of commissioners on the report of the quality improvement committee shall be done in public session. [2005 c 169 § 1; 1985 c 166 § 1.]

**70.44.067 Community revitalization financing—Public improvements.** In addition to other authority that a public hospital district possesses, a public hospital district may provide any public improvement as defined under RCW 39.89.020, but this additional authority is limited to participating in the financing of the public improvements as provided under RCW 39.89.050.

This section does not limit the authority of a public hospital district to otherwise participate in the public improvements if that authority exists elsewhere. [2001 c 212 § 22.]

**70.44.070 Superintendent—Appointment—Removal—Compensation.** (1) The public hospital district commission shall appoint a superintendent, who shall be

appointed for an indefinite time and be removable at the will of the commission. Appointments and removals shall be by resolution, introduced at a regular meeting and adopted at a subsequent regular meeting by a majority vote. The superintendent shall receive such compensation as the commission shall fix by resolution.

(2) Where a public hospital district operates more than one hospital, the commission may in its discretion appoint up to one superintendent per hospital and assign among the superintendents the powers and duties set forth in RCW 70.44.080 and 70.44.090 as deemed appropriate by the commission. [1987 c 58 § 1; 1982 c 84 § 16; 1945 c 264 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-36.]

**70.44.080 Superintendent—Powers.** (1) The superintendent shall be the chief administrative officer of the public hospital district and shall have control of administrative functions of the district. The superintendent shall be responsible to the commission for the efficient administration of all affairs of the district. In case of the absence or temporary disability of the superintendent a competent person shall be appointed by the commission. The superintendent shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the commission and its committees and to take part in the discussion of any matters pertaining to the district, but shall have no vote.

(2) Where the commission has appointed more than one superintendent as provided in RCW 70.44.070, the commission shall assign among the superintendents the powers set forth in this section as deemed appropriate by the commission. [1987 c 58 § 2; 1982 c 84 § 17; 1945 c 264 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-38.]

**70.44.090 Superintendent—Duties.** (1) The public hospital district superintendent shall have the power, and duty:

(a) To carry out the orders of the commission, and to see that all the laws of the state pertaining to matters within the functions of the district are duly enforced.

(b) To keep the commission fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the district. To prepare, each year, an estimate for the ensuing fiscal year of the probable expenses of the district, and to recommend to the commission what development work should be undertaken, and what extensions and additions, if any, should be made, during the ensuing fiscal year, with an estimate of the costs of such development work, extensions and additions. To certify to the commission all the bills, allowances and payrolls, including claims due contractors of public works. To recommend to the commission a range of salaries to be paid to district employees.

(2) Where the commission has appointed more than one superintendent as provided in RCW 70.44.070, the commission shall assign among the superintendents the duties set forth in this section as deemed appropriate by the commission. [1987 c 58 § 3; 1982 c 84 § 18; 1945 c 264 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-40.]

**70.44.110 Plan to construct or improve—General obligation bonds.** Whenever the commission deems it advisable that the district acquire or construct a public hospital, or other health care facilities, or make additions or better-

ments thereto, or extensions thereof, it shall provide therefor by resolution, which shall specify and adopt the plan proposed, declare the estimated cost thereof, and specify the amount of indebtedness to be incurred therefor. General indebtedness may be incurred by the issuance of general obligation bonds or short-term obligations in anticipation of such bonds. General obligation bonds shall mature in not to exceed thirty years. The incurring of such indebtedness shall be subject to the applicable limitations and requirements provided in section 1, chapter 143, Laws of 1917, as last amended by section 4, chapter 107, Laws of 1967, and RCW 39.36.020, as now or hereafter amended. Such general obligation bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 § 60; 1974 ex.s. c 165 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 65 § 2; 1955 c 56 § 1; 1945 c 264 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-41.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**70.44.130 Bonds—Payment—Security for deposits.** The principal and interest of such general bonds shall be paid by levying each year a tax upon the taxable property within the district sufficient, together with other revenues of the district available for such purpose, to pay said interest and principal of said bonds, which tax shall be due and collectible as any other tax. All bonds and warrants issued under the authority of this chapter shall be legal securities, which may be used by any bank or trust company for deposit with the state treasurer, or any county or city treasurer, as security for deposits, in lieu of a surety bond, under any law relating to deposits of public moneys. [1984 c 186 § 61; 1971 ex.s. c 218 § 3; 1945 c 264 § 14; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-43.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**70.44.140 Contracts for material and work—Call for bids—Alternative procedures—Exemptions.** (1) All materials purchased and work ordered, the estimated cost of which is in excess of seventy-five thousand dollars, shall be by contract. Before awarding any such contract, the commission shall publish a notice at least thirteen days before the last date upon which bids will be received, inviting sealed proposals for such work. The plans and specifications must at the time of the publication of such notice be on file at the office of the public hospital district, subject to public inspection: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the commission may at the same time, and as part of the same notice, invite tenders for the work or materials upon plans and specifications to be submitted by bidders. The notice shall state generally the work to be done, and shall call for proposals for doing the same, to be sealed and filed with the commission on or before the day and hour named therein. Each bid shall be accompanied by bid proposal security in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, postal money order, or surety bond made payable to the order of the commission, for a sum not less than five percent of the amount of the bid, and no bid shall be considered unless accompanied by such bid proposal security. At the time and place named, such bids shall be publicly opened and read, and the commission shall proceed to canvass the bids, and may let such contract to the lowest responsible bidder upon plans and specifications on file, or to the best bidder submitting his or her own plans and specifications. If, in the opinion of the commission, all bids are unsatisfactory, they

may reject all of them and readvertise, and in such case all bid proposal security shall be returned to the bidders. If the contract is let, then all bid proposal security shall be returned to the bidders, except that of the successful bidder, which is retained until a contract shall be entered into for the purchase of such materials for doing such work, and a bond to perform such work furnished, with sureties satisfactory to the commission, in an amount to be fixed by the commission, not less than twenty-five percent of contract price in any case, between the bidder and commission, in accordance with the bid. If such bidder fails to enter into the contract in accordance with the bid and furnish such bond within ten days from the date at which the bidder is notified that he or she is the successful bidder, the bid proposal security and the amount thereof shall be forfeited to the public hospital district. A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project.

(2) As an alternative to the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, a public hospital district may let contracts using the small works roster process under RCW 39.04.155.

(3) Any purchases with an estimated cost of up to fifteen thousand dollars may be made using the process provided in RCW 39.04.190.

(4) The commission may waive the competitive bidding requirements of this section pursuant to RCW 39.04.280 if an exemption contained within that section applies to the purchase or public work. [2016 c 51 § 1; 2009 c 229 § 12; 2002 c 106 § 1; 2000 c 138 § 213; 1999 c 99 § 1; 1998 c 278 § 9; 1996 c 18 § 15; 1993 c 198 § 22; 1965 c 83 § 1; 1945 c 264 § 17; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6090-46.]

**Purpose—Part headings not law—2000 c 138:** See notes following RCW 39.04.155.

*Contractor's bond:* Chapter 39.08 RCW.

*Lien on public works, retained percentage of contractor's earnings:* Chapter 60.28 RCW.

**70.44.171 Treasurer—Duties—Funds—Depositaries—Surety bonds, cost.** The treasurer of the county in which a public hospital district is located shall be treasurer of the district, except that the commission by resolution may designate some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the district. If the treasurer is not the county treasurer, the commission shall require a bond, with a surety company authorized to do business in the state of Washington, in an amount and under the terms and conditions which the commission by resolution from time to time finds will protect the district against loss. The premium on any such bond shall be paid by the district.

All district funds shall be paid to the treasurer and shall be disbursed by him or her only on warrants issued by an auditor appointed by the commission, upon orders or vouchers approved by it. The treasurer shall establish a public hospital district fund, into which shall be paid all district funds, and he or she shall maintain such special funds as may be created by the commission, into which he or she shall place all money as the commission may, by resolution, direct.

If the treasurer of the district is the treasurer of the county all district funds shall be deposited with the county depositaries under the same restrictions, contracts, and security as provided for county depositaries. If the treasurer of the

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district is some other person, all funds shall be deposited in such bank or banks authorized to do business in this state as the commission by resolution shall designate, and with surety bond to the district or securities in lieu thereof of the kind, no less in amount, as provided in \*RCW 36.48.020 for deposit of county funds. Such surety bond or securities in lieu thereof shall be filed or deposited with the treasurer of the district, and approved by resolution of the commission.

All interest collected on district funds shall belong to the district and be deposited to its credit in the proper district funds.

A district may provide and require a reasonable bond of any other person handling moneys or securities of the district. The district may pay the premium on such bond. [2012 c 117 § 379; 1967 c 227 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 36.48.020 was repealed by 1984 c 177 § 21.

**70.44.185 Change of district boundary lines to allow farm units to be wholly within one hospital district—Notice.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including RCW 70.44.040, whenever the boundary line between contiguous hospital districts bisects an irrigation block unit placing part of the unit in one hospital district and the balance thereof in another such district, the county auditor, upon his or her approval of a request therefor after public hearing thereon, shall change the hospital district boundary lines so that the entire farm unit of the person so requesting shall be wholly in one of such hospital districts and give notice thereof to those hospital district and county officials as he or she shall deem appropriate therefor. [2012 c 117 § 380; 1971 ex.s. c 218 § 4.]

**70.44.190 Consolidation of districts.** Two or more contiguous hospital districts, whether the territory therein lies in one or more counties, may consolidate by following the procedure outlined in chapter 35.10 RCW with reference to consolidation of cities and towns. [1953 c 267 § 3.]

**70.44.200 Annexation of territory.** (1) A public hospital district may annex territory outside the existing boundaries of such district and contiguous thereto, whether the territory lies in one or more counties, in accordance with this section.

(2) A petition for annexation of territory contiguous to a public hospital district may be filed with the commission of the district to which annexation is proposed. The petition must be signed by the owners, as prescribed by \*RCW 35A.01.040(9) (a) through (e), of not less than sixty percent of the area of land within the territory proposed to be annexed. Such petition shall describe the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed and shall be accompanied by a map which outlines the boundaries of such territory.

(3) Whenever such a petition for annexation is filed with the commission of a public hospital district, the commission may entertain the same, fix a date for public hearing thereon, and cause notice of the hearing to be published once a week for at least two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the territory proposed to be annexed. The notice shall also be posted in three public places within the territory proposed to be annexed, shall contain a description of the boundaries of such territory, and shall specify the time

and place of hearing and invite interested persons to appear and voice approval or disapproval of the annexation.

(4) Following the hearing, if the commission of the district determines to accomplish the annexation, it shall do so by resolution. The resolution may annex all or any portion of the proposed territory but may not include in the annexation any property not described in the petition. Upon passage of the annexation resolution, the territory annexed shall become part of the district and a certified copy of such resolution shall be filed with the legislative authority of the county or counties in which the annexed property is located.

(5) If the petition for annexation and the annexation resolution so provide, as the commission may require, and such petition has been signed by the owners of all the land within the boundaries of the territory being annexed, the annexed property shall assume and be assessed and taxed to pay for all or any portion of the outstanding indebtedness of the district to which it is annexed at the same rates as other property within such district. Unless so provided in the petition and resolution, property within the boundaries of the territory annexed shall not be assessed or taxed to pay for all or any portion of the indebtedness of the district to which it is annexed that was contracted prior to or which existed at the date of annexation. In no event shall any such annexed property be released from any assessments or taxes previously levied against it or from its existing liability for the payment of outstanding bonds or warrants issued prior to such annexation.

(6) The annexation procedure provided for in this section shall be an alternative method of annexation applicable only if at the time the annexation petition is filed either there are no registered voters residing in the territory proposed to be annexed or the petition is also signed by all of the registered voters residing in the territory proposed to be annexed. [1993 c 489 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 143 § 1; 1953 c 267 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 35A.01.040 was amended by 2008 c 196 § 2, changing subsection (9)(e) to subsection (9)(f).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.44.210 Alternate method of annexation—Contents of resolution calling for election.** As an alternate method of annexation to public hospital districts, any territory adjacent to a public hospital district may be annexed thereto by vote of the qualified electors residing in the territory to be annexed, in the manner provided in RCW 70.44.210 through 70.44.230. An election to annex such territory may be called pursuant to a resolution calling for such an election adopted by the district commissioners.

Any resolution calling for such an election shall describe the boundaries of the territory to be annexed, state that the annexation of such territory to the public hospital district will be conducive to the welfare and benefit of the persons or property within the district and within the territory proposed to be annexed, and fix the date, time and place for a public hearing thereon which date shall be not more than sixty nor less than forty days following the adoption of such resolution. [1967 c 227 § 6.]

**70.44.220 Alternate method of annexation—Publication and contents of notice of hearing—Hearing—Resolution—Special election.** Notice of such hearing shall be pub-

lished once a week for at least two consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the territory proposed to be annexed. The notice shall contain a description of the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed and shall state the time and place of the hearing thereon and the fact that any changes in the boundaries of such territory will be considered at such time and place. At such hearing or any continuation thereof, any interested person may appear and be heard on all matters relating to the proposed annexation. The district commissioners may make such changes in the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed as it shall deem reasonable and proper, but may not delete any portion of the proposed area which will create an island of included or excluded lands. If the district commissioners shall determine that any additional territory should be included in the territory to be annexed, a second hearing shall be held and notice given in the same manner as for the original hearing. The district commissioners may adjourn the hearing on the proposed annexation from time to time not exceeding thirty days in all. At the next regular meeting following the conclusion of such hearing, the district commissioners shall, if it finds that the annexation of such territory will be conducive to the welfare and benefit of the persons and property therein and the welfare and benefit of the persons and property within the public hospital district, adopt a resolution fixing the boundaries of the territory to be annexed and causing to be called a special election on such annexation to be held not more than one hundred twenty days nor less than sixty days following the adoption of such resolution. [1967 c 227 § 7.]

**70.44.230 Alternate method of annexation—Conduct and canvass of election—Notice—Ballot.** An election on the annexation of territory to a public hospital district shall be conducted and canvassed in the same manner as provided for the conduct of an election on the formation of a public hospital district except that notice of such election shall be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the territory proposed to be annexed and the ballot proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

ANNEXATION TO (herein insert name of public hospital district)

"Shall the territory described in a resolution of the public hospital district commissioners of (here insert name of public hospital district) adopted on . . . ., . . . ., 19. . . [ . . . (year)], be annexed to such district?

YES . . . . .   
NO . . . . .

If a majority of those voting on such proposition vote in favor thereof, the territory shall thereupon be annexed to the public hospital district. [1967 c 227 § 8.]

**70.44.235 Withdrawal or reannexation of areas.** (1) As provided in this section, a public hospital district may withdraw areas from its boundaries, or reannex areas into the public hospital district that previously had been withdrawn from the public hospital district under this section.

(2) The withdrawal of an area shall be authorized upon: (a) Adoption of a resolution by the hospital district commissioners requesting the withdrawal and finding that, in the opinion of the commissioners, inclusion of this area within the public hospital district will result in a reduction of the district's tax levy rate under the provisions of RCW 84.52.010; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the withdrawal, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority of the county within which the area is located approving the withdrawal, if the area is located outside of a city or town. A withdrawal shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the resolutions are adopted, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution.

The withdrawal of an area from the boundaries of a public hospital district shall not exempt any property therein from taxation for the purpose of paying the costs of redeeming any indebtedness of the public hospital district existing at the time of the withdrawal.

(3) An area that has been withdrawn from the boundaries of a public hospital district under this section may be reannexed into the public hospital district upon: (a) Adoption of a resolution by the hospital district commissioners proposing the reannexation; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the reannexation, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority of the county within which the area is located approving the reannexation, if the area is located outside of a city or town. The reannexation shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the adoption of the second resolution occurs, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution. Referendum action on the proposed reannexation may be taken by the voters of the area proposed to be reannexed if a petition calling for a referendum is filed with the city or town council, or county legislative authority, within a thirty-day period after the adoption of the second resolution, which petition has been signed by registered voters of the area proposed to be reannexed equal in number to ten percent of the total number of the registered voters residing in that area.

If a valid petition signed by the requisite number of registered voters has been so filed, the effect of the resolutions shall be held in abeyance and a ballot proposition to authorize the reannexation shall be submitted to the voters of the area at the next special election date according to RCW 29A.04.330. Approval of the ballot proposition authorizing the reannexation by a simple majority vote shall authorize the reannexation. [2006 c 344 § 39; 1987 c 138 § 4.]

**Effective date—2006 c 344 §§ 1-16 and 18-40:** See note following RCW 29A.04.311.

**70.44.240 Contracting or joining with other districts, hospitals, corporations, or individuals to provide services or facilities.** Any public hospital district may contract or join with any other public hospital district, publicly owned hospital, nonprofit hospital, legal entity, or individual to acquire,

own, operate, manage, or provide any hospital or other health care facilities or hospital services or other health care services to be used by individuals, districts, hospitals, or others, including providing health maintenance services. If a public hospital district chooses to contract or join with another party or parties pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, it may do so through establishing a nonprofit corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other legal entity of its choosing in which the public hospital district and the other party or parties participate. The governing body of such legal entity shall include representatives of the public hospital district, which representatives may include members of the public hospital district's board of commissioners. A public hospital district contracting or joining with another party pursuant to the provisions of this chapter may appropriate funds and may sell, lease, or otherwise provide property, personnel, and services to the legal entity established to carry out the contract or joint activity. [2004 c 261 § 7; 1997 c 332 § 16; 1982 c 84 § 19; 1974 ex.s. c 165 § 4; 1967 c 227 § 3.]

**70.44.260 Contracts for purchase of real or personal property.** Any public hospital district may execute an executory conditional sales contract with any other municipal corporation, the state, or any of its political subdivisions, the government of the United States, or any private party for the purchase of any real or personal property, or property rights, in connection with the exercise of any powers or duties which such districts now or hereafter are authorized to exercise, if the entire amount of the purchase price specified in such contract does not result in a total indebtedness in excess of the limitation imposed by RCW 39.36.020, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred without the assent of the voters of the district: PROVIDED, That if such a proposed contract would result in a total indebtedness in excess of three-fourths of one percent of the value of taxable property in such public hospital district, a proposition in regard to whether or not such a contract may be executed shall be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection in the same manner that bond issues for capital purposes are submitted to the voters. The term "value of taxable property" shall have the meaning set forth in RCW 39.36.015. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 78 § 1.]

**70.44.300 Sale of surplus real property.** (1) The board of commissioners of any public hospital district may sell and convey at public or private sale real property of the district if the board determines by resolution that the property is no longer required for public hospital district purposes or determines by resolution that the sale of the property will further the purposes of the public hospital district.

(2) Any sale of district real property authorized pursuant to this section shall be preceded, not more than one year prior to the date of sale, by market value appraisals by three licensed real estate brokers or professionally designated real estate appraisers as defined in \*RCW 74.46.020 or three independent experts in valuing health care property, selected by the board of commissioners, and no sale shall take place if the sale price would be less than ninety percent of the average of such appraisals.

(3) When the board of commissioners of any public hospital district proposes a sale of district real property pursuant to this section and the value of the property exceeds one hun-

dred thousand dollars, the board shall publish a notice of its intention to sell the property. The notice shall be published at least once each week during two consecutive weeks in a legal newspaper of general circulation within the public hospital district. The notice shall describe the property to be sold and designate the place where and the day and hour when a hearing will be held. The board shall hold a public hearing upon the proposal to dispose of the public hospital district property at the place and the day and hour fixed in the notice and consider evidence offered for and against the propriety and advisability of the proposed sale.

(4) If in the judgment of the board of commissioners of any district the sale of any district real property not needed for public hospital district purposes would be facilitated and greater value realized through use of the services of licensed real estate brokers, a contract for such services may be negotiated and concluded. The fee or commissions charged for any broker service shall not exceed seven percent of the resulting sale price for a single parcel. No licensed real estate broker or professionally designated real estate appraisers as defined in \*RCW 74.46.020 or independent expert in valuing health care property selected by the board to appraise the market value of a parcel of property to be sold may be a party to any contract with the public hospital district to sell such property for a period of three years after the appraisal. [1997 c 332 § 17; 1984 c 103 § 4; 1982 c 84 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 74.46.020 was amended by 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 2, deleting the definition of "professionally designated real estate appraiser."

**70.44.310 Lease of surplus real property.** The board of commissioners of any public hospital district may lease or rent out real property of the district which the board has determined by resolution presently is not required for public hospital district purposes in such manner and upon such terms and conditions as the board in its discretion finds to be in the best interest of the district. [1982 c 84 § 3.]

**70.44.315 Evaluation criteria and requirements for acquisition of district hospitals.** (1) When evaluating a potential acquisition, the commissioners shall determine their compliance with the following requirements:

(a) That the acquisition is authorized under chapter 70.44 RCW and other laws governing public hospital districts;

(b) That the procedures used in the decision-making process allowed district officials to thoroughly fulfill their due diligence responsibilities as municipal officers, including those covered under chapter 42.23 RCW governing conflicts of interest and chapter 42.20 RCW prohibiting malfeasance of public officials;

(c) That the acquisition will not result in the revocation of hospital privileges;

(d) That sufficient safeguards are included to maintain appropriate capacity for health science research and health care provider education;

(e) That the acquisition is allowed under Article VIII, section 7 of the state Constitution, which prohibits gifts of public funds or lending of credit and Article XI, section 14, prohibiting private use of public funds;

(f) That the public hospital district will retain control over district functions as required under chapter 70.44 RCW and other laws governing hospital districts;

(g) That the activities related to the acquisition process complied with chapters 42.56 and 42.32 RCW, governing disclosure of public records, and chapter 42.30 RCW, governing public meetings;

(h) That the acquisition complies with the requirements of RCW 70.44.300 relating to fair market value; and

(i) Other state laws affecting the proposed acquisition.

(2) The commissioners shall also determine whether the public hospital district should retain a right of first refusal to repurchase the assets by the public hospital district if the hospital is subsequently sold to, acquired by, or merged with another entity.

(3)(a) Prior to approving the acquisition of a district hospital, the board of commissioners of the hospital district shall obtain a written opinion from a qualified independent expert or the Washington state department of health as to whether or not the acquisition meets the standards set forth in RCW 70.45.080.

(b) Upon request, the hospital district and the person seeking to acquire its hospital shall provide the department or independent expert with any needed information and documents. The department shall charge the hospital district for any costs the department incurs in preparing an opinion under this section. The hospital district may recover from the acquiring person any costs it incurs in obtaining the opinion from either the department or the independent expert. The opinion shall be delivered to the board of commissioners no later than ninety days after it is requested.

(c) Within ten working days after it receives the opinion, the board of commissioners shall publish notice of the opinion in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the hospital district, stating how a person may obtain a copy, and giving the time and location of the hearing required under (d) of this subsection. It shall make a copy of the report and the opinion available to anyone upon request.

(d) Within thirty days after it received the opinion, the board of commissioners shall hold a public hearing regarding the proposed acquisition. The board of commissioners may vote to approve the acquisition no sooner than thirty days following the public hearing.

(4)(a) For purposes of this section, "acquisition" means an acquisition by a person of any interest in a hospital owned by a public hospital district, whether by purchase, merger, lease, or otherwise, that results in a change of ownership or control of twenty percent or more of the assets of a hospital currently licensed and operating under RCW 70.41.090. Acquisition does not include an acquisition where the other party or parties to the acquisition are nonprofit corporations having a substantially similar charitable health care purpose, organizations exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code, or governmental entities. Acquisition does not include an acquisition where the other party is an organization that is a limited liability corporation, a partnership, or any other legal entity and the members, partners, or otherwise designated controlling parties of the organization are all nonprofit corporations having a charitable health care purpose, organizations exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code, or governmental entities. Acquisition does not include activities between two or more governmental organizations, including organizations acting pursuant to chapter 39.34

RCW, regardless of the type of organizational structure used by the governmental entities.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (4), "person" means an individual, a trust or estate, a partnership, a corporation including associations, a limited liability company, a joint stock company, or an insurance company. [2005 c 274 § 334; 1997 c 332 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.44.320 Disposal of surplus personal property.** The board of commissioners of any public hospital district may sell or otherwise dispose of surplus personal property of the district which the board has determined by resolution is no longer required for public hospital district purposes in such manner and upon such terms and conditions as the board in its discretion finds to be in the best interest of the district. [1982 c 84 § 4.]

**70.44.350 Dividing a district.** An existing public hospital district upon resolution of its board of commissioners may be divided into two new public hospital districts, in the manner provided in RCW 70.44.350 through 70.44.380, subject to the approval of the plan therefor by the superior court in the county where such district is located and by a majority of the voters voting on the proposition for such approval at a special election to be held in each of the proposed new districts. The board of commissioners of an existing district shall by resolution or resolutions find that such division is in the public interest; adopt and approve a plan of division; authorize the filing of a petition in the superior court in the county in which the district is located to obtain court approval of the plan of division; request the calling of a special election to be held, following such court approval, for the purpose of submitting to the voters in each of the proposed new districts the proposition of whether the plan of division should be approved and carried out; and direct all officers and employees of the existing district to take whatever actions are reasonable and necessary in order to carry out the division, subject to the approval of the plan therefor by the court and the voters. [1982 c 84 § 5.]

**70.44.360 Dividing a district—Plan.** The plan of division authorized by RCW 70.44.350 shall include: Proposed names for the new districts; a description of the boundaries of the new districts, which boundaries shall follow insofar as reasonably possible the then-existing precinct boundaries and include all of the territory encompassed by the existing district; a division of all the assets of the existing district between the resulting new districts, including funds, rights, and property, both real and personal; the assumption of all the outstanding obligations of the existing district by the resulting new districts, including general obligation and revenue bonds, contracts, and any other liabilities or indebtedness; the establishing and constituting of new boards of three commissioners for each of the new districts, including fixing the boundaries of commissioner districts within such new districts following insofar as reasonably possible the then-existing precinct boundaries; and such other matters as the board of commissioners of the existing district may deem appropriate. Unless the plan of division provides otherwise, all the area and property of the existing district shall remain subject

to the outstanding obligations of that district, and the boards of commissioners of the new districts shall make such levies or charges for services as may be necessary to pay such outstanding obligations in accordance with their terms from the sources originally pledged or otherwise liable for that purpose. [1982 c 84 § 6.]

**70.44.370 Dividing a district—Petition to court, hearing, order.** After adoption of a resolution approving the plan of division by the board of commissioners of an existing district pursuant to RCW 70.44.350 through 70.44.380, the district shall petition the superior court in the county where such district is located requesting court approval of the plan. The court shall conduct a hearing on the plan of division, after reasonable and proper notice of such hearing (including notice to bondholders) is given in the manner fixed and directed by such court. At the conclusion of the hearing, the court may enter its order approving the division of the existing district and of its assets and outstanding obligations in the manner provided by the plan after finding such division to be fair and equitable and in the public interest. [1982 c 84 § 7.]

**70.44.380 Dividing a district—Election—Creation of new districts—Challenges.** Following the entry of the court order pursuant to RCW 70.44.370, the county officer authorized to call and conduct elections in the county in which the existing district is located shall call a special election as provided by the resolution of the board of commissioners of such district for the purpose of submitting to the voters in each of the proposed new districts the proposition of whether the plan of division should be approved and carried out. Notice of the election describing the boundaries of the proposed new districts and stating the objects of the election shall be given and the election conducted in accordance with the general election laws. The proposition expressed on the ballots at such election shall be substantially as follows:

"Shall the plan of division of public hospital district No. . . . , approved by the Superior Court on . . . . (insert date), be approved and carried out?"

Yes

No

At such election three commissioners for each of the proposed new districts nominated by petition pursuant to RCW 54.12.010 shall be elected to hold office pursuant to RCW 70.44.040. If at such election a majority of the voters voting on the proposition in each of the proposed new districts shall vote in favor of the plan of division, the county canvassing board shall so declare in its canvass of the returns of such election and upon the filing of the certificate of such canvass: The division of the existing district shall be effective; such original district shall cease to exist; the creation of the two new public hospital districts shall be complete; all assets of the original district shall vest in and become the property of the new districts, respectively, pursuant to the plan of division; all the outstanding obligations of the original district shall be assumed by the new districts, respectively, pursuant to such plan; the commissioners of the original district shall cease to hold office; and the affairs of the new districts shall be governed by the newly elected commissioners of such respective new districts. Unless commenced within thirty

days after the date of the filing of the certificate of the canvass of such election, no lawsuit whatever may be maintained challenging in any way the legal existence of the resulting new districts, the validity of the proceedings had for the organization and creation thereof, or the lawfulness of the plan of division. Upon the petition of either or both new districts, the superior court in the county where they are located may take whatever actions are reasonable and necessary to complete or confirm the carrying out of such plan. [1982 c 84 § 8.]

**70.44.400 Withdrawal of territory from public hospital district.** Territory within a public hospital district may be withdrawn therefrom in the same manner provided by law for withdrawal of territory from water-sewer districts, as provided by chapter 57.28 RCW. For purposes of conforming with such procedure, the public hospital district shall be deemed to be the water-sewer district and the public hospital board of commissioners shall be deemed to be the water-sewer district board of commissioners. [1999 c 153 § 65; 1984 c 100 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.44.450 Rural public hospital districts—Cooperative agreements and contracts.** In addition to other powers granted to public hospital districts by chapter 39.34 RCW, rural public hospital districts may enter into cooperative agreements and contracts with other rural public hospital districts in order to provide for the health care needs of the people served by the hospital districts. These agreements and contracts are specifically authorized to include:

- (1) Allocation of health care services among the different facilities owned and operated by the districts;
- (2) Combined purchases and allocations of medical equipment and technologies;
- (3) Joint agreements and contracts for health care service delivery and payment with public and private entities; and
- (4) Other cooperative arrangements consistent with the intent of chapter 161, Laws of 1992. The provisions of chapter 39.34 RCW shall apply to the development and implementation of the cooperative contracts and agreements. [1992 c 161 § 3.]

**Intent—1992 c 161:** "The legislature finds that maintaining the viability of health care service delivery in rural areas of Washington is a primary goal of state health policy. The legislature also finds that most hospitals located in rural Washington are operated by public hospital districts authorized under chapter 70.44 RCW and declares that it is not cost-effective, practical, or desirable to provide quality health and hospital care services in rural areas on a competitive basis because of limited patient volume and geographic isolation. It is the intent of this act to foster the development of cooperative and collaborative arrangements among rural public hospital districts by specifically authorizing cooperative agreements and contracts for these entities under the interlocal cooperation act." [1992 c 161 § 1.]

**70.44.460 Rural public hospital district defined.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definition in this section applies throughout RCW 70.44.450.

"Rural public hospital district" means a public hospital district authorized under chapter 70.44 RCW whose geographic boundaries do not include a city with a population greater than fifty thousand. [2011 c 95 § 1; 1992 c 161 § 2.]

**Intent—1992 c 161:** See note following RCW 70.44.450.

**70.44.470 Chapter not applicable to certain transfers of property.** This chapter does not apply to transfers of property under \*sections 1 and 2 of this act. [2006 c 35 § 9.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to "sections 1 and 2 of this act" appears to be erroneous. Reference to "sections 2 and 3 of this act" codified as RCW 43.99C.070 and 43.83D.120 was apparently intended. RCW 43.99C.070 and 43.83D.120 were recodified as RCW 43.83.400 and 43.83.410, respectively, by the code reviser September 2015.

**Findings—2006 c 35:** See note following RCW 43.83.400.

**70.44.900 Severability—Construction—1945 c 264.** Adjudication of invalidity of any section, clause or part of a section of this act [1945 c 264] shall not impair or otherwise affect the validity of the act as a whole or any other part thereof. The rule of strict construction shall have no application to this act, but the same shall be liberally construed, in order to carry out the purposes and objects for which this act is intended. When this act comes in conflict with any provisions, limitation or restriction in any other law, this act shall govern and control. [1945 c 264 § 21; no RRS.]

**70.44.901 Severability—Construction—1974 ex.s. c 165.** If any section, clause, or other provision of this 1974 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of such 1974 amendatory act, or the application of such section, clause, or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected. The rule of strict construction shall have no application to this 1974 amendatory act, but the same shall be liberally construed, in order to carry out the purposes and objects for which this 1974 amendatory act is intended. When this 1974 amendatory act comes in conflict with any provision, limitation, or restriction in any other law, this 1974 amendatory act shall govern and control. [1974 ex.s. c 165 § 6.]

**70.44.903 Savings—1982 c 84.** All debts, contracts, and obligations made or incurred prior to June 10, 1982, by or in favor of any public hospital district, and all bonds, warrants, or other obligations issued by such district, and all other actions and proceedings relating thereto done or taken by such public hospital districts or by their respective officers within their authority are hereby declared to be legal and valid and of full force and effect from the date thereof. [1982 c 84 § 11.]

**70.44.910 Construction—1945 c 264.** This act [1945 c 264 § 22] shall not be deemed or construed to repeal or affect any existing act, or any part thereof, relating to the construction, operation and maintenance of public hospitals, but shall be supplemental thereto and concurrent therewith. [1945 c 264 § 22; no RRS.]

## Chapter 70.45 RCW ACQUISITION OF NONPROFIT HOSPITALS

### Sections

70.45.010	Legislative findings.
70.45.020	Definitions.
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70.45.040	Applications—Deficiencies—Public notice.
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70.45.070	Department review—Criteria to safeguard charitable assets.

70.45.080	Department review—Criteria for continued existence of accessible, affordable health care.
70.45.090	Approval of acquisition required—Injunctions.
70.45.100	Compliance—Department authority—Hearings—Revocation or suspension of hospital license—Referral to attorney general for action.
70.45.110	Authority of attorney general to ensure compliance.
70.45.120	Acquisitions completed before July 27, 1997, not subject to this chapter.
70.45.130	Common law and statutory authority of attorney general.
70.45.140	Rule-making and contracting authority.

**70.45.010 Legislative findings.** The health of the people of our state is a most important public concern. The state has an interest in assuring the continued existence of accessible, affordable health care facilities that are responsive to the needs of the communities in which they exist. The state also has a responsibility to protect the public interest in nonprofit hospitals and to clarify the responsibilities of local public hospital district boards with respect to public hospital district assets by making certain that the charitable and public assets of those hospitals are managed prudently and safeguarded consistent with their mission under the laws governing nonprofit and municipal corporations. [1997 c 332 § 1.]

**70.45.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the Washington state department of health.

(2) "Hospital" means any entity that is: (a) Defined as a hospital in RCW 70.41.020 and is required to obtain a license under RCW 70.41.090; or (b) a psychiatric hospital required to obtain a license under chapter 71.12 RCW.

(3) "Acquisition" means an acquisition by a person of an interest in a nonprofit hospital, whether by purchase, merger, lease, gift, joint venture, or otherwise, that results in a change of ownership or control of twenty percent or more of the assets of the hospital, or that results in the acquiring person holding or controlling fifty percent or more of the assets of the hospital, but acquisition does not include an acquisition if the acquiring person: (a) Is a nonprofit corporation having a substantially similar charitable health care purpose as the nonprofit corporation from whom the hospital is being acquired, or is a government entity; (b) is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code or as a government entity; and (c) will maintain representation from the affected community on the local board of the hospital.

(4) "Nonprofit hospital" means a hospital owned by a nonprofit corporation organized under Title 24 RCW.

(5) "Person" means an individual, a trust or estate, a partnership, a corporation including associations, limited liability companies, joint stock companies, and insurance companies. [1997 c 332 § 2.]

**70.45.030 Department approval required—Application—Fees.** (1) A person may not engage in the acquisition of a nonprofit hospital without first having applied for and received the approval of the department under this chapter.

(2) An application must be submitted to the department on forms provided by the department, and at a minimum must include: The name of the hospital being acquired, the name of the acquiring person or other parties to the acquisition, the

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acquisition price, a copy of the acquisition agreement, a financial and economic analysis and report from an independent expert or consultant of the effect of the acquisition under the criteria in RCW 70.45.070, and all other related documents. The applications and all related documents are considered public records for purposes of chapter 42.56 RCW.

(3) The department shall charge an applicant fees sufficient to cover the costs of implementing this chapter. The fees must include the cost of the attorney general's opinion under RCW 70.45.060. The department shall transfer this portion of the fee, upon receipt, to the attorney general. [2005 c 274 § 335; 1997 c 332 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.45.040 Applications—Deficiencies—Public notice.** (1) The department, in consultation with the attorney general, shall determine if the application is complete for the purposes of review. The department may find that an application is incomplete if a question on the application form has not been answered in whole or in part, or has been answered in a manner that does not fairly meet the question addressed, or if the application does not include attachments of supporting documents as required by RCW 70.45.030. If the department determines that an application is incomplete, it shall notify the applicant within fifteen working days after the date the application was received stating the reasons for its determination of incompleteness, with reference to the particular questions for which a deficiency is noted.

(2) Within five working days after receipt of a completed application, the department shall publish notice of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties where the hospital is located and shall notify by first-class United States mail, electronic mail, or facsimile transmission, any person who has requested notice of the filing of such applications. The notice must state that an application has been received, state the names of the parties to the agreement, describe the contents of the application, and state the date by which a person may submit written comments about the application to the department. [1997 c 332 § 4.]

**70.45.050 Public hearings.** During the course of review under this chapter, the department shall conduct one or more public hearings, at least one of which must be in the county where the hospital to be acquired is located. At the hearings, anyone may file written comments and exhibits or appear and make a statement. The department may subpoena additional information or witnesses, require and administer oaths, require sworn statements, take depositions, and use related discovery procedures for purposes of the hearing and at any time prior to making a decision on the application.

A hearing must be held not later than forty-five days after receipt of a completed application. At least ten days' public notice must be given before the holding of a hearing. [1997 c 332 § 5.]

**70.45.060 Attorney general review and opinion—Department review and decision—Adjudicative proceedings.** (1) The department shall provide the attorney general with a copy of a completed application upon receiving it. The attorney general shall review the completed application, and within forty-five days of the first public hearing held under

RCW 70.45.050 shall provide a written opinion to the department as to whether or not the acquisition meets the requirements for approval in RCW 70.45.070.

(2) The department shall review the completed application to determine whether or not the acquisition meets the requirements for approval in RCW 70.45.070 and 70.45.080. Within thirty days after receiving the written opinion of the attorney general under subsection (1) of this section, the department shall:

(a) Approve the acquisition, with or without any specific modifications or conditions; or

(b) Disapprove the acquisition.

(3) The department may not make its decision subject to any condition not directly related to requirements in RCW 70.45.070 or 70.45.080, and any condition or modification must bear a direct and rational relationship to the application under review.

(4) A person engaged in an acquisition and affected by a final decision of the department has the right to an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW. The opinion of the attorney general provided under subsection (1) of this section may not constitute a final decision for purposes of review.

(5) The department or the attorney general may extend, by not more than thirty days, any deadline established under this chapter one time during consideration of any application, for good cause. [1997 c 332 § 6.]

**70.45.070 Department review—Criteria to safeguard charitable assets.** The department shall only approve an application if the parties to the acquisition have taken the proper steps to safeguard the value of charitable assets and ensure that any proceeds from the acquisition are used for appropriate charitable health purposes. To this end, the department may not approve an application unless, at a minimum, it determines that:

(1) The acquisition is permitted under chapter 24.03 RCW, the Washington nonprofit corporation act, and other laws governing nonprofit entities, trusts, or charities;

(2) The nonprofit corporation that owns the hospital being acquired has exercised due diligence in authorizing the acquisition, selecting the acquiring person, and negotiating the terms and conditions of the acquisition;

(3) The procedures used by the nonprofit corporation's board of trustees and officers in making its decision fulfilled their fiduciary duties, that the board and officers were sufficiently informed about the proposed acquisition and possible alternatives, and that they used appropriate expert assistance;

(4) No conflict of interest exists related to the acquisition, including, but not limited to, conflicts of interest related to board members of, executives of, and experts retained by the nonprofit corporation, acquiring person, or other parties to the acquisition;

(5) The nonprofit corporation will receive fair market value for its assets. The attorney general or the department may employ, at the expense of the acquiring person, reasonably necessary expert assistance in making this determination. This expense must be in addition to the fees charged under RCW 70.45.030;

(6) Charitable funds will not be placed at unreasonable risk, if the acquisition is financed in part by the nonprofit corporation;

(7) Any management contract under the acquisition will be for fair market value;

(8) The proceeds from the acquisition will be controlled as charitable funds independently of the acquiring person or parties to the acquisition, and will be used for charitable health purposes consistent with the nonprofit corporation's original purpose, including providing health care to the disadvantaged, the uninsured, and the underinsured and providing benefits to promote improved health in the affected community;

(9) Any charitable entity established to hold the proceeds of the acquisition will be broadly based in and representative of the community where the hospital to be acquired is located, taking into consideration the structure and governance of such entity; and

(10) A right of first refusal to repurchase the assets by a successor nonprofit corporation or foundation has been retained if the hospital is subsequently sold to, acquired by, or merged with another entity. [1997 c 332 § 7.]

**70.45.080 Department review—Criteria for continued existence of accessible, affordable health care.** The department shall only approve an application if the acquisition in question will not detrimentally affect the continued existence of accessible, affordable health care that is responsive to the needs of the community in which the hospital to be acquired is located. To this end, the department shall not approve an application unless, at a minimum, it determines that:

(1) Sufficient safeguards are included to assure the affected community continued access to affordable care, and that alternative sources of care are available in the community should the acquisition result in a reduction or elimination of particular health services;

(2) The acquisition will not result in the revocation of hospital privileges;

(3) Sufficient safeguards are included to maintain appropriate capacity for health science research and health care provider education;

(4) The acquiring person and parties to the acquisition are committed to providing health care to the disadvantaged, the uninsured, and the underinsured and to providing benefits to promote improved health in the affected community. Activities and funding provided under RCW 70.45.070(8) may be considered in evaluating compliance with this commitment; and

(5) Sufficient safeguards are included to avoid conflict of interest in patient referral. [1997 c 332 § 8.]

**70.45.090 Approval of acquisition required—Injunctions.** (1) The secretary of state may not accept any forms or documents in connection with any acquisition of a nonprofit hospital until the acquisition has been approved by the department under this chapter.

(2) The attorney general may seek an injunction to prevent any acquisition not approved by the department under this chapter. [1997 c 332 § 9.]

**70.45.100 Compliance—Department authority—Hearings—Revocation or suspension of hospital license—Referral to attorney general for action.** The department shall require periodic reports from the nonprofit corporation or its successor nonprofit corporation or foundation and from the acquiring person or other parties to the acquisition to ensure compliance with commitments made. The department may subpoena information and documents and may conduct on-site compliance audits at the acquiring person's expense.

If the department receives information indicating that the acquiring person is not fulfilling commitments to the affected community under RCW 70.45.080, the department shall hold a hearing upon ten days' notice to the affected parties. If after the hearing the department determines that the information is true, it may revoke or suspend the hospital license issued to the acquiring person pursuant to the procedure established under RCW 70.41.130, refer the matter to the attorney general for appropriate action, or both. The attorney general may seek a court order compelling the acquiring person to fulfill its commitments under RCW 70.45.080. [1997 c 332 § 10.]

**70.45.110 Authority of attorney general to ensure compliance.** The attorney general has the authority to ensure compliance with commitments that inure to the public interest. [1997 c 332 § 11.]

**70.45.120 Acquisitions completed before July 27, 1997, not subject to this chapter.** An acquisition of a hospital completed before July 27, 1997, and an acquisition in which an application for a certificate of need under chapter 70.38 RCW has been granted by the department before July 27, 1997, is not subject to this chapter. [1997 c 332 § 12.]

**70.45.130 Common law and statutory authority of attorney general.** No provision of this chapter derogates from the common law or statutory authority of the attorney general. [1997 c 332 § 13.]

**70.45.140 Rule-making and contracting authority.** The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this chapter and may contract with and provide reasonable reimbursement to qualified persons to assist in determining whether the requirements of RCW 70.45.070 and 70.45.080 have been met. [1997 c 332 § 14.]

## Chapter 70.46 RCW HEALTH DISTRICTS

### Sections

70.46.020	Districts of two or more counties—Health board—Membership—Chair.
70.46.031	Districts of one county—Health board—Membership.
70.46.060	District health board—Powers and duties.
70.46.080	District health funds.
70.46.082	District health funds—Health district as custodian.
70.46.085	County to bear expense of providing public health services.
70.46.090	Withdrawal of county.
70.46.100	Power to acquire, maintain, or dispose of property—Contracts.
70.46.120	License or permit fees.

*Local health departments, provisions relating to health districts: Chapter 70.05 RCW.*

**70.46.020 Districts of two or more counties—Health board—Membership—Chair.** Health districts consisting

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of two or more counties may be created whenever two or more boards of county commissioners shall by resolution establish a district for such purpose. Such a district shall consist of all the area of the combined counties. The district board of health of such a district shall consist of not less than five members for districts of two counties and seven members for districts of more than two counties, including two representatives from each county who are members of the board of county commissioners and who are appointed by the board of county commissioners of each county within the district, and shall have a jurisdiction coextensive with the combined boundaries. The boards of county commissioners may by resolution or ordinance provide for elected officials from cities and towns and persons other than elected officials as members of the district board of health so long as persons other than elected officials do not constitute a majority. A resolution or ordinance adopted under this section must specify the provisions for the appointment, term, and compensation, or reimbursement of expenses. Any multicounty health district existing on \*the effective date of this act shall continue in existence unless and until changed by affirmative action of all boards of county commissioners or one or more counties withdraws [withdraw] pursuant to RCW 70.46.090.

At the first meeting of a district board of health the members shall elect a chair to serve for a period of one year. [1995 c 43 § 10; 1993 c 492 § 247; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 6; 1945 c 183 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6099-11.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For "the effective date of this act" see note following RCW 70.05.030.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.46.031 Districts of one county—Health board—Membership.** A health district to consist of one county may be created whenever the county legislative authority of the county shall pass a resolution or ordinance to organize such a health district under chapter 70.05 RCW and this chapter.

The resolution or ordinance may specify the membership, representation on the district health board, or other matters relative to the formation or operation of the health district. The county legislative authority may appoint elected officials from cities and towns and persons other than elected officials as members of the health district board so long as persons other than elected officials do not constitute a majority.

Any single county health district existing on \*the effective date of this act shall continue in existence unless and until changed by affirmative action of the county legislative authority. [1995 c 43 § 11.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For "the effective date of this act" see note following RCW 70.05.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.46.060 District health board—Powers and duties.** The district board of health shall constitute the local board of health for all the territory included in the health district, and shall supersede and exercise all the powers and perform all the duties by law vested in the county board of health of any county included in the health district. [1993 c 492 § 248; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 11; 1945 c 183 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6099-15.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.46.080 District health funds.** Each health district shall establish a fund to be designated as the "district health fund", in which shall be placed all sums received by the district from any source, and out of which shall be expended all sums disbursed by the district. In a district composed of more than one county the county treasurer of the county having the largest population shall be the custodian of the fund, and the county auditor of said county shall keep the record of the receipts and disbursements, and shall draw and the county treasurer shall honor and pay all warrants, which shall be approved before issuance and payment as directed by the board.

Each county which is included in the district shall contribute such sums towards the expense for maintaining and operating the district as shall be agreed upon between it and the local board of health in accordance with guidelines established by the state board of health. [1993 c 492 § 249; 1971 ex.s. c 85 § 10; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 19; 1945 c 183 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6099-17.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.46.082 District health funds—Health district as custodian.** (1) A health district, with the consent of the county legislative authority, the county treasurer, the county auditor, and the health district board, may act as custodian of funds, may keep the record of the receipts and disbursements, and may draw and may honor and pay all warrants or checks, which shall be approved before issuance and payment as directed by the board.

(2) The county may not charge a health district that does not utilize the option in subsection (1) of this section for those services provided. [2016 1st sp.s. c 3 § 1.]

**70.46.085 County to bear expense of providing public health services.** The expense of providing public health services shall be borne by each county within the health district. [1993 c 492 § 250; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 20.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

*Expenses of enforcing health laws: RCW 70.05.130.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.46.090 Withdrawal of county.** Any county may withdraw from membership in said health district any time after it has been within the district for a period of two years, but no withdrawal shall be effective except at the end of the calendar year in which the county gives at least six months' notice of its intention to withdraw at the end of the calendar year. No withdrawal shall entitle any member to a refund of any moneys paid to the district nor relieve it of any obligations to pay to the district all sums for which it obligated itself due and owing by it to the district for the year at the end of which the withdrawal is to be effective. Any county which withdraws from membership in said health district shall immediately establish a health department or provide health services which shall meet the standards for health services promulgated by the state board of health. No local health department may be deemed to provide adequate public health

services unless there is at least one full time professionally trained and qualified physician as set forth in RCW 70.05.050. [1993 c 492 § 251; 1967 ex.s. c 51 § 21; 1945 c 183 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6099-18.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.46.100 Power to acquire, maintain, or dispose of property—Contracts.** In addition to all other powers and duties, a health district shall have the power to own, construct, purchase, lease, add to, and maintain any real and personal property or property rights necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the district. A health district may sell, lease, convey or otherwise dispose of any district real or personal property no longer necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the district. A health district may enter into contracts to carry out the provisions of this section. [1957 c 100 § 2.]

**70.46.120 License or permit fees.** In addition to all other powers and duties, health districts shall have the power to charge fees in connection with the issuance or renewal of a license or permit required by law: PROVIDED, That the fees charged shall not exceed the actual cost involved in issuing or renewing the license or permit. [1993 c 492 § 252; 1963 c 121 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 70.47 RCW

### BASIC HEALTH PLAN—HEALTH CARE ACCESS ACT

#### Sections

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**70.47.002 Intent—2002 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 773).** It is the intent of the people to improve the health of low-income children and adults by expanding access to basic health care and by reducing tobacco-related and other diseases and illnesses that disproportionately affect low-income persons. [2002 c 2 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 773, approved November 6, 2001).]

**70.47.005 Transfer power, duties, and functions to Washington state health care authority.** The powers, duties, and functions of the Washington basic health plan are hereby transferred to the Washington state health care authority. All references to the \*administrator of the Washington basic health plan in the Revised Code of Washington shall be construed to mean the \*administrator of the Washington state health care authority. [1993 c 492 § 201.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050. Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.010 Legislative findings—Purpose—Director to coordinate eligibility.** (1)(a) The legislature finds that limitations on access to health care services for enrollees in the state, such as in rural and underserved areas, are particularly challenging for the basic health plan. Statutory restrictions have reduced the options available to the director to address the access needs of basic health plan enrollees. It is the intent of the legislature to authorize the director to develop alternative purchasing strategies to ensure access to basic health plan enrollees in all areas of the state, including: (i) The use of differential rating for managed health care systems based on geographic differences in costs; and (ii) limited use of self-insurance in areas where adequate access cannot be assured through other options.

(b) In developing alternative purchasing strategies to address health care access needs, the director shall consult with interested persons including health carriers, health care providers, and health facilities, and with other appropriate state agencies including the office of the insurance commissioner and the office of community and rural health. In pursuing such alternatives, the director shall continue to give priority to prepaid managed care as the preferred method of assuring access to basic health plan enrollees followed, in priority order, by preferred providers, fee-for-service, and self-funding.

(2) The legislature further finds that:

(a) A significant percentage of the population of this state does not have reasonably available insurance or other coverage of the costs of necessary basic health care services;

(b) This lack of basic health care coverage is detrimental to the health of the individuals lacking coverage and to the public welfare, and results in substantial expenditures for emergency and remedial health care, often at the expense of

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health care providers, health care facilities, and all purchasers of health care, including the state; and

(c) The use of managed health care systems has significant potential to reduce the growth of health care costs incurred by the people of this state generally, and by low-income pregnant women, and at-risk children and adolescents who need greater access to managed health care.

(3) The purpose of this chapter is to provide or make more readily available necessary basic health care services in an appropriate setting to working persons and others who lack coverage, at a cost to these persons that does not create barriers to the utilization of necessary health care services. To that end, this chapter establishes a program to be made available to those residents not eligible for medicare who share in a portion of the cost or who pay the full cost of receiving basic health care services from a managed health care system.

(4) It is not the intent of this chapter to provide health care services for those persons who are presently covered through private employer-based health plans, nor to replace employer-based health plans. However, the legislature recognizes that cost-effective and affordable health plans may not always be available to small business employers. Further, it is the intent of the legislature to expand, wherever possible, the availability of private health care coverage and to discourage the decline of employer-based coverage.

(5)(a) It is the purpose of this chapter to acknowledge the initial success of this program that has (i) assisted thousands of families in their search for affordable health care; (ii) demonstrated that low-income, uninsured families are willing to pay for their own health care coverage to the extent of their ability to pay; and (iii) proved that local health care providers are willing to enter into a public-private partnership as a managed care system.

(b) As a consequence, the legislature intends to extend an option to enroll to certain citizens above two hundred percent of the federal poverty guidelines within the state who reside in communities where the plan is operational and who collectively or individually wish to exercise the opportunity to purchase health care coverage through the basic health plan if the purchase is done at no cost to the state. It is also the intent of the legislature to allow employers and other financial sponsors to financially assist such individuals to purchase health care through the program so long as such purchase does not result in a lower standard of coverage for employees.

(c) The legislature intends that, to the extent of available funds, the program be available throughout Washington state to subsidized and nonsubsidized enrollees. It is also the intent of the legislature to enroll subsidized enrollees first, to the maximum extent feasible.

(d) The legislature directs that the basic health plan director identify enrollees who are likely to be eligible for medical assistance and assist these individuals in applying for and receiving medical assistance. Enrollees receiving medical assistance are not eligible for the Washington basic health plan. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 82; 2009 c 568 § 1; 2000 c 79 § 42; 1993 c 492 § 208; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 3.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050. Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.015 Enrollment—Findings—Intent—Enrollee premium share—Expedited application and enrollment process—Commission for insurance producers.** (1) The legislature finds that the basic health plan has been an effective program in providing health coverage for uninsured residents. Further, since 1993, substantial amounts of public funds have been allocated for subsidized basic health plan enrollment.

(2) Effective January 1, 1996, basic health plan enrollees whose income is less than one hundred twenty-five percent of the federal poverty level shall pay at least a ten-dollar premium share.

(3) No later than July 1, 1996, the \*administrator shall implement procedures whereby hospitals licensed under chapters 70.41 and 71.12 RCW, health carrier, rural health care facilities regulated under chapter 70.175 RCW, and community and migrant health centers funded under RCW 41.05.220, may expeditiously assist patients and their families in applying for basic health plan or medical assistance coverage, and in submitting such applications directly to the health care authority or the department of social and health services. The health care authority and the department of social and health services shall make every effort to simplify and expedite the application and enrollment process.

(4) No later than July 1, 1996, the \*administrator shall implement procedures whereby disability insurance producers, licensed under chapter 48.17 RCW, may expeditiously assist patients and their families in applying for basic health plan or medical assistance coverage, and in submitting such applications directly to the health care authority or the department of social and health services. Insurance producers may receive a commission for each individual sale of the basic health plan to anyone not signed up within the previous five years and a commission for each group sale of the basic health plan, if funding for this purpose is provided in a specific appropriation to the health care authority. No commission shall be provided upon a renewal. Commissions shall be determined based on the estimated annual cost of the basic health plan, however, commissions shall not result in a reduction in the premium amount paid to health carriers. For purposes of this section "health carrier" is as defined in RCW 48.43.005. The \*administrator may establish: (a) Minimum educational requirements that must be completed by the insurance producers; (b) an appointment process for insurance producers marketing the basic health plan; or (c) standards for revocation of the appointment of an insurance producer to submit applications for cause, including untrustworthy or incompetent conduct or harm to the public. The health care authority and the department of social and health services shall make every effort to simplify and expedite the application and enrollment process. [2009 c 479 § 49; 2008 c 217 § 99; 1997 c 337 § 1; 1995 c 265 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

Effective date—2009 c 479: See note following RCW 2.56.030.

Severability—Effective date—2008 c 217: See notes following RCW 48.03.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.020 Definitions (as amended by 2011 c 284).** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Administrator" means the Washington basic health plan administrator, who also holds the position of administrator of the Washington state health care authority.

(2) "Health coverage tax credit eligible enrollee" means individual workers and their qualified family members who lose their jobs due to the effects of international trade and are eligible for certain trade adjustment assistance benefits; or are eligible for benefits under the alternative trade adjustment assistance program; or are people who receive benefits from the pension benefit guaranty corporation and are at least fifty-five years old.

(3) "Health coverage tax credit program" means the program created by the Trade Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-210) that provides a federal tax credit that subsidizes private health insurance coverage for displaced workers certified to receive certain trade adjustment assistance benefits and for individuals receiving benefits from the pension benefit guaranty corporation.

(4) "Managed health care system" means: (a) Any health care organization, including health care providers, insurers, health care service contractors, health maintenance organizations, or any combination thereof, that provides directly or by contract basic health care services, as defined by the administrator and rendered by duly licensed providers, to a defined patient population enrolled in the plan and in the managed health care system; or (b) a self-funded or self-insured method of providing insurance coverage to subsidized enrollees provided under RCW 41.05.140 and subject to the limitations under \*RCW 70.47.100(7).

(5) "Nonsubsidized enrollee" means an individual, or an individual plus the individual's spouse or dependent children: (a) Who is not eligible for medicare; (b) who is not confined or residing in a government-operated institution, unless he or she meets eligibility criteria adopted by the administrator; (c) who is accepted for enrollment by the administrator as provided in RCW 48.43.018, either because the potential enrollee cannot be required to complete the standard health questionnaire under RCW 48.43.018, or, based upon the results of the standard health questionnaire, the potential enrollee would not qualify for coverage under the Washington state health insurance pool; (d) who resides in an area of the state served by a managed health care system participating in the plan; (e) who chooses to obtain basic health care coverage from a particular managed health care system; and (f) who pays or on whose behalf is paid the full costs for participation in the plan, without any subsidy from the plan.

(6) "Premium" means a periodic payment, which an individual, their employer or another financial sponsor makes to the plan as consideration for enrollment in the plan as a subsidized enrollee, a nonsubsidized enrollee, or a health coverage tax credit eligible enrollee.

(7) "Rate" means the amount, negotiated by the administrator with and paid to a participating managed health care system, that is based upon the enrollment of subsidized, nonsubsidized, and health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees in the plan and in that system.

(8) "Subsidy" means the difference between the amount of periodic payment the administrator makes to a managed health care system on behalf of a subsidized enrollee plus the administrative cost to the plan of providing the plan to that subsidized enrollee, and the amount determined to be the subsidized enrollee's responsibility under RCW 70.47.060(2).

(9) "Subsidized enrollee" means:

(a) An individual, or an individual plus the individual's spouse or dependent children:

(i) Who is not eligible for medicare;

(ii) Who is not confined or residing in a government-operated institution, unless he or she meets eligibility criteria adopted by the administrator;

(iii) Who is not a full-time student who has received a temporary visa to study in the United States;

(iv) Who resides in an area of the state served by a managed health care system participating in the plan;

(v) Whose gross family income at the time of enrollment does not exceed two hundred percent of the federal poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services;

(vi) Who chooses to obtain basic health care coverage from a particular managed health care system in return for periodic payments to the plan; and

(vii) Who is not receiving ((medical assistance administered by the department of social and health services)) or has not been determined to be currently eligible for federally financed categorically needy or medically needy programs under chapter 74.09 RCW, except as provided under RCW 70.47.110;

(b) An individual who meets the requirements in (a)(i) through (iv), (vi), and (vii) of this subsection and who is a foster parent licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW and whose gross family income at the time of enrollment does not exceed three hundred percent of the federal poverty level as

adjusted for family size and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services; and

(c) To the extent that state funds are specifically appropriated for this purpose, with a corresponding federal match, an individual, or an individual's spouse or dependent children, who meets the requirements in (a)(i) through (iv), (vi), and (vii) of this subsection and whose gross family income at the time of enrollment is more than two hundred percent, but less than two hundred fifty-one percent, of the federal poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services.

(10) "Washington basic health plan" or "plan" means the system of enrollment and payment for basic health care services, administered by the plan administrator through participating managed health care systems, created by this chapter. [2011 c 284 § 1. Prior: 2009 c 568 § 2; 2007 c 259 § 35; 2005 c 188 § 2; 2004 c 192 § 1; 2000 c 79 § 43; 1997 c 335 § 1; 1997 c 245 § 5; prior: 1995 c 266 § 2; 1995 c 2 § 3; 1994 c 309 § 4; 1993 c 492 § 209; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.47.100 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 9 § 4, changing subsection (7) to subsection (9).

**70.47.020 Definitions (as amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 9).** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Administrator" means the Washington basic health plan administrator, who also holds the position of administrator of the Washington state health care authority.

(2) "Health coverage tax credit eligible enrollee" means individual workers and their qualified family members who lose their jobs due to the effects of international trade and are eligible for certain trade adjustment assistance benefits; or are eligible for benefits under the alternative trade adjustment assistance program; or are people who receive benefits from the pension benefit guaranty corporation and are at least fifty-five years old.

(3) "Health coverage tax credit program" means the program created by the Trade Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-210) that provides a federal tax credit that subsidizes private health insurance coverage for displaced workers certified to receive certain trade adjustment assistance benefits and for individuals receiving benefits from the pension benefit guaranty corporation.

(4) "Managed health care system" means: (a) Any health care organization, including health care providers, insurers, health care service contractors, health maintenance organizations, or any combination thereof, that provides directly or by contract basic health care services, as defined by the administrator and rendered by duly licensed providers, to a defined patient population enrolled in the plan and in the managed health care system; or (b) a self-funded or self-insured method of providing insurance coverage to subsidized enrollees provided under RCW 41.05.140 and subject to the limitations under RCW 70.47.100((7)) (9).

(5) "Nonparticipating provider" means a person, health care provider, practitioner, facility, or entity, acting within their authorized scope of practice or licensure, that does not have a written contract to participate in a managed health care system's provider network, but provides services to plan enrollees who receive coverage through the managed health care system.

(6) "Nonsubsidized enrollee" means an individual, or an individual plus the individual's spouse or dependent children: (a) Who is not eligible for medicare; (b) who is not confined or residing in a government-operated institution, unless he or she meets eligibility criteria adopted by the administrator; (c) who is accepted for enrollment by the administrator as provided in RCW 48.43.018, either because the potential enrollee cannot be required to complete the standard health questionnaire under RCW 48.43.018, or, based upon the results of the standard health questionnaire, the potential enrollee would not qualify for coverage under the Washington state health insurance pool; (d) who resides in an area of the state served by a managed health care system participating in the plan; (e) who chooses to obtain basic health care coverage from a particular managed health care system; and (f) who pays or on whose behalf is paid the full costs for participation in the plan, without any subsidy from the plan.

((6)) (7) "Premium" means a periodic payment, which an individual, their employer or another financial sponsor makes to the plan as consideration for enrollment in the plan as a subsidized enrollee, a nonsubsidized enrollee, or a health coverage tax credit eligible enrollee.

((7)) (8) "Rate" means the amount, negotiated by the administrator with and paid to a participating managed health care system, that is based upon the enrollment of subsidized, nonsubsidized, and health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees in the plan and in that system.

((8)) (9) "Subsidy" means the difference between the amount of periodic payment the administrator makes to a managed health care system on behalf of a subsidized enrollee plus the administrative cost to the plan of pro-

viding the plan to that subsidized enrollee, and the amount determined to be the subsidized enrollee's responsibility under RCW 70.47.060(2).

((9)) (10) "Subsidized enrollee" means:

(a) An individual, or an individual plus the individual's spouse or dependent children:

(i) Who is not eligible for medicare;

(ii) Who is not confined or residing in a government-operated institution, unless he or she meets eligibility criteria adopted by the administrator;

(iii) Who is not a full-time student who has received a temporary visa to study in the United States;

(iv) Who resides in an area of the state served by a managed health care system participating in the plan;

(v) Until March 1, 2011, whose gross family income at the time of enrollment does not exceed two hundred percent of the federal poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services;

(vi) Who chooses to obtain basic health care coverage from a particular managed health care system in return for periodic payments to the plan;

(vii) Who is not receiving medical assistance administered by the department of social and health services; and

(viii) After February 28, 2011, who is in the basic health transition eligible population under 1115 medicaid demonstration project number 11-W-00254/10;

(b) An individual who meets the requirements in (a)(i) through (iv), (vi), and (vii) of this subsection and who is a foster parent licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW and whose gross family income at the time of enrollment does not exceed three hundred percent of the federal poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services; and

(c) To the extent that state funds are specifically appropriated for this purpose, with a corresponding federal match, an individual, or an individual's spouse or dependent children, who meets the requirements in (a)(i) through (iv), (vi), and (vii) of this subsection and whose gross family income at the time of enrollment is more than two hundred percent, but less than two hundred fifty-one percent, of the federal poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services.

((10)) (11) "Washington basic health plan" or "plan" means the system of enrollment and payment for basic health care services, administered by the plan administrator through participating managed health care systems, created by this chapter. [2011 1st sp.s. c 9 § 3. Prior: 2011 c 205 § 1; prior: 2009 c 568 § 2; 2007 c 259 § 35; 2005 c 188 § 2; 2004 c 192 § 1; 2000 c 79 § 43; 1997 c 335 § 1; 1997 c 245 § 5; prior: 1995 c 266 § 2; 1995 c 2 § 3; 1994 c 309 § 4; 1993 c 492 § 209; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 9:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) There is an increasing level of dispute and uncertainty regarding the amount of payment nonparticipating providers may receive for health care services provided to enrollees of state purchased health care programs designed to serve low-income individuals and families, such as basic health and the medicaid managed care programs;

(b) The dispute has resulted in litigation, including a recent Washington superior court ruling that determined nonparticipating providers were entitled to receive billed charges from a managed health care system for services provided to medicaid and basic health plan enrollees. The decision would allow a nonparticipating provider to demand and receive payment in an amount exceeding the payment managed health care system network providers receive for the same services. Similar provider lawsuits have now been filed in other jurisdictions in the state;

(c) In the biennial operating budget, the legislature has previously indicated its intent that payment to nonparticipating providers for services provided to medicaid managed care enrollees should be limited to amounts paid to medicaid fee-for-service providers. The duration of these provisions is limited to the period during which the operating budget is in effect. A more permanent resolution of these issues is needed; and

(d) Continued failure to resolve this dispute will have adverse impacts on state purchased health care programs serving low-income enrollees, including: (i) Diminished ability for the state to negotiate cost-effective contracts with managed health care systems; (ii) a potential for significant reduction in the willingness of providers to participate in managed health care system provider networks; (iii) a reduction in providers participating in the managed health care systems; and (iv) increased exposure for program enrollees to balance billing practices by nonparticipating providers. Ultimately, fewer eligible people will get the care they need as state purchased health care programs will operate with less efficiency and reduced access to cost-effective and quality health care coverage for program enrollees.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to create a legislative solution that reduces the cost borne by the state to provide public health care coverage to low-income enrollees in managed health care systems, protects enrollees and state purchased health care programs from balance billing by nonparticipating providers, provides appropriate payment to health care providers for services provided to enrollees of state purchased health care programs, and limits the risk for managed health care systems that contract with the state programs." [2011 1st sp.s. c 9 § 1.]

**70.47.020 Definitions (as amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15).** As used in this chapter:

(1) ~~("Administrator" means the Washington basic health plan administrator, who also holds the position of administrator)~~ "Director" means the director of the Washington state health care authority.

(2) "Health coverage tax credit eligible enrollee" means individual workers and their qualified family members who lose their jobs due to the effects of international trade and are eligible for certain trade adjustment assistance benefits; or are eligible for benefits under the alternative trade adjustment assistance program; or are people who receive benefits from the pension benefit guaranty corporation and are at least fifty-five years old.

(3) "Health coverage tax credit program" means the program created by the Trade Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-210) that provides a federal tax credit that subsidizes private health insurance coverage for displaced workers certified to receive certain trade adjustment assistance benefits and for individuals receiving benefits from the pension benefit guaranty corporation.

(4) "Managed health care system" means: (a) Any health care organization, including health care providers, insurers, health care service contractors, health maintenance organizations, or any combination thereof, that provides directly or by contract basic health care services, as defined by the ~~((administrator))~~ director and rendered by duly licensed providers, to a defined patient population enrolled in the plan and in the managed health care system; or (b) a self-funded or self-insured method of providing insurance coverage to subsidized enrollees provided under RCW 41.05.140 and subject to the limitations under \*RCW 70.47.100(7).

(5) "Nonsubsidized enrollee" means an individual, or an individual plus the individual's spouse or dependent children: (a) Who is not eligible for medicare; (b) who is not confined or residing in a government-operated institution, unless he or she meets eligibility criteria adopted by the ~~((administrator))~~ director; (c) who is accepted for enrollment by the ~~((administrator))~~ director as provided in RCW 48.43.018, either because the potential enrollee cannot be required to complete the standard health questionnaire under RCW 48.43.018, or, based upon the results of the standard health questionnaire, the potential enrollee would not qualify for coverage under the Washington state health insurance pool; (d) who resides in an area of the state served by a managed health care system participating in the plan; (e) who chooses to obtain basic health care coverage from a particular managed health care system; and (f) who pays or on whose behalf is paid the full costs for participation in the plan, without any subsidy from the plan.

(6) "Premium" means a periodic payment, which an individual, their employer or another financial sponsor makes to the plan as consideration for enrollment in the plan as a subsidized enrollee, a nonsubsidized enrollee, or a health coverage tax credit eligible enrollee.

(7) "Rate" means the amount, negotiated by the ~~((administrator))~~ director with and paid to a participating managed health care system, that is based upon the enrollment of subsidized, nonsubsidized, and health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees in the plan and in that system.

(8) "Subsidy" means the difference between the amount of periodic payment the ~~((administrator))~~ director makes to a managed health care system on behalf of a subsidized enrollee plus the administrative cost to the plan of providing the plan to that subsidized enrollee, and the amount determined to be the subsidized enrollee's responsibility under RCW 70.47.060(2).

(9) "Subsidized enrollee" means:

(a) An individual, or an individual plus the individual's spouse or dependent children:

(i) Who is not eligible for medicare;

(ii) Who is not confined or residing in a government-operated institution, unless he or she meets eligibility criteria adopted by the ~~((administrator))~~ director;

(iii) Who is not a full-time student who has received a temporary visa to study in the United States;

(iv) Who resides in an area of the state served by a managed health care system participating in the plan;

(v) Until March 1, 2011, whose gross family income at the time of enrollment does not exceed two hundred percent of the federal poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services;

(vi) Who chooses to obtain basic health care coverage from a particular managed health care system in return for periodic payments to the plan;

(vii) Who is not receiving medical assistance administered by the ~~((department of social and health services))~~ authority; and

(viii) After February 28, 2011, who is in the basic health transition eligibles population under 1115 medicaid demonstration project number 11-W-00254/10;

(b) An individual who meets the requirements in (a)(i) through (iv), (vi), and (vii) of this subsection and who is a foster parent licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW and whose gross family income at the time of enrollment does not exceed three hundred percent of the federal poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services; and

(c) To the extent that state funds are specifically appropriated for this purpose, with a corresponding federal match, an individual, or an individual's spouse or dependent children, who meets the requirements in (a)(i) through (iv), (vi), and (vii) of this subsection and whose gross family income at the time of enrollment is more than two hundred percent, but less than two hundred fifty-one percent, of the federal poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services.

(10) "Washington basic health plan" or "plan" means the system of enrollment and payment for basic health care services, administered by the plan ~~((administrator))~~ director through participating managed health care systems, created by this chapter. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83; 2011 c 205 § 1; 2009 c 568 § 2; 2007 c 259 § 35; 2005 c 188 § 2; 2004 c 192 § 1; 2000 c 79 § 43; 1997 c 335 § 1; 1997 c 245 § 5. Prior: 1995 c 266 § 2; 1995 c 2 § 3; 1994 c 309 § 4; 1993 c 492 § 209; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 70.47.100 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 9 § 4, changing subsection (7) to subsection (9).

(2) RCW 70.47.020 was amended three times during the 2011 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Intent—2011 c 205:** "The legislature intends to define eligibility for the basic health plan for periods subsequent to expiration of the 1115 medicaid demonstration project based upon recommendations from its joint select committee on health reform regarding whether the basic health plan should be offered as an enrollment option for persons who qualify for federal premium subsidies under the federal patient protection and affordable care act of 2010." [2011 c 205 § 2.]

**Effective date—2011 c 205:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 29, 2011]." [2011 c 205 § 3.]

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

**Findings—2005 c 188:** "The legislature finds that the basic health plan is a valuable means of providing access to affordable health insurance coverage for low-income families and individuals in Washington state. The legislature further finds that persons studying in the United States as full-time students under temporary visas must show, as a condition of receiving their temporary visa, that they have sufficient funds available for self-support during their entire proposed course of study. For this reason, the legislature finds that it is not appropriate to provide subsidized basic health plan coverage to this group of students." [2005 c 188 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.030 Basic health plan trust account—Basic health plan subscription account.** (1) The basic health plan trust account is hereby established in the state treasury. Any nongeneral fund-state funds collected for this program shall be deposited in the basic health plan trust account and may be expended without further appropriation. Moneys in the account shall be used exclusively for the purposes of this chapter, including payments to participating managed health

care systems on behalf of enrollees in the plan and payment of costs of administering the plan.

During the 1995-97 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer funds from the basic health plan trust account to the state general fund.

(2) The basic health plan subscription account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from amounts due from or on behalf of nonsubsidized enrollees and health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees shall be deposited into the account. Funds in the account shall be used exclusively for the purposes of this chapter, including payments to participating managed health care systems on behalf of nonsubsidized enrollees and health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees in the plan and payment of costs of administering the plan. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures.

(3) The \*administrator shall take every precaution to see that none of the funds in the separate accounts created in this section or that any premiums paid either by subsidized or nonsubsidized enrollees are commingled in any way, except that the \*administrator may combine funds designated for administration of the plan into a single administrative account. [2004 c 192 § 2; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 18 § 913; 1993 c 492 § 210; 1992 c 232 § 907. Prior: 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 68; 1991 sp.s. c 4 § 1; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050. Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.040 Basic health plan—Health care authority head to be administrator—Joint operations.** (1) The Washington basic health plan is created as a program within the Washington state health care authority. The administrative head and appointing authority of the plan shall be the \*administrator of the Washington state health care authority. The \*administrator shall appoint a medical director. The medical director and up to five other employees of the plan shall be exempt from the civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW.

(2) The \*administrator shall employ such other staff as are necessary to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the \*administrator, such staff to be subject to the civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW. In addition, the \*administrator may contract with third parties for services necessary to carry out its activities where this will promote economy, avoid duplication of effort, and make best use of available expertise. Any such contractor or consultant shall be prohibited from releasing, publishing, or otherwise using any information made available to it under its contractual responsibility without specific permission of the plan. The \*administrator may call upon other agencies of the state to provide available information as necessary to assist the \*administrator in meeting its responsibilities under this chapter, which information shall be supplied as promptly as circumstances permit.

(3) The \*administrator may appoint such technical or advisory committees as he or she deems necessary.

(4) The \*administrator may apply for, receive, and accept grants, gifts, and other payments, including property and service, from any governmental or other public or private

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entity or person, and may make arrangements as to the use of these receipts, including the undertaking of special studies and other projects relating to health care costs and access to health care.

(5) Whenever feasible, the \*administrator shall reduce the administrative cost of operating the program by adopting joint policies or procedures applicable to both the basic health plan and employee health plans. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 7; 1993 c 492 § 211; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050. Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.050 Rules.** The \*administrator may promulgate and adopt rules consistent with this chapter to carry out the purposes of this chapter. All rules shall be adopted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. [1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 7.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

**70.47.060 Powers and duties of administrator—Schedule of services—Premiums, copayments, subsidies—Enrollment.** The \*administrator has the following powers and duties:

(1) To design and from time to time revise a schedule of covered basic health care services, including physician services, inpatient and outpatient hospital services, prescription drugs and medications, and other services that may be necessary for basic health care. In addition, the \*administrator may, to the extent that funds are available, offer as basic health plan services chemical dependency services, mental health services, and organ transplant services. All subsidized and nonsubsidized enrollees in any participating managed health care system under the Washington basic health plan shall be entitled to receive covered basic health care services in return for premium payments to the plan. The schedule of services shall emphasize proven preventive and primary health care and shall include all services necessary for prenatal, postnatal, and well-child care. However, with respect to coverage for subsidized enrollees who are eligible to receive prenatal and postnatal services through the medical assistance program under chapter 74.09 RCW, the \*administrator shall not contract for such services except to the extent that such services are necessary over not more than a one-month period in order to maintain continuity of care after diagnosis of pregnancy by the managed care provider. The schedule of services shall also include a separate schedule of basic health care services for children, eighteen years of age and younger, for those subsidized or nonsubsidized enrollees who choose to secure basic coverage through the plan only for their dependent children. In designing and revising the schedule of services, the \*administrator shall consider the guidelines for assessing health services under the mandated benefits act of 1984, RCW 48.47.030, and such other factors as the \*administrator deems appropriate. The \*administrator shall encourage enrollees who have been continually enrolled on basic health for a period of one year or more to complete a health risk assessment and participate in programs approved by the

\*administrator that may include wellness, smoking cessation, and chronic disease management programs. In approving programs, the \*administrator shall consider evidence that any such programs are proven to improve enrollee health status.

(2)(a) To design and implement a structure of periodic premiums due the \*administrator from subsidized enrollees that is based upon gross family income, giving appropriate consideration to family size and the ages of all family members. The enrollment of children shall not require the enrollment of their parent or parents who are eligible for the plan. The structure of periodic premiums shall be applied to subsidized enrollees entering the plan as individuals pursuant to subsection (11) of this section and to the share of the cost of the plan due from subsidized enrollees entering the plan as employees pursuant to subsection (12) of this section.

(b) To determine the periodic premiums due the \*administrator from subsidized enrollees under \*\*RCW 70.47.020(9)(b). Premiums due for foster parents with gross family income up to two hundred percent of the federal poverty level shall be set at the minimum premium amount charged to enrollees with income below sixty-five percent of the federal poverty level. Premiums due for foster parents with gross family income between two hundred percent and three hundred percent of the federal poverty level shall not exceed one hundred dollars per month.

(c) To determine the periodic premiums due the \*administrator from nonsubsidized enrollees. Premiums due from nonsubsidized enrollees shall be in an amount equal to the cost charged by the managed health care system provider to the state for the plan plus the administrative cost of providing the plan to those enrollees and the premium tax under RCW 48.14.0201.

(d) To determine the periodic premiums due the \*administrator from health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees. Premiums due from health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees must be in an amount equal to the cost charged by the managed health care system provider to the state for the plan, plus the administrative cost of providing the plan to those enrollees and the premium tax under RCW 48.14.0201. The \*administrator will consider the impact of eligibility determination by the appropriate federal agency designated by the Trade Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-210) as well as the premium collection and remittance activities by the United States internal revenue service when determining the administrative cost charged for health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees.

(e) An employer or other financial sponsor may, with the prior approval of the \*administrator, pay the premium, rate, or any other amount on behalf of a subsidized or nonsubsidized enrollee, by arrangement with the enrollee and through a mechanism acceptable to the \*administrator. The \*administrator shall establish a mechanism for receiving premium payments from the United States internal revenue service for health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees.

(f) To develop, as an offering by every health carrier providing coverage identical to the basic health plan, as configured on January 1, 2001, a basic health plan model plan with uniformity in enrollee cost-sharing requirements.

(g) To collect from all public employees a voluntary opt-in donation of varying amounts through a monthly or one-time payroll deduction as provided for in RCW 41.04.230. The donation must be deposited in the health services

account established in \*\*\*RCW 43.72.900 to be used for the sole purpose of maintaining enrollment capacity in the basic health plan.

The \*administrator shall send an annual notice to state employees extending the opportunity to participate in the opt-in donation program for the purpose of saving enrollment slots for the basic health plan. The first such notice shall be sent to public employees no later than June 1, 2009.

The notice shall include monthly sponsorship levels of fifteen dollars per month, thirty dollars per month, fifty dollars per month, and any other amounts deemed reasonable by the \*administrator. The sponsorship levels shall be named "safety net contributor," "safety net hero," and "safety net champion" respectively. The donation amounts provided shall be tied to the level of coverage the employee will be purchasing for a working poor individual without access to health care coverage.

The \*administrator shall ensure that employees are given an opportunity to establish a monthly standard deduction or a one-time deduction towards the basic health plan donation program. The basic health plan donation program shall be known as the "save the safety net program."

The donation permitted under this subsection may not be collected from any public employee who does not actively opt in to the donation program. Written notification of intent to discontinue participation in the donation program must be provided by the public employee at least fourteen days prior to the next standard deduction.

(3) To evaluate, with the cooperation of participating managed health care system providers, the impact on the basic health plan of enrolling health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees. The \*administrator shall issue to the appropriate committees of the legislature preliminary evaluations on June 1, 2005, and January 1, 2006, and a final evaluation by June 1, 2006. The evaluation shall address the number of persons enrolled, the duration of their enrollment, their utilization of covered services relative to other basic health plan enrollees, and the extent to which their enrollment contributed to any change in the cost of the basic health plan.

(4) To end the participation of health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees in the basic health plan if the federal government reduces or terminates premium payments on their behalf through the United States internal revenue service.

(5) To design and implement a structure of enrollee cost-sharing due a managed health care system from subsidized, nonsubsidized, and health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees. The structure shall discourage inappropriate enrollee utilization of health care services, and may utilize copayments, deductibles, and other cost-sharing mechanisms, but shall not be so costly to enrollees as to constitute a barrier to appropriate utilization of necessary health care services.

(6) To limit enrollment of persons who qualify for subsidies so as to prevent an overexpenditure of appropriations for such purposes. Whenever the \*administrator finds that there is danger of such an overexpenditure, the \*administrator shall close enrollment until the \*administrator finds the danger no longer exists. Such a closure does not apply to health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees who receive a premium subsidy from the United States internal revenue service as long as the enrollees qualify for the health coverage tax credit program. To prevent the risk of overexpenditure, the \*adminis-

trator may disenroll persons receiving subsidies from the program based on criteria adopted by the \*administrator. The criteria may include: Length of continual enrollment on the program, income level, or eligibility for other coverage. The \*administrator shall identify enrollees who are eligible for other coverage, and, working with the department of social and health service as provided in RCW 70.47.010(5)(d), transition enrollees currently eligible for federally financed categorically needy or medically needy programs administered under chapter 74.09 RCW to that coverage. The \*administrator shall develop criteria for persons disenrolled under this subsection to reapply for the program.

(7) To limit the payment of subsidies to subsidized enrollees, as defined in RCW 70.47.020. The level of subsidy provided to persons who qualify may be based on the lowest cost plans, as defined by the \*administrator.

(8) To adopt a schedule for the orderly development of the delivery of services and availability of the plan to residents of the state, subject to the limitations contained in RCW 70.47.080 or any act appropriating funds for the plan.

(9) To solicit and accept applications from managed health care systems, as defined in this chapter, for inclusion as eligible basic health care providers under the plan for subsidized enrollees, nonsubsidized enrollees, or health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees. The \*administrator shall endeavor to assure that covered basic health care services are available to any enrollee of the plan from among a selection of two or more participating managed health care systems. In adopting any rules or procedures applicable to managed health care systems and in its dealings with such systems, the \*administrator shall consider and make suitable allowance for the need for health care services and the differences in local availability of health care resources, along with other resources, within and among the several areas of the state. Contracts with participating managed health care systems shall ensure that basic health plan enrollees who become eligible for medical assistance may, at their option, continue to receive services from their existing providers within the managed health care system if such providers have entered into provider agreements with the department of social and health services.

(10) To receive periodic premiums from or on behalf of subsidized, nonsubsidized, and health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees, deposit them in the basic health plan operating account, keep records of enrollee status, and authorize periodic payments to managed health care systems on the basis of the number of enrollees participating in the respective managed health care systems.

(11) To accept applications from individuals residing in areas served by the plan, on behalf of themselves and their spouses and dependent children, for enrollment in the Washington basic health plan as subsidized, nonsubsidized, or health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees, to give priority to members of the Washington national guard and reserves who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation Noble Eagle, and their spouses and dependents, for enrollment in the Washington basic health plan, to establish appropriate minimum-enrollment periods for enrollees as may be necessary, and to determine, upon application and on a reasonable schedule defined by the authority, or at the request of any enrollee, eligibility due to

current gross family income for sliding scale premiums. The application is also considered an application for medical assistance under chapter 74.09 RCW and must include a social security number, if available, for each family member requesting coverage. Funds received by a family as part of participation in the adoption support program authorized under RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 shall not be counted toward a family's current gross family income for the purposes of this chapter. When an enrollee fails to report income or income changes accurately, the \*administrator shall have the authority either to bill the enrollee for the amounts overpaid by the state or to impose civil penalties of up to two hundred percent of the amount of subsidy overpaid due to the enrollee incorrectly reporting income. The \*administrator shall adopt rules to define the appropriate application of these sanctions and the processes to implement the sanctions provided in this subsection, within available resources. No subsidy may be paid with respect to any enrollee whose current gross family income exceeds twice the federal poverty level or, subject to RCW 70.47.110, who is a recipient of medical assistance or medical care services under chapter 74.09 RCW. If a number of enrollees drop their enrollment for no apparent good cause, the \*administrator may establish appropriate rules or requirements that are applicable to such individuals before they will be allowed to reenroll in the plan.

(12) To accept applications from business owners on behalf of themselves and their employees, spouses, and dependent children, as subsidized or nonsubsidized enrollees, who reside in an area served by the plan. The \*administrator may require all or the substantial majority of the eligible employees of such businesses to enroll in the plan and establish those procedures necessary to facilitate the orderly enrollment of groups in the plan and into a managed health care system. The \*administrator may require that a business owner pay at least an amount equal to what the employee pays after the state pays its portion of the subsidized premium cost of the plan on behalf of each employee enrolled in the plan. Enrollment is limited to those not eligible for medicare who wish to enroll in the plan and choose to obtain the basic health care coverage and services from a managed care system participating in the plan. The \*administrator shall adjust the amount determined to be due on behalf of or from all such enrollees whenever the amount negotiated by the \*administrator with the participating managed health care system or systems is modified or the administrative cost of providing the plan to such enrollees changes.

(13) To determine the rate to be paid to each participating managed health care system in return for the provision of covered basic health care services to enrollees in the system. Although the schedule of covered basic health care services will be the same or actuarially equivalent for similar enrollees, the rates negotiated with participating managed health care systems may vary among the systems. In negotiating rates with participating systems, the \*administrator shall consider the characteristics of the populations served by the respective systems, economic circumstances of the local area, the need to conserve the resources of the basic health plan trust account, and other factors the \*administrator finds relevant.

(14) To monitor the provision of covered services to enrollees by participating managed health care systems in order to assure enrollee access to good quality basic health care, to require periodic data reports concerning the utilization of health care services rendered to enrollees in order to provide adequate information for evaluation, and to inspect the books and records of participating managed health care systems to assure compliance with the purposes of this chapter. In requiring reports from participating managed health care systems, including data on services rendered enrollees, the \*administrator shall endeavor to minimize costs, both to the managed health care systems and to the plan. The \*administrator shall coordinate any such reporting requirements with other state agencies, such as the insurance commissioner and the department of health, to minimize duplication of effort.

(15) To evaluate the effects this chapter has on private employer-based health care coverage and to take appropriate measures consistent with state and federal statutes that will discourage the reduction of such coverage in the state.

(16) To develop a program of proven preventive health measures and to integrate it into the plan wherever possible and consistent with this chapter.

(17) To provide, consistent with available funding, assistance for rural residents, underserved populations, and persons of color.

(18) In consultation with appropriate state and local government agencies, to establish criteria defining eligibility for persons confined or residing in government-operated institutions.

(19) To administer the premium discounts provided under RCW 48.41.200(3)(a) (i) and (ii) pursuant to a contract with the Washington state health insurance pool.

(20) To give priority in enrollment to persons who disenrolled from the program in order to enroll in medicaid, and subsequently became ineligible for medicaid coverage. [2011 c 284 § 2; 2009 c 568 § 3; 2007 c 259 § 36; 2006 c 343 § 9; 2004 c 192 § 3; 2001 c 196 § 13; 2000 c 79 § 34. Prior: 1998 c 314 § 17; 1998 c 148 § 1; prior: 1997 c 337 § 2; 1997 c 335 § 2; 1997 c 245 § 6; 1997 c 231 § 206; prior: 1995 c 266 § 1; 1995 c 2 § 4; 1994 c 309 § 5; 1993 c 492 § 212; 1992 c 232 § 908; prior: 1991 sp.s. c 4 § 2; 1991 c 3 § 339; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 8.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

\*\* (2) RCW 70.47.020 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 9 § 3, changing subsection (9)(b) to subsection (10)(b).

\*\*\* (3) RCW 43.72.900 was repealed by 2009 c 479 § 29.

**Effective date—2009 c 568 § 3:** "Section 3 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 19, 2009]." [2009 c 568 § 8.]

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

**Findings—2006 c 343:** See note following RCW 43.60A.160.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.0601 Income determination—Unemployment compensation.** The \*administrator shall not count the twenty-five dollar increase paid as part of an individual's weekly benefit amount as provided in RCW 50.20.1202

when determining an individual's gross family income, eligibility, and premium share. [2011 c 4 § 18.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

**Effective date—2011 c 4 §§ 1-6 and 16-21:** See note following RCW 50.20.1202.

**Conflict with federal requirements—2011 c 4:** See note following RCW 50.20.1202.

#### **70.47.070 Benefits from other coverages not reduced.**

The benefits available under the basic health plan shall be excess to the benefits payable under the terms of any insurance policy issued to or on the behalf of an enrollee that provides payments toward medical expenses without a determination of liability for the injury. Except where in conflict with federal or state law, the benefits of any other health plan or insurance which covers an enrollee shall be determined before the benefits of the basic health plan. The \*administrator shall require that managed health care systems conduct and report on coordination of benefits activities as provided under this section. [2009 c 568 § 4; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 9.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

**70.47.080 Enrollment of applicants—Participation limitations.** On and after July 1, 1988, the \*administrator shall accept for enrollment applicants eligible to receive covered basic health care services from the respective managed health care systems which are then participating in the plan.

Thereafter, total subsidized enrollment shall not result in expenditures that exceed the total amount that has been made available by the legislature in any act appropriating funds to the plan. To the extent that new funding is appropriated for expansion, the \*administrator shall endeavor to secure participation contracts from managed health care systems in geographic areas of the state that are unserved by the plan at the time at which the new funding is appropriated. In the selection of any such areas the \*administrator shall take into account the levels and rates of unemployment in different areas of the state, the need to provide basic health care coverage to a population reasonably representative of the portion of the state's population that lacks such coverage, and the need for geographic, demographic, and economic diversity.

The \*administrator shall at all times closely monitor growth patterns of enrollment so as not to exceed that consistent with the orderly development of the plan as a whole, in any area of the state or in any participating managed health care system. The annual or biennial enrollment limitations derived from operation of the plan under this section do not apply to nonsubsidized enrollees as defined in \*\*RCW 70.47.020(5). [1993 c 492 § 213; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 10.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

\*\* (2) RCW 70.47.020 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 9 § 3, changing subsection (5) to subsection (6).

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.090 Removal of enrollees.** Any enrollee whose premium payments to the plan are delinquent or who moves his or her residence out of an area served by the plan may be dropped from enrollment status. An enrollee whose premium

is the responsibility of the department of social and health services under RCW 70.47.110 may not be dropped solely because of nonpayment by the department. The \*administrator shall provide delinquent enrollees with advance written notice of their removal from the plan and shall provide for a hearing under chapters 34.05 and 34.12 RCW for any enrollee who contests the decision to drop the enrollee from the plan. Upon removal of an enrollee from the plan, the \*administrator shall promptly notify the managed health care system in which the enrollee has been enrolled, and shall not be responsible for payment for health care services provided to the enrollee (including, if applicable, members of the enrollee's family) after the date of notification. A managed health care system may contest the denial of payment for coverage of an enrollee through a hearing under chapters 34.05 and 34.12 RCW. [1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 11.]

\*Reviser's note: The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

**70.47.100 Participation by a managed health care system—Expiration of subsections.** (1) A managed health care system participating in the plan shall do so by contract with the director and shall provide, directly or by contract with other health care providers, covered basic health care services to each enrollee covered by its contract with the director as long as payments from the director on behalf of the enrollee are current. A participating managed health care system may offer, without additional cost, health care benefits or services not included in the schedule of covered services under the plan. A participating managed health care system shall not give preference in enrollment to enrollees who accept such additional health care benefits or services. Managed health care systems participating in the plan shall not discriminate against any potential or current enrollee based upon health status, sex, race, ethnicity, or religion. The director may receive and act upon complaints from enrollees regarding failure to provide covered services or efforts to obtain payment, other than authorized copayments, for covered services directly from enrollees, but nothing in this chapter empowers the director to impose any sanctions under Title 18 RCW or any other professional or facility licensing statute.

(2) A managed health care system shall pay a nonparticipating provider that provides a service covered under this chapter to the system's enrollee no more than the lowest amount paid for that service under the managed health care system's contracts with similar providers in the state.

(3) Pursuant to federal managed care access standards, 42 C.F.R. Sec. 438, managed health care systems must maintain a network of appropriate providers that is supported by written agreements sufficient to provide adequate access to all services covered under the contract with the authority, including hospital-based physician services. The authority will monitor and periodically report on the proportion of services provided by contracted providers and nonparticipating providers, by county, for each managed health care system to ensure that managed health care systems are meeting network adequacy requirements. No later than January 1st of each year, the authority will review and report its findings to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature for the preceding state fiscal year.

(4) The plan shall allow, at least annually, an opportunity for enrollees to transfer their enrollments among participating managed health care systems serving their respective areas. The director shall establish a period of at least twenty days in a given year when this opportunity is afforded enrollees, and in those areas served by more than one participating managed health care system the director shall endeavor to establish a uniform period for such opportunity. The plan shall allow enrollees to transfer their enrollment to another participating managed health care system at any time upon a showing of good cause for the transfer.

(5) Prior to negotiating with any managed health care system, the director shall determine, on an actuarially sound basis, the reasonable cost of providing the schedule of basic health care services, expressed in terms of upper and lower limits, and recognizing variations in the cost of providing the services through the various systems and in different areas of the state.

(6) In negotiating with managed health care systems for participation in the plan, the director shall adopt a uniform procedure that includes at least the following:

(a) The director shall issue a request for proposals, including standards regarding the quality of services to be provided; financial integrity of the responding systems; and responsiveness to the unmet health care needs of the local communities or populations that may be served;

(b) The director shall then review responsive proposals and may negotiate with respondents to the extent necessary to refine any proposals;

(c) The director may then select one or more systems to provide the covered services within a local area; and

(d) The director may adopt a policy that gives preference to respondents, such as nonprofit community health clinics, that have a history of providing quality health care services to low-income persons.

(7)(a) The director may contract with a managed health care system to provide covered basic health care services to subsidized enrollees, nonsubsidized enrollees, health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees, or any combination thereof. At a minimum, such contracts issued on or after January 1, 2012, must include:

(i) Provider reimbursement methods that incentivize chronic care management within health homes;

(ii) Provider reimbursement methods that reward health homes that, by using chronic care management, reduce emergency department and inpatient use; and

(iii) Promoting provider participation in the program of training and technical assistance regarding care of people with chronic conditions described in RCW 43.70.533, including allocation of funds to support provider participation in the training unless the managed care system is an integrated health delivery system that has programs in place for chronic care management.

(b) Health home services contracted for under this subsection may be prioritized to enrollees with complex, high cost, or multiple chronic conditions.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection, "chronic care management," "chronic condition," and "health home" have the same meaning as in RCW 74.09.010.

(d) Contracts that include the items in (a)(i) through (iii) of this subsection must not exceed the rates that would be paid in the absence of these provisions.

(8) The director may establish procedures and policies to further negotiate and contract with managed health care systems following completion of the request for proposal process in subsection (6) of this section, upon a determination by the director that it is necessary to provide access, as defined in the request for proposal documents, to covered basic health care services for enrollees.

(9) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section expire July 1, 2016. [2013 c 251 § 7. Prior: 2011 1st sp.s. c 9 § 4; 2011 c 316 § 5; 2009 c 568 § 5; 2004 c 192 § 4; 2000 c 79 § 35; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 12.]

**Residual balance of funds—Effective date—2013 c 251:** See notes following RCW 41.06.280.

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 9:** See note following RCW 70.47.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.110 Enrollment of medical assistance recipients.** The health care authority may make payments to managed health care systems, as defined in RCW 74.09.522 or in this chapter, on behalf of any person who is a recipient of medical care under chapter 74.09 RCW, up to the maximum rate allowable for federal matching purposes under Title XIX of the social security act. Any enrollee on whose behalf the health care authority makes such payments may continue as an enrollee, making premium payments based on the enrollee's own income as determined under the sliding scale, after eligibility for coverage under chapter 74.09 RCW has ended, as long as the enrollee remains eligible under this chapter. Nothing in this section affects the right of any person eligible for coverage under chapter 74.09 RCW to receive the services offered to other persons under that chapter but not included in the schedule of basic health care services covered by the plan. The director shall seek to determine which enrollees or prospective enrollees may be eligible for medical care under chapter 74.09 RCW and may require these individuals to complete the eligibility determination process under chapter 74.09 RCW prior to enrollment or continued participation in the plan. The director shall adopt procedures to facilitate the transition of plan enrollees and payments on their behalf between the plan and the programs established under chapter 74.09 RCW. [2014 c 198 § 1; 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 84; 1991 sp.s. c 4 § 3; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 13.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.115 Enrollment of persons in timber impact areas.** (1) The \*administrator, when specific funding is provided and where feasible, shall make the basic health plan available in timber impact areas. The \*administrator shall prioritize making the plan available under this section to the timber impact areas meeting the following criteria, as determined by the employment security department: (a) A lumber and wood products employment location quotient at or above the state average; (b) a direct lumber and wood products job

loss of one hundred positions or more; and (c) an annual unemployment rate twenty percent above the state average.

(2) Persons assisted under this section shall meet the requirements of enrollee as defined in \*\*RCW 70.47.020(4).

(3) For purposes of this section, "timber impact area" means:

(a) A county having a population of less than five hundred thousand, or a city or town located within a county having a population of less than five hundred thousand, and meeting two of the following three criteria, as determined by the employment security department, for the most recent year such data is available: (i) A lumber and wood products employment location quotient at or above the state average; (ii) projected or actual direct lumber and wood products job losses of one hundred positions or more, except counties having a population greater than two hundred thousand but less than five hundred thousand must have direct lumber and wood products job losses of one thousand positions or more; or (iii) an annual unemployment rate twenty percent or more above the state average; or

(b) Additional communities as the economic recovery coordinating board, established in \*\*\*RCW 43.31.631, designates based on a finding by the board that each designated community is socially and economically integrated with areas that meet the definition of a timber impact area under (a) of this subsection. [1992 c 21 § 7; 1991 c 315 § 22.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

\*\* (2) RCW 70.47.020 was amended by 2004 c 192 § 1, changing subsection (4) to subsection (6), effective January 1, 2005. RCW 70.47.020 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (6) to subsection (9). RCW 70.47.020 was subsequently amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 9 § 3, changing subsection (9) to subsection (10).

\*\*\* (3) RCW 43.31.631 was repealed by 1995 c 226 § 33 and 1995 c 269 § 1902, effective July 1, 1995.

**Intent—1991 c 315:** See note following RCW 28B.50.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.120 Administrator—Contracts for services.** In addition to the powers and duties specified in RCW 70.47.040 and 70.47.060, the \*administrator has the power to enter into contracts for the following functions and services:

(1) With public or private agencies, to assist the \*administrator in her or his duties to design or revise the schedule of covered basic health care services, and/or to monitor or evaluate the performance of participating managed health care systems.

(2) With public or private agencies, to provide technical or professional assistance to health care providers, particularly public or private nonprofit organizations and providers serving rural areas, who show serious intent and apparent capability to participate in the plan as managed health care systems.

(3) With public or private agencies, including health care service contractors registered under RCW 48.44.015, and doing business in the state, for marketing and administrative services in connection with participation of managed health care systems, enrollment of enrollees, billing and collection services to the \*administrator, and other administrative functions ordinarily performed by health care service contractors, other than insurance. Any activities of a health care service contractor pursuant to a contract with the \*administrator

under this section shall be exempt from the provisions and requirements of Title 48 RCW except that persons appointed or authorized to solicit applications for enrollment in the basic health plan shall comply with chapter 48.17 RCW. [1997 c 337 § 7; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 14.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

**70.47.130 Exemption from insurance code.** (1) The activities and operations of the Washington basic health plan under this chapter, including those of managed health care systems to the extent of their participation in the plan, are exempt from the provisions and requirements of Title 48 RCW except:

(a) Benefits as provided in RCW 70.47.070;

(b) Managed health care systems are subject to the provisions of RCW 48.43.022, 48.43.500, 70.02.045, 48.43.505 through 48.43.535, 48.43.537, 48.43.545, 48.43.550, 70.02.110, and 70.02.900;

(c) Persons appointed or authorized to solicit applications for enrollment in the basic health plan, including employees of the health care authority, must comply with chapter 48.17 RCW. For purposes of this subsection (1)(c), "solicit" does not include distributing information and applications for the basic health plan and responding to questions;

(d) Amounts paid to a managed health care system by the basic health plan for participating in the basic health plan and providing health care services for nonsubsidized enrollees in the basic health plan must comply with RCW 48.14.0201; and

(e) Administrative simplification requirements as provided in chapter 298, Laws of 2009.

(2) The purpose of the 1994 amendatory language to this section in chapter 309, Laws of 1994 is to clarify the intent of the legislature that premiums paid on behalf of nonsubsidized enrollees in the basic health plan are subject to the premium and prepayment tax. The legislature does not consider this clarifying language to either raise existing taxes nor to impose a tax that did not exist previously. [2016 c 139 § 5; 2009 c 298 § 4; 2004 c 115 § 2; 2000 c 5 § 21; 1997 c 337 § 8; 1994 c 309 § 6; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 15.]

**Intent—Purpose—2000 c 5:** See RCW 48.43.500.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.140 Reservation of legislative power.** The legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal all or any part of this chapter at any time and there shall be no vested private right of any kind against such amendment or repeal. All the rights, privileges, or immunities conferred by this chapter or any acts done pursuant thereto shall exist subject to the power of the legislature to amend or repeal this chapter at any time. [1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 2.]

**70.47.150 Confidentiality.** Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 42.56 RCW, (1) records obtained, reviewed by, or on file with the plan containing information concerning medical treatment of individuals shall be exempt from public inspection and copying; and (2) actuarial formulas, statistics, and assumptions submitted in support of a rate filing by a managed health care system or submitted to the \*administrator upon his or her request shall be exempt from public

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inspection and copying in order to preserve trade secrets or prevent unfair competition. [2005 c 274 § 336; 1990 c 54 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.160 Right of individuals to receive services—Right of providers, carriers, and facilities to refuse to participate in or pay for services for reason of conscience or religion—Requirements.** (1) The legislature recognizes that every individual possesses a fundamental right to exercise their religious beliefs and conscience. The legislature further recognizes that in developing public policy, conflicting religious and moral beliefs must be respected. Therefore, while recognizing the right of conscientious objection to participating in specific health services, the state shall also recognize the right of individuals enrolled with the basic health plan to receive the full range of services covered under the basic health plan.

(2)(a) No individual health care provider, religiously sponsored health carrier, or health care facility may be required by law or contract in any circumstances to participate in the provision of or payment for a specific service if they object to so doing for reason of conscience or religion. No person may be discriminated against in employment or professional privileges because of such objection.

(b) The provisions of this section are not intended to result in an enrollee being denied timely access to any service included in the basic health plan. Each health carrier shall:

(i) Provide written notice to enrollees, upon enrollment with the plan, listing services that the carrier refuses to cover for reason of conscience or religion;

(ii) Provide written information describing how an enrollee may directly access services in an expeditious manner; and

(iii) Ensure that enrollees refused services under this section have prompt access to the information developed pursuant to (b)(ii) of this subsection.

(c) The \*administrator shall establish a mechanism or mechanisms to recognize the right to exercise conscience while ensuring enrollees timely access to services and to assure prompt payment to service providers.

(3)(a) No individual or organization with a religious or moral tenet opposed to a specific service may be required to purchase coverage for that service or services if they object to doing so for reason of conscience or religion.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not result in an enrollee being denied coverage of, and timely access to, any service or services excluded from their benefits package as a result of their employer's or another individual's exercise of the conscience clause in (a) of this subsection.

(c) The \*administrator shall define the process through which health carriers may offer the basic health plan to individuals and organizations identified in (a) and (b) of this subsection in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2)(c) of this section.

(4) Nothing in this section requires the health care authority, health carriers, health care facilities, or health care providers to provide any basic health plan service without

payment of appropriate premium share or enrollee cost sharing. [1995 c 266 § 3.]

\*Reviser's note: The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.47.170 Annual reporting requirement.** (1) Beginning in November 2012, the health care authority, in coordination with the department of social and health services, shall by November 15th of each year report to the legislature:

(a) The number of basic health plan enrollees who: (i) Upon enrollment or recertification had reported being employed, and beginning with the 2008 report, the month and year they reported being hired; or (ii) upon enrollment or recertification had reported being the dependent of someone who was employed, and beginning with the 2008 report, the month and year they reported the employed person was hired; and (iii) the total cost to the state for these enrollees. The information shall be reported by employer size for employers having more than fifty employees as enrollees or with dependents as enrollees. This information shall be provided for the preceding January and June of that year.

(b) The following aggregated information: (i) The number of employees who are enrollees or with dependents as enrollees by private and governmental employers; (ii) the number of employees who are enrollees or with dependents as enrollees by employer size for employers with fifty or fewer employees, fifty-one to one hundred employees, one hundred one to one thousand employees, one thousand one to five thousand employees and more than five thousand employees; and (iii) the number of employees who are enrollees or with dependents as enrollees by industry type.

(2) For each aggregated classification, the report will include the number of hours worked and total cost to the state for these enrollees. This information shall be for each quarter of the preceding year. [2009 c 568 § 7; 2006 c 264 § 1.]

**70.47.200 Mental health services—Definition—Coverage required, when.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "mental health services" means medically necessary outpatient and inpatient services provided to treat mental disorders covered by the diagnostic categories listed in the most current version of the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, published by the American psychiatric association, on July 24, 2005, or such subsequent date as may be determined by the \*administrator, by rule, consistent with the purposes of chapter 6, Laws of 2005, with the exception of the following categories, codes, and services: (a) Substance related disorders; (b) life transition problems, currently referred to as "V" codes, and diagnostic codes 302 through 302.9 as found in the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, 4th edition, published by the American psychiatric association; (c) skilled nursing facility services, home health care, residential treatment, and custodial care; and (d) court ordered treatment, unless the Washington basic health plan's or contracted managed health care system's medical director or designee determines the treatment to be medically necessary.

(2)(a) Any schedule of benefits established or renewed by the Washington basic health plan on or after January 1, 2006, shall provide coverage for:

(i) Mental health services. The copayment or coinsurance for mental health services may be no more than the copayment or coinsurance for medical and surgical services otherwise provided under the schedule of benefits. Wellness and preventive services that are provided or reimbursed at a lesser copayment, coinsurance, or other cost sharing than other medical and surgical services are excluded from this comparison; and

(ii) Prescription drugs intended to treat any of the disorders covered in subsection (1) of this section to the same extent, and under the same terms and conditions, as other prescription drugs covered under the schedule of benefits.

(b) Any schedule of benefits established or renewed by the Washington basic health plan on or after January 1, 2008, shall provide coverage for:

(i) Mental health services. The copayment or coinsurance for mental health services may be no more than the copayment or coinsurance for medical and surgical services otherwise provided under the schedule of benefits. Wellness and preventive services that are provided or reimbursed at a lesser copayment, coinsurance, or other cost sharing than other medical and surgical services are excluded from this comparison. If the schedule of benefits imposes a maximum out-of-pocket limit or stop loss, it shall be a single limit or stop loss for medical, surgical, and mental health services; and

(ii) Prescription drugs intended to treat any of the disorders covered in subsection (1) of this section to the same extent, and under the same terms and conditions, as other prescription drugs covered under the schedule of benefits.

(c) Any schedule of benefits established or renewed by the Washington basic health plan on or after July 1, 2010, shall include coverage for:

(i) Mental health services. The copayment or coinsurance for mental health services may be no more than the copayment or coinsurance for medical and surgical services otherwise provided under the schedule of benefits. Wellness and preventive services that are provided or reimbursed at a lesser copayment, coinsurance, or other cost sharing than other medical and surgical services are excluded from this comparison. If the schedule of benefits imposes a maximum out-of-pocket limit or stop loss, it shall be a single limit or stop loss for medical, surgical, and mental health services. If the schedule of benefits imposes any deductible, mental health services shall be included with medical and surgical services for the purpose of meeting the deductible requirement. Treatment limitations or any other financial requirements on coverage for mental health services are only allowed if the same limitations or requirements are imposed on coverage for medical and surgical services; and

(ii) Prescription drugs intended to treat any of the disorders covered in subsection (1) of this section to the same extent, and under the same terms and conditions, as other prescription drugs covered under the schedule of benefits.

(3) In meeting the requirements of subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this section, the Washington basic health plan may not reduce the number of mental health outpatient visits or mental health inpatient days below the level in effect on July 1, 2002.

(4) This section does not prohibit a requirement that mental health services be medically necessary as determined

by the medical director or designee, if a comparable requirement is applicable to medical and surgical services.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the management of mental health services. [2005 c 6 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2005 c 6:** See notes following RCW 41.05.600.

**70.47.201 Mental health services—Rules.** The \*administrator may adopt rules to implement RCW 70.47.200. [2005 c 6 § 11.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The definition of "administrator" was changed to "director" in RCW 70.47.020 by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 83.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2005 c 6:** See notes following RCW 41.05.600.

**70.47.210 Prostate cancer screening.** (1) Any schedule of benefits established or renewed by the Washington basic health plan after December 31, 2006, shall provide coverage for prostate cancer screening, provided that the screening is delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.

(2) This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of standard policy provisions applicable to other benefits, such as deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the authority of the health care authority to negotiate rates and contract with specific providers for the delivery of prostate cancer screening services. [2006 c 367 § 7.]

**70.47.220 Increase in reimbursement rates not applicable.** The increases in inpatient and outpatient reimbursement rates included in chapter 74.60 RCW shall not be reflected in hospital payment rates for services provided to basic health enrollees under this chapter. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 15.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 30:** See RCW 74.60.903.

**70.47.240 Discontinuation of health coverage—Pre-existing condition.** If a person was previously enrolled in a group health benefit plan, an individual health benefit plan, or a catastrophic health plan that is discontinued by the carrier by July 1, 2012, at any time during the sixty-three day period immediately preceding their application date for non-subsidized coverage in the basic health plan as a non-subsidized enrollee, the basic health plan must credit the applicant's period of prior coverage toward any preexisting condition waiting period applicable under the basic health plan if the benefits under the previous plan provide equivalent or greater overall benefit coverage than that provided in the basic health plan for non-subsidized enrollees. [2012 c 64 § 3.]

**Effective date—2012 c 64:** See note following RCW 48.43.018.

**70.47.250 Federal basic health option—Report to legislature—Certification—Director's findings—Program's guiding principles.** (1) On or before December 1, 2012, the director of the health care authority shall submit a report to the legislature on whether to proceed with imple-

mentation of a federal basic health option, under section 1331 of P.L. 111-148 of 2010, as amended. The report shall address whether:

(a) Sufficient funding is available to support the design and development work necessary for the program to provide health coverage to enrollees beginning January 1, 2014;

(b) Anticipated federal funding under section 1331 will be sufficient, absent any additional state funding, to cover the provision of essential health benefits and costs for administering the basic health plan. Enrollee premium levels will be below the levels that would apply to persons with income between one hundred thirty-four and two hundred percent of the federal poverty level through the exchange; and

(c) Health plan payment rates will be sufficient to ensure enrollee access to a robust provider network and health homes, as described under RCW 70.47.100.

(2) If the legislature determines to proceed with implementation of a federal basic health option, the director shall provide the necessary certifications to the secretary of the federal department of health and human services under section 1331 of P.L. 111-148 of 2010, as amended, to proceed with adoption of the federal basic health program option.

(3) Prior to making this finding, the director shall:

(a) Actively consult with the board of the Washington health benefit exchange, the office of the insurance commissioner, consumer advocates, provider organizations, carriers, and other interested organizations;

(b) Consider any available objective analysis specific to Washington state, by an independent nationally recognized consultant that has been actively engaged in analysis and economic modeling of the federal basic health program option for multiple states.

(4) The director shall report any findings and supporting analysis made under this section to the governor and relevant policy and fiscal committees of the legislature.

(5) To the extent funding is available specifically for this purpose in the operating budget, the health care authority shall assume the federal basic health plan option will be implemented in Washington state, and initiate the necessary design and development work. If the legislature determines under subsection (1) of this section not to proceed with implementation, the authority may cease activities related to basic health program implementation.

(6) If implemented, the federal basic health program must be guided by the following principles:

(a) Meeting the minimum state certification standards in section 1331 of the federal patient protection and affordable care act;

(b) To the extent allowed by the federal department of health and human services, twelve-month continuous eligibility for the basic health program, and corresponding twelve-month continuous enrollment in standard health plans by enrollees; or, in lieu of twelve-month continuous eligibility, financing mechanisms that enable enrollees to remain with a plan for the entire plan year;

(c) Achieving an appropriate balance between:

(i) Premiums and cost-sharing minimized to increase the affordability of insurance coverage;

(ii) Standard health plan contracting requirements that minimize plan and provider administrative costs, while

incentivizing improvements in quality and enrollee health outcomes; and

(iii) Health plan payment rates and provider payment rates that are sufficient to ensure enrollee access to a robust provider network and health homes, as described under RCW 70.47.100; and

(d) Transparency in program administration, including active and ongoing consultation with basic health program enrollees and interested organizations, and ensuring adequate enrollee notice and appeal rights. [2012 c 87 § 15.]

**Spiritual care services—2012 c 87:** See RCW 43.71.901.

**70.47.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the health care access act of 1987. [1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 1.]

**70.47.902 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 151.]

**Effective dates—2009 c 521 §§ 5-8, 79, 87-103, 107, 151, 165, 166, 173-175, and 190-192:** See note following RCW 2.10.900.

## Chapter 70.47A RCW

### SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH INSURANCE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

#### Sections

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70.47A.901	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

**70.47A.010 Finding—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds that many small employers struggle with the cost of providing employer-sponsored health insurance coverage to their employees, while others are unable to offer employer-sponsored health insurance due to its high cost. Low-wage workers also struggle with the burden of paying their share of the costs of employer-sponsored health insurance, while others turn down their employer's offer of coverage due to its costs.

(2) The legislature intends, through establishment of a health insurance partnership program, to remove economic barriers to health insurance coverage for low-wage employees of small employers by building on the private sector health benefit plan system and encouraging employer and employee participation in employer-sponsored health benefit plan coverage. [2007 c 260 § 1; 2006 c 255 § 1.]

**70.47A.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Administrator" means the administrator of the Washington state health care authority, established under chapter 41.05 RCW.

(2) "Board" means the health insurance partnership board established in RCW 70.47A.100.

(3) "Eligible partnership participant" means a partnership participant who:

(a) Is a resident of the state of Washington; and

(b) Has family income that does not exceed two hundred percent of the federal poverty level, as determined annually by the federal department of health and human services.

(4) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 48.43.005.

(5) "Participating small employer" means a small employer that has entered into an agreement with the partnership to purchase health benefits through the partnership. To participate in the partnership, an employer must attest to the fact that (a) the employer does not currently offer health insurance to its employees and has not offered insurance for at least six months, and (b) at least fifty percent of the employer's employees are low-wage workers.

(6) "Partnership" means the health insurance partnership established in RCW 70.47A.030.

(7) "Partnership participant" means a participating small employer and employees of a participating small employer, and, except to the extent provided otherwise in RCW 70.47A.110(1)(e), a former employee of a participating small employer who chooses to continue receiving coverage through the partnership following separation from employment.

(8) "Small employer" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 48.43.005.

(9) "Subsidy" or "premium subsidy" means payment or reimbursement to an eligible partnership participant toward the purchase of a health benefit plan, and may include a net billing arrangement with insurance carriers or a prospective or retrospective payment for health benefit plan premiums. [2011 c 287 § 1; 2008 c 143 § 1; 2007 c 260 § 2; 2006 c 255 § 2.]

**70.47A.030 Health insurance partnership established—Administrator duties.** (1) To the extent funding is appropriated in the operating budget for this purpose or obtained through federal resources, the health insurance partnership is established. The administrator shall be responsible for the implementation and operation of the health insurance partnership, directly or by contract. The administrator shall offer premium subsidies to eligible partnership participants under RCW 70.47A.040.

(2) Consistent with policies adopted by the board under RCW 70.47A.110, the administrator shall, directly or by contract:

(a) Establish and administer procedures for enrolling small employers in the partnership, including publicizing the existence of the partnership and disseminating information on enrollment, and establishing rules related to minimum participation of employees in small groups purchasing health insurance through the partnership. Opportunities to publicize the program for outreach and education of small employers on the value of insurance shall explore the use of online employer guides;

(b) Establish and administer procedures for health benefit plan enrollment by employees of small employers during open enrollment periods and outside of open enrollment periods upon the occurrence of any qualifying event specified in the federal health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 or applicable state law. Except to the extent authorized in RCW 70.47A.110(1)(e), neither the employer nor the partnership shall limit an employee's choice of coverage from among the health benefit plans offered through the partnership;

(c) Establish and manage a system of collecting and transmitting to the applicable carriers all premium payments or contributions made by or on behalf of partnership participants, including employer contributions, automatic payroll deductions for partnership participants, premium subsidy payments, and contributions from philanthropies;

(d) Establish and manage a system for determining eligibility for and making premium subsidy payments under chapter 259, Laws of 2007;

(e) Establish a mechanism to apply a surcharge to each health benefit plan purchased through the partnership, which shall be used only to pay for administrative and operational expenses of the partnership. The surcharge must be applied uniformly to all health benefit plans purchased through the partnership. Any surcharge amount may be added to the premium, but shall not be considered part of the small group community rate, and shall be applied only to the coverage purchased through the partnership. Surcharges may not be used to pay any premium assistance payments under this chapter. The surcharge shall reflect administrative and operational expenses remaining after any appropriation provided by the legislature or resources received from the federal government to support administrative or operational expenses of the partnership during the year the surcharge is assessed;

(f) Design a schedule of premium subsidies that is based upon gross family income, giving appropriate consideration to family size and the ages of all family members based on a benchmark health benefit plan designated by the board. The amount of an eligible partnership participant's premium subsidy shall be determined by applying a sliding scale subsidy schedule with the percentage of premium similar to that developed for subsidized basic health plan enrollees under RCW 70.47.060. The subsidy shall be applied to the employee's premium obligation for his or her health benefit plan, so that employees benefit financially from any employer contribution to the cost of their coverage through the partnership.

(3) The administrator may enter into interdepartmental agreements with the office of the insurance commissioner,

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the department of social and health services, and any other state agencies necessary to implement this chapter. [2011 c 287 § 2; 2009 c 257 § 1; 2008 c 143 § 2; 2007 c 259 § 58; 2006 c 255 § 3.]

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

**70.47A.040 Applications for premium subsidies.** Beginning January 1, 2011, subject to sufficient state or federal funding being provided specifically for this purpose, the administrator shall accept applications from eligible partnership participants, on behalf of themselves, their spouses, and their dependent children, to receive premium subsidies through the health insurance partnership. Every effort shall be made to coordinate premium subsidies for dependent children with federal funding available under Title XIX and Title XXI of the federal social security act, consistent with the requirements established in RCW 74.09.470(4) for the employer-sponsored insurance program at the department of social and health services. [2009 c 257 § 2; 2008 c 143 § 3; 2007 c 260 § 6; 2006 c 255 § 4.]

**70.47A.050 Enrollment to remain within appropriation.** Enrollment in the health insurance partnership is not an entitlement and shall not result in expenditures that exceed the amount that has been appropriated for the program in the operating budget or resources received from the federal government. If it appears that continued enrollment will result in expenditures exceeding the appropriated level for a particular fiscal year, the administrator may freeze new enrollment in the program and establish a waiting list of eligible employees who shall receive subsidies only when sufficient funds are available. [2011 c 287 § 3; 2007 c 260 § 12; 2006 c 255 § 5.]

**70.47A.060 Rules.** The administrator shall adopt all rules necessary for the implementation and operation of the health insurance partnership. As part of the rule development process, the administrator shall consult with small employers, carriers, employee organizations, and the office of the insurance commissioner under Title 48 RCW to determine an effective and efficient method for the payment of subsidies under this chapter. All rules shall be adopted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. [2007 c 260 § 13; 2006 c 255 § 6.]

**70.47A.070 Reports.** Upon implementation of the health insurance partnership program, the administrator shall report biennially to the relevant policy and fiscal committees of the legislature on the effectiveness and efficiency of the health insurance partnership program, including enrollment trends, the services and benefits covered under the purchased health benefit plans, consumer satisfaction, and other program operational issues. [2009 c 257 § 3; 2008 c 143 § 4; 2006 c 255 § 7.]

**70.47A.080 Health insurance partnership account.** The health insurance partnership account is hereby established in the custody of the state treasurer. Any nongeneral fund—state funds collected for the health insurance partnership shall be deposited in the health insurance partnership account. Moneys in the account shall be used exclusively for the purposes of administering the health insurance partner-

ship, including payments to insurance carriers on behalf of health insurance partnership enrollees. Only the administrator of the health care authority or his or her designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2007 c 260 § 14; 2006 c 255 § 8.]

**70.47A.090 State children's health insurance program—Federal waiver request.** The department of social and health services shall submit a request to the federal department of health and human services by October 1, 2006, for a state children's health insurance program section 1115 demonstration waiver. The waiver request shall seek authorization from the federal government to draw down Washington state's unspent state children's health insurance program allotment to finance basic health plan coverage, as provided in chapter 70.47 RCW, for parents of children enrolled in medical assistance or the state children's health insurance program. The waiver also shall seek authorization from the federal government to utilize the resulting state savings to finance expanded basic health plan enrollment, or subsidies provided to low-wage workers through the small employer health insurance partnership program established in this chapter. [2006 c 255 § 9.]

**70.47A.100 Health insurance partnership board.** (1) The health insurance partnership board is hereby established. The governor shall appoint a seven-member health insurance partnership board by June 30, 2007. The board shall be composed of persons with expertise in the health insurance market and benefit design, and be chaired by the administrator.

(2) The governor shall appoint the initial members of the board to staggered terms not to exceed four years. Initial appointments shall be made on or before June 1, 2007. Members appointed thereafter shall serve two-year terms. Members of the board shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.250 and shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses while on official business in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. The board shall prescribe rules for the conduct of its business. Meetings of the board shall be at the call of the chair.

(3) The board may establish technical advisory committees or seek the advice of technical experts when necessary to execute the powers and duties included in this section.

(4) The board and employees of the board shall not be civilly or criminally liable and shall not have any penalty or cause of action of any nature arise against them for any action taken or not taken, including any discretionary decision or failure to make a discretionary decision, when the action or inaction is done in good faith and in the performance of the powers and duties under this chapter. Nothing in this section prohibits legal actions against the board to enforce the board's statutory or contractual duties or obligations. [2007 c 260 § 4.]

**70.47A.110 Health insurance partnership board—Duties.** (1) The health insurance partnership board shall:

(a) Develop policies for enrollment of small employers in the partnership, including minimum participation rules for small employer groups. The small employer shall determine

the criteria for eligibility and enrollment in his or her plan and the terms and amounts of the employer's contributions to that plan, consistent with any minimum employer premium contribution level established by the board under (d) of this subsection;

(b) Designate health benefit plans that are currently offered in the small group market that will be offered to participating small employers through the health insurance partnership and those plans that will qualify for premium subsidy payments. Up to five health benefit plans shall be chosen, with multiple deductible and point-of-service cost-sharing options. The health benefit plans shall range from catastrophic to comprehensive coverage, and one health benefit plan shall be a high deductible health plan accompanied by a health savings account. Every effort shall be made to include health benefit plans that include components to maximize the quality of care provided and result in improved health outcomes, such as preventive care, wellness incentives, chronic care management services, and provider network development and payment policies related to quality of care;

(c) Approve a mid-range benefit plan from those selected to be used as a benchmark plan for calculating premium subsidies;

(d) Determine whether there should be a minimum employer premium contribution on behalf of employees, and if so, how much;

(e) Develop policies related to partnership participant enrollment in health benefit plans. The board may focus its initial efforts on access to coverage and affordability of coverage for participating small employers and their employees. To the extent necessary for successful implementation of the partnership, the board may:

(i) Limit partnership participant health benefit plan choice; and

(ii) Offer former employees of participating small employers the opportunity to continue coverage after separation from employment to the extent that a former employee is eligible for continuation coverage under 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1161 et seq.;

(f) Determine appropriate health benefit plan rating methodologies. The methodologies shall be based on the small group adjusted community rate as defined in Title 48 RCW. The board shall evaluate the impact of applying the small group adjusted community rating methodology to health benefit plans purchased through the partnership on the principle of allowing each partnership participant to choose his or her health benefit plan, and may implement one or more risk adjustment or reinsurance mechanisms to reduce uncertainty for carriers and provide for efficient risk management of high-cost enrollees;

(g) Determine whether the partnership should be designated as the administrator of a participating small employer health benefit plan and undertake the obligations required of a plan administrator under federal law in order to minimize administrative burdens on participating small employers;

(h) Conduct analyses and provide recommendations as requested by the legislature and the governor, with the assistance of staff from the health care authority and the office of the insurance commissioner.

(2) The board may authorize one or more limited health care service plans for dental care services to be offered by

limited health care service contractors under RCW 48.44.035. However, such plan shall not qualify for subsidy payments.

(3) In fulfilling the requirements of this section, the board shall consult with small employers, the office of the insurance commissioner, members in good standing of the American academy of actuaries, health carriers, agents and brokers, and employees of small business. [2011 c 287 § 4; 2008 c 143 § 5; 2007 c 260 § 5.]

**70.47A.901 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 152.]

#### Chapter 70.48 RCW CITY AND COUNTY JAILS ACT

##### Sections

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**70.48.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter the words and phrases in this section shall have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Administration" means the direct application of a drug whether by ingestion or inhalation, to the body of an inmate by a practitioner or nonpractitioner jail personnel.

(2) "Correctional facility" means a facility operated by a governing unit primarily designed, staffed, and used for the housing of adult persons serving terms not exceeding one year for the purposes of punishment, correction, and rehabilitation following conviction of a criminal offense.

(3) "Deliver" or "delivery" means the actual, constructive, or attempted transfer from one person to another of medication whether or not there is an agency relationship.

(4) "Detention facility" means a facility operated by a governing unit primarily designed, staffed, and used for the temporary housing of adult persons charged with a criminal offense prior to trial or sentencing and for the housing of adult persons for purposes of punishment and correction after sentencing or persons serving terms not to exceed ninety days.

(5) "Drug" and "legend drug" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 69.41.010.

(6) "Governing unit" means the city and/or county or any combinations of cities and/or counties responsible for the operation, supervision, and maintenance of a jail.

(7) "Health care" means preventive, diagnostic, and rehabilitative services provided by licensed health care professionals and/or facilities; such care to include providing prescription drugs where indicated.

(8) "Holding facility" means a facility operated by a governing unit primarily designed, staffed, and used for the temporary housing of adult persons charged with a criminal offense prior to trial or sentencing and for the temporary housing of such persons during or after trial and/or sentencing, but in no instance shall the housing exceed thirty days.

(9) "Jail" means any holding, detention, special detention, or correctional facility as defined in this section.

(10) "Labor" means the period of time before a birth during which contractions are of sufficient frequency, intensity, and duration to bring about effacement and progressive dilation of the cervix.

(11) "Major urban" means a county or combination of counties which has a city having a population greater than

twenty-six thousand based on the 1978 projections of the office of financial management.

(12) "Medication" means a drug, legend drug, or controlled substance requiring a prescription or an over-the-counter or nonprescription drug.

(13) "Medication assistance" means assistance rendered by nonpractitioner jail personnel to an inmate residing in a jail to facilitate the individual's self-administration of a legend drug or controlled substance or nonprescription medication. "Medication assistance" includes reminding or coaching the individual, handing the medication container to the individual, opening the individual's medication container, using an enabler, or placing the medication in the individual's hand.

(14) "Medium urban" means a county or combination of counties which has a city having a population equal to or greater than ten thousand but less than twenty-six thousand based on the 1978 projections of the office of financial management.

(15) "Nonpractitioner jail personnel" means appropriately trained staff who are authorized to manage, deliver, or administer prescription and nonprescription medication under RCW 70.48.490.

(16) "Office" means the office of financial management.

(17) "Physical restraint" means the use of any bodily force or physical intervention to control an offender or limit an offender's freedom of movement in a way that does not involve a mechanical restraint. Physical restraint does not include momentary periods of minimal physical restriction by direct person-to-person contact, without the aid of mechanical restraint, accomplished with limited force and designed to:

(a) Prevent an offender from completing an act that would result in potential bodily harm to self or others or damage property;

(b) Remove a disruptive offender who is unwilling to leave the area voluntarily; or

(c) Guide an offender from one location to another.

(18) "Postpartum recovery" means (a) the entire period a woman or youth is in the hospital, birthing center, or clinic after giving birth and (b) an additional time period, if any, a treating physician determines is necessary for healing after the woman or youth leaves the hospital, birthing center, or clinic.

(19) "Practitioner" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 69.41.010.

(20) "Restraints" means anything used to control the movement of a person's body or limbs and includes:

(a) Physical restraint; or

(b) Mechanical device including but not limited to: Metal handcuffs, plastic ties, ankle restraints, leather cuffs, other hospital-type restraints, tasers, or batons.

(21) "Rural" means a county or combination of counties which has a city having a population less than ten thousand based on the 1978 projections of the office of financial management.

(22) "Special detention facility" means a minimum security facility operated by a governing unit primarily designed, staffed, and used for the housing of special populations of sentenced persons who do not require the level of security normally provided in detention and correctional facilities

including, but not necessarily limited to, persons convicted of offenses under RCW 46.61.502 or 46.61.504.

(23) "Transportation" means the conveying, by any means, of an incarcerated pregnant woman or youth from the correctional facility or any facility covered by this chapter to another location from the moment she leaves the correctional facility or any facility covered by this chapter to the time of arrival at the other location, and includes the escorting of the pregnant incarcerated woman or youth from the correctional facility or facility covered by this chapter to a transport vehicle and from the vehicle to the other location. [2010 c 181 § 4; 2009 c 411 § 3; 1987 c 462 § 6; 1986 c 118 § 1; 1983 c 165 § 34; 1981 c 136 § 25; 1979 ex.s. c 232 § 11; 1977 ex.s. c 316 § 2.]

**Legislative finding, intent—Effective dates—Severability—1983 c 165:** See notes following RCW 46.20.308.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.071 Standards for operation—Adoption by units of local government.** All units of local government that own or operate adult correctional facilities shall, individually or collectively, adopt standards for the operation of those facilities no later than January 1, 1988. Cities and towns shall adopt the standards after considering guidelines established collectively by the cities and towns of the state; counties shall adopt the standards after considering guidelines established collectively by the counties of the state. These standards shall be the minimums necessary to meet federal and state constitutional requirements relating to health, safety, and welfare of inmates and staff, and specific state and federal statutory requirements, and to provide for the public's health, safety, and welfare. Local correctional facilities shall be operated in accordance with these standards. [1987 c 462 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.090 Interlocal contracts for jail services—Neighboring states—Responsibility for operation of jail—City or county departments of corrections authorized.** (1) Contracts for jail services may be made between a county and a city, and among counties and cities. The contracts shall: Be in writing, give one governing unit the responsibility for the operation of the jails, specify the responsibilities of each governing unit involved, and include the applicable charges for custody of the prisoners as well as the basis for adjustments in the charges. The contracts may be terminated only by ninety days written notice to the governing units involved and to the office. The notice shall state the grounds for termination and the specific plans for accommodating the affected jail population.

(2) A city or county may contract for jail services with an adjacent county, or city in an adjacent county, in a neighboring state. A person convicted in the courts of this state and sentenced to a term of confinement in a city or county jail may be transported to a jail in the adjacent county to be confined until: (a) The term of confinement is completed; or (b) that person is returned to be confined in a city or county jail in this state.

(3) The contract authorized in subsection (1) of this section shall be for a minimum term of ten years when state funds are provided to construct or remodel a jail in one gov-

erning unit that will be used to house prisoners of other governing units. The contract may not be terminated prior to the end of the term without the office's approval. If the contract is terminated, or upon the expiration and nonrenewal of the contract, the governing unit whose jail facility was built or remodeled to hold the prisoners of other governing units shall pay to the state treasurer the amount set by the \*corrections standards board or office when it authorized disbursement of state funds for the remodeling or construction under \*\*RCW 70.48.120. This amount shall be deposited in the local jail improvement and construction account and shall fairly represent the construction costs incurred in order to house prisoners from other governing units. The office may pay the funds to the governing units which had previously contracted for jail services under rules which the office may adopt. The acceptance of state funds for constructing or remodeling consolidated jail facilities constitutes agreement to the proportionate amounts set by the office. Notice of the proportionate amounts shall be given to all governing units involved.

(4) A city or county primarily responsible for the operation of a jail or jails may create a department of corrections to be in charge of such jail and of all persons confined therein by law, subject to the authority of the governing unit. If such department is created, it shall have charge of jails and persons confined therein. If no such department of corrections is created, the chief law enforcement officer of the city or county primarily responsible for the operation of said jail shall have charge of the jail and of all persons confined therein. [2007 c 13 § 1; 2002 c 125 § 1; 1987 c 462 § 7; 1986 c 118 § 6; 1979 ex.s. c 232 § 15; 1977 ex.s. c 316 § 9.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The corrections standards board no longer exists. See 1987 c 462 § 21.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 70.48.120 was repealed by 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 122, effective July 1, 1991.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.095 Regional jails.** (1) Regional jails may be created and operated between two or more local governments, or one or more local governments and the state, and may be governed by representatives from multiple jurisdictions.

(2) A jurisdiction that confines persons prior to conviction in a regional jail in another county is responsible for providing private telephone, video-conferencing, or in-person contact between the defendant and his or her public defense counsel.

(3) The creation and operation of any regional jail must comply with the interlocal cooperation act described in chapter 39.34 RCW.

(4) Nothing in this section prevents counties and cities from contracting for jail services as described in RCW 70.48.090. [2002 c 124 § 1.]

**70.48.100 Jail register, open to the public—Records confidential—Exception.** (1) A department of corrections or chief law enforcement officer responsible for the operation of a jail shall maintain a jail register, open to the public, into which shall be entered in a timely basis:

(a) The name of each person confined in the jail with the hour, date and cause of the confinement; and

(b) The hour, date and manner of each person's discharge.

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(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the records of a person confined in jail shall be held in confidence and shall be made available only to criminal justice agencies as defined in RCW 43.43.705; or

(a) For use in inspections made pursuant to \*RCW 70.48.070;

(b) In jail certification proceedings;

(c) For use in court proceedings upon the written order of the court in which the proceedings are conducted;

(d) To the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;

(e) To the Washington institute for public policy, research and data analysis division of the department of social and health services, higher education institutions of Washington state, Washington state health care authority, state auditor's office, caseload forecast council, office of financial management, or the successor entities of these organizations, for the purpose of research in the public interest. Data disclosed for research purposes must comply with relevant state and federal statutes;

(f) To federal, state, or local agencies to determine eligibility for services such as medical, mental health, chemical dependency treatment, or veterans' services, and to allow for the provision of treatment to inmates during their stay or after release. Records disclosed for eligibility determination or treatment services must be held in confidence by the receiving agency, and the receiving agency must comply with all relevant state and federal statutes regarding the privacy of the disclosed records; or

(g) Upon the written permission of the person.

(3)(a) Law enforcement may use booking photographs of a person arrested or confined in a local or state penal institution to assist them in conducting investigations of crimes.

(b) Photographs and information concerning a person convicted of a sex offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030 may be disseminated as provided in RCW 4.24.550, 9A.44.130, 9A.44.140, 10.01.200, 43.43.540, 43.43.745, 46.20.187, 70.48.470, 72.09.330, and \*\*section 401, chapter 3, Laws of 1990.

(4) Any jail that provides inmate records in accordance with subsection (2) of this section is not responsible for any unlawful secondary dissemination of the provided inmate records. [2016 c 154 § 6; 2014 c 225 § 105; 1990 c 3 § 130; 1977 ex.s. c 316 § 10.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 70.48.070 was repealed by 1987 c 462 § 23, effective January 1, 1988.

\*\*\*(2) 1990 c 3 § 401 appears as a note following RCW 9A.44.130.

**Intent—2016 c 154:** See note following RCW 74.09.670.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.130 Emergency or necessary medical and health care for confined persons—Reimbursement procedures—Conditions—Limitations.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature that all jail inmates receive appropriate and cost-effective emergency and necessary medical care. Governing units, the health care authority, and medical care providers shall cooperate to achieve the best rates consistent with adequate care.

(2) Payment for emergency or necessary health care shall be by the governing unit, except that the health care authority shall directly reimburse the provider pursuant to chapter

74.09 RCW, in accordance with the rates and benefits established by the authority, if the confined person is eligible under the authority's medical care programs as authorized under chapter 74.09 RCW. After payment by the authority, the financial responsibility for any remaining balance, including unpaid client liabilities that are a condition of eligibility or participation under chapter 74.09 RCW, shall be borne by the medical care provider and the governing unit as may be mutually agreed upon between the medical care provider and the governing unit. In the absence of mutual agreement between the medical care provider and the governing unit, the financial responsibility for any remaining balance shall be borne equally between the medical care provider and the governing unit. Total payments from all sources to providers for care rendered to confined persons eligible under chapter 74.09 RCW shall not exceed the amounts that would be paid by the authority for similar services provided under Title XIX medicare, unless additional resources are obtained from the confined person.

(3) For inpatient, outpatient, and ancillary services for confined persons that are not paid by the medicare program pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, unless other rates are agreed to by the governing unit and the hospital, providers of hospital services that are hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW must accept as payment in full by the governing units the applicable facility's percent of allowed charges rate or fee schedule as determined, maintained, and posted by the Washington state department of labor and industries pursuant to chapter 51.04 RCW.

(4) As part of the screening process upon booking or preparation of an inmate into jail, general information concerning the inmate's ability to pay for medical care shall be identified, including insurance or other medical benefits or resources to which an inmate is entitled. The inmate may also be evaluated for medicare eligibility and, if deemed potentially eligible, enrolled in medicare. This information shall be made available to the authority, the governing unit, and any provider of health care services. To the extent that federal law allows, a jail or the jail's designee is authorized to act on behalf of a confined person for purposes of applying for medicare.

(5) The governing unit or provider may obtain reimbursement from the confined person for the cost of health care services not provided under chapter 74.09 RCW, including reimbursement from any insurance program or from other medical benefit programs available to the confined person. Nothing in this chapter precludes civil or criminal remedies to recover the costs of medical care provided jail inmates or paid for on behalf of inmates by the governing unit. As part of a judgment and sentence, the courts are authorized to order defendants to repay all or part of the medical costs incurred by the governing unit or provider during confinement.

(6) To the extent that a confined person is unable to be financially responsible for medical care and is ineligible for the authority's medical care programs under chapter 74.09 RCW, or for coverage from private sources, and in the absence of an interlocal agreement or other contracts to the contrary, the governing unit may obtain reimbursement for the cost of such medical services from the unit of government whose law enforcement officers initiated the charges on which the person is being held in the jail: PROVIDED, That

reimbursement for the cost of such services shall be by the state for state prisoners being held in a jail who are accused of either escaping from a state facility or of committing an offense in a state facility.

(7) There shall be no right of reimbursement to the governing unit from units of government whose law enforcement officers initiated the charges for which a person is being held in the jail for care provided after the charges are disposed of by sentencing or otherwise, unless by intergovernmental agreement pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW.

(8) Under no circumstance shall necessary medical services be denied or delayed because of disputes over the cost of medical care or a determination of financial responsibility for payment of the costs of medical care provided to confined persons.

(9) Nothing in this section shall limit any existing right of any party, governing unit, or unit of government against the person receiving the care for the cost of the care provided. [2015 c 267 § 8; 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 85; 1993 c 409 § 1; (2007 c 259 § 66 expired June 30, 2009); 1986 c 118 § 9; 1977 ex.s. c 316 § 13.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Expiration date—2007 c 259 § 66:** "Section 66 of this act expires June 30, 2009." [2007 c 259 § 76.]

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.140 Confinement pursuant to authority of the United States.** A person having charge of a jail shall receive and keep in such jail, when room is available, all persons confined or committed thereto by process or order issued under authority of the United States until discharged according to law, the same as if such persons had been committed under process issued under authority of the state, if provision is made by the United States for the support of such persons confined, and for any additional personnel required. [1977 ex.s. c 316 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.160 Post-approval limitation on funding.** Having received approval pursuant to \*RCW 70.48.060, a governing unit shall not be eligible for further funding for physical plant standards for a period of ten years from the date of the completion of the approved project. A jail shall not be closed for noncompliance to physical plant standards within this same ten year period. This section does not apply if:

(1) The state elects to fund phased components of a jail project for which a governing unit has applied. In that instance, initially funded components do not constitute full funding within the meaning of \*RCW 70.48.060(1) and \*\*70.48.070(2) and the state may fund subsequent phases of the jail project;

(2) There is destruction of the facility because of an act of God or the result of a negligent and/or criminal act. [1987 c 462 § 9; 1986 c 118 § 10; 1981 c 276 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 316 § 16.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 70.48.060 was repealed by 1987 c 462 § 23, effective January 1, 1988.

\*\*<sup>(2)</sup> RCW 70.48.070 was repealed by 1987 c 462 § 23, effective January 1, 1988.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.170 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the City and County Jails Act. [1977 ex.s. c 316 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.180 Authority to locate and operate jail facilities—Counties.** Counties may acquire, build, operate, and maintain holding, detention, special detention, and correctional facilities as defined in RCW 70.48.020 at any place designated by the county legislative authority within the territorial limits of the county. The facilities shall comply with chapter 70.48 RCW and the rules adopted thereunder. [1983 c 165 § 37; 1979 ex.s. c 232 § 16.]

**Legislative finding, intent—Effective dates—Severability—1983 c 165:** See notes following RCW 46.20.308.

**70.48.190 Authority to locate and operate jail facilities—Cities and towns.** Cities and towns may acquire, build, operate, and maintain holding, detention, special detention, and correctional facilities as defined in RCW 70.48.020 at any place within the territorial limits of the county in which the city or town is situated, as may be selected by the legislative authority of the municipality. The facilities comply with the provisions of chapter 70.48 RCW and rules adopted thereunder. [1983 c 165 § 38; 1977 ex.s. c 316 § 19; 1965 c 7 § 35.21.330. Prior: 1917 c 103 § 1; RRS § 10204. Formerly RCW 35.21.330.]

**Legislative finding, intent—Effective dates—Severability—1983 c 165:** See notes following RCW 46.20.308.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.210 Farms, camps, work release programs, and special detention facilities.** (1) All cities and counties are authorized to establish and maintain farms, camps, and work release programs and facilities, as well as special detention facilities. The facilities shall meet the requirements of chapter 70.48 RCW and any rules adopted thereunder.

(2) Farms and camps may be established either inside or outside the territorial limits of a city or county. A sentence of confinement in a city or county jail may include placement in a farm or camp. Unless directed otherwise by court order, the chief law enforcement officer or department of corrections, may transfer the prisoner to a farm or camp. The sentencing court, chief law enforcement officer, or department of corrections may not transfer to a farm or camp a greater number of prisoners than can be furnished with constructive employment and can be reasonably accommodated.

(3) The city or county may establish a city or county work release program and housing facilities for the prisoners in the program. In such regard, factors such as employment conditions and the condition of jail facilities should be considered. When a work release program is established the following provisions apply:

(a) A person convicted of a felony and placed in a city or county jail is eligible for the work release program. A person sentenced to a city or county jail is eligible for the work release program. The program may be used as a condition of

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probation for a criminal offense. Good conduct is a condition of participation in the program.

(b) The court may permit a person who is currently, regularly employed to continue his or her employment. The chief law enforcement officer or department of corrections shall make all necessary arrangements if possible. The court may authorize the person to seek suitable employment and may authorize the chief law enforcement officer or department of corrections to make reasonable efforts to find suitable employment for the person. A person participating in the work release program may not work in an establishment where there is a labor dispute.

(c) The work release prisoner shall be confined in a work release facility or jail unless authorized to be absent from the facility for program-related purposes, unless the court directs otherwise.

(d) Each work release prisoner's earnings may be collected by the chief law enforcement officer or a designee. The chief law enforcement officer or a designee may deduct from the earnings moneys for the payments for the prisoner's board, personal expenses inside and outside the jail, a share of the administrative expenses of this section, court-ordered victim compensation, and court-ordered restitution. Support payments for the prisoner's dependents, if any, shall be made as directed by the court. With the prisoner's consent, the remaining funds may be used to pay the prisoner's preexisting debts. Any remaining balance shall be returned to the prisoner.

(e) The prisoner's sentence may be reduced by earned early release time in accordance with procedures that shall be developed and promulgated by the work release facility. The earned early release time shall be for good behavior and good performance as determined by the facility. The facility shall not credit the offender with earned early release credits in advance of the offender actually earning the credits. In the case of an offender convicted of a serious violent offense or a sex offense that is a class A felony committed on or after July 1, 1990, the aggregate earned early release time may not exceed fifteen percent of the sentence. In no other case may the aggregate earned early release time exceed one-third of the total sentence.

(f) If the work release prisoner violates the conditions of custody or employment, the prisoner shall be returned to the sentencing court. The sentencing court may require the prisoner to spend the remainder of the sentence in actual confinement and may cancel any earned reduction of the sentence.

(4) A special detention facility may be operated by a noncorrectional agency or by noncorrectional personnel by contract with the governing unit. The employees shall meet the standards of training and education established by the criminal justice training commission as authorized by RCW 43.101.080. The special detention facility may use combinations of features including, but not limited to, low-security or honor prisoner status, work farm, work release, community review, prisoner facility maintenance and food preparation, training programs, or alcohol or drug rehabilitation programs. Special detention facilities may establish a reasonable fee schedule to cover the cost of facility housing and programs. The schedule shall be on a sliding basis that reflects the person's ability to pay. [1990 c 3 § 203; 1989 c 248 § 3; 1985 c 298 § 1; 1983 c 165 § 39; 1979 ex.s. c 232 § 17.]

**Legislative finding, intent—Effective dates—Severability—1983 c 165:** See notes following RCW 46.20.308.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.215 Booking patients of state hospitals.** A jail may not refuse to book a patient of a state hospital solely based on the patient's status as a state hospital patient, but may consider other relevant factors that apply to the individual circumstances in each case. [2012 c 256 § 11.]

**Purpose—Effective date—2012 c 256:** See notes following RCW 10.77.068.

**70.48.220 Confinement may be wherever jail services are contracted—Defendant contact with defense counsel.** A person confined for an offense punishable by imprisonment in a city or county jail may be confined in the jail of any city or county contracting with the prosecuting city or county for jail services.

A jurisdiction that confines persons prior to conviction in a jail in another county is responsible for providing private telephone, video-conferencing, or in-person contact between the defendant and his or her public defense counsel. [2002 c 125 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 232 § 19.]

**70.48.230 Transportation and temporary confinement of prisoners.** The jurisdiction having immediate authority over a prisoner is responsible for the transportation expenses. The transporting officer shall have custody of the prisoner within any Washington county while being transported. Any jail within the state may be used for the temporary confinement of the prisoner with the only charge being for the reasonable cost of board. [1979 ex.s. c 232 § 18.]

**70.48.240 Transfer of felons from jail to state institution—Time limit.** A person imprisoned in a jail and sentenced to a state institution for a felony conviction shall be transferred to a state institution before the forty-first day from the date of sentencing.

This section does not apply to persons sentenced for a felony who are held in the facility as a condition of probation or who are specifically sentenced to confinement in the facility.

Payment for persons sentenced to state institutions and remaining in a jail from the eighth through the fortieth days following sentencing shall be in accordance with the procedure prescribed under this chapter. [1984 c 235 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 232 § 20.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.245 Transfer of persons with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injuries from jail to department of corrections facility.** When a jail has determined that a person in custody has or may have a developmental disability as defined in RCW 71A.10.020 or a traumatic brain injury, upon transfer of the person to a department of corrections facility or other jail facility, every reasonable effort shall be made by the transferring jail staff to communicate to receiving staff the nature of the disability, as determined by the jail and any necessary accommodation for the person as identified by the transferring jail staff. [2011 c 236 § 2.]

**70.48.380 Special detention facilities—Fees for cost of housing.** The legislative authority of a county or city that establishes a special detention facility as defined in RCW 70.48.020 for persons convicted of violating RCW 46.61.502 or 46.61.504 may establish a reasonable fee schedule to cover the cost of housing in the facility. The schedule shall be on a sliding basis that reflects the person's ability to pay. [1983 c 165 § 36.]

**Legislative finding, intent—Effective dates—Severability—1983 c 165:** See notes following RCW 46.20.308.

**70.48.390 Fee payable by person being booked.** A governing unit may require that each person who is booked at a city, county, or regional jail pay a fee based on the jail's actual booking costs or one hundred dollars, whichever is less, to the sheriff's department of the county or police chief of the city in which the jail is located. The fee is payable immediately from any money then possessed by the person being booked, or any money deposited with the sheriff's department or city jail administration on the person's behalf. If the person has no funds at the time of booking or during the period of incarceration, the sheriff or police chief may notify the court in the county or city where the charges related to the booking are pending, and may request the assessment of the fee. Unless the person is held on other criminal matters, if the person is not charged, is acquitted, or if all charges are dismissed, the sheriff or police chief shall return the fee to the person at the last known address listed in the booking records. [2003 c 99 § 1; 1999 c 325 § 3.]

**70.48.400 Sentences to be served in state institutions—When—Sentences that may be served in jail—Financial responsibility of city or county.** Persons sentenced to felony terms or a combination of terms of more than three hundred sixty-five days of incarceration shall be committed to state institutions under the authority of the department of corrections. Persons serving sentences of three hundred sixty-five consecutive days or less may be sentenced to a jail as defined in RCW 70.48.020. All persons convicted of felonies or misdemeanors and sentenced to jail shall be the financial responsibility of the city or county. [1987 c 462 § 11; 1984 c 235 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.410 Financial responsibility for convicted felons.** Persons convicted of a felony as defined by chapter 9A.20 RCW and committed to the care and custody of the department of corrections shall be the financial responsibility of the department of corrections not later than the eighth day, excluding weekends and holidays, following sentencing for the felony and notification that the prisoner is available for movement to a state correctional institution. However, if good cause is shown, a superior court judge may order the prisoner detained in the jail beyond the eight-day period for an additional period not to exceed ten days. If a superior court orders a convicted felon to be detained beyond the eighth day following sentencing, the county or city shall retain financial responsibility for that ten-day period or portion thereof ordered by the court. [1984 c 235 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.420 Financial responsibility for persons detained on parole hold.** A person detained in jail solely by reason of a parole hold is the financial responsibility of the city or the county detaining the person until the sixteenth day, at which time the person shall become the financial responsibility of the department of corrections. Persons who are detained in a jail on a parole hold and for whom the prosecutor has filed a felony charge remain the responsibility of the city or county. [1984 c 235 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.430 Financial responsibility for work release inmates detained in jail.** Inmates, as defined by \*RCW 72.09.020, who reside in a work release facility and who are detained in a city or county jail are the financial responsibility of the department of corrections. [1984 c 235 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 72.09.020 was repealed by 1995 1st sp.s. c 19 § 36.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.440 Office of financial management to establish reimbursement rate for cities and counties—Rate until June 30, 1985—Reestablishment of rates.** The office of financial management shall establish a uniform equitable rate for reimbursing cities and counties for the care of sentenced felons who are the financial responsibility of the department of corrections and are detained or incarcerated in a city or county jail.

Until June 30, 1985, the rate for the care of sentenced felons who are the financial responsibility of the department of corrections shall be ten dollars per day. Cost of extraordinary emergency medical care incurred by prisoners who are the financial responsibility of the department of corrections under this chapter shall be reimbursed. The department of corrections shall be advised as far in advance as practicable by competent medical authority of the nature and course of treatment required to ensure the most efficient use of state resources to address the medical needs of the offender. In the event emergency medical care is needed, the department of corrections shall be advised as soon as practicable after the offender is treated.

Prior to June 30, 1985, the office of financial management shall meet with the \*corrections standards board to establish criteria to determine equitable rates regarding variable costs for sentenced felons who are the financial responsibility of the department of corrections after June 30, 1985. The office of financial management shall reestablish these rates each even-numbered year beginning in 1986. [1984 c 235 § 5.]

\*Reviser's note: The corrections standards board no longer exists. See 1987 c 462 § 21.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.450 Local jail reporting form—Information to be provided by city or county requesting payment for prisoners from state.** The department of corrections is responsible for developing a reporting form for the local jails. The form shall require sufficient information to identify the person, type of state responsibility, method of notification for availability for movement, and the number of days for which the state is financially responsible. The information shall be

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provided by the city or county requesting payment for prisoners who are the financial responsibility of the department of corrections. [1984 c 235 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.460 Contracts for incarceration services for prisoners not covered by RCW 70.48.400 through 70.48.450.** Nothing in RCW 70.48.400 through 70.48.450 precludes the establishment of mutually agreeable contracts between the department of corrections and counties for incarceration services of prisoners not covered by RCW 70.48.400 through 70.48.450. [1984 c 235 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.470 Sex, kidnapping offenders—Notices to offenders, law enforcement officials.** (1) A person having charge of a jail shall notify in writing any confined person who is in the custody of the jail for a conviction of a sex offense or a kidnapping offense as defined in RCW 9A.44.128 of the registration requirements of RCW 9A.44.130 at the time of the inmate's release from confinement, and shall obtain written acknowledgment of such notification. The person shall also obtain from the inmate the county of the inmate's residence upon release from jail and, where applicable, the city.

(2) When a sex offender or kidnapping offender under local government jurisdiction will reside in a county other than the county of conviction upon discharge or release, the chief law enforcement officer of the jail or his or her designee shall give notice of the inmate's discharge or release to the sheriff of the county and, where applicable, to the police chief of the city where the offender will reside. [2010 c 267 § 14; 2000 c 91 § 4. Prior: 1997 c 364 § 3; 1997 c 113 § 7; 1996 c 215 § 2; 1990 c 3 § 406.]

Reviser's note: The definitions in RCW 9A.44.128 apply to this section.

Application—2010 c 267: See note following RCW 9A.44.128.

Findings—1997 c 113: See note following RCW 4.24.550.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.475 Release of offender or defendant subject to a discharge review—Required notifications. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) A person having charge of a jail, or that person's designee, shall notify the \*county designated mental health professional or the designated chemical dependency specialist seventy-two hours prior to the release to the community of an offender or defendant who was subject to a discharge review under RCW 71.05.232. If the person having charge of the jail does not receive seventy-two hours notice of the release, the notification to the \*county designated mental health professional or the designated chemical dependency specialist shall be made as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than the actual release to the community of the defendant or offender.

(2) When a person having charge of a jail, or that person's designee, releases an offender or defendant who was the subject of a discharge review under RCW 71.05.232, the person having charge of a jail, or that person's designee, shall notify the state hospital from which the offender or defendant was released. [2004 c 166 § 14.]

\*Reviser's note: The term "county designated mental health professional" as defined in RCW 71.05.020 was changed to "designated mental health professional" by 2005 c 504 § 104.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.475 Release of offender or defendant subject to a discharge review—Required notifications. (Effective April 1, 2018.)** (1) A person having charge of a jail, or that person's designee, shall notify the designated crisis responder seventy-two hours prior to the release to the community of an offender or defendant who was subject to a discharge review under RCW 71.05.232. If the person having charge of the jail does not receive seventy-two hours notice of the release, the notification to the designated crisis responder shall be made as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than the actual release to the community of the defendant or offender.

(2) When a person having charge of a jail, or that person's designee, releases an offender or defendant who was the subject of a discharge review under RCW 71.05.232, the person having charge of a jail, or that person's designee, shall notify the state hospital from which the offender or defendant was released. [2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 418; 2004 c 166 § 14.]

**Effective dates—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See note following RCW 71.05.760.

**Short title—Right of action—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 71.05.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.48.480 Communicable disease prevention guidelines.** (1) Local jail administrators shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the uniform distribution of communicable disease prevention guidelines to all jail staff who, in the course of their regularly assigned job responsibilities, may come within close physical proximity to offenders or detainees with communicable diseases.

(2) The guidelines shall identify special precautions necessary to reduce the risk of transmission of communicable diseases.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "communicable disease" means a sexually transmitted disease, as defined in RCW 70.24.017, diseases caused by blood-borne pathogens, or any other illness caused by an infectious agent that can be transmitted from one person, animal, or object to another person by direct or indirect means including transmission via an intermediate host or vector, food, water, or air. [1997 c 345 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—1997 c 345:** See note following RCW 70.24.340.

**70.48.490 Delivery and administration of medications and medication assistance by nonpractitioner jail personnel—Conditions.** Jails may provide for the delivery and administration of medications and medication assistance for inmates in their custody by nonpractitioner jail personnel, subject to the following conditions:

(1) The jail administrator or his or her designee, or chief law enforcement executive or his or her designee, shall enter into an agreement between the jail and a licensed pharmacist, pharmacy, or other licensed practitioner or health care facility to ensure access to pharmaceutical services on a twenty-four hour a day basis, including consultation and dispensing services.

(2) The jail administrator or chief law enforcement executive shall adopt policies which address the designation and training of nonpractitioner jail personnel who may deliver and administer medications or provide medication assistance to inmates as provided in this chapter. The policies must address the administration of prescriptions from licensed practitioners prescribing within the scope of their prescriptive authority, the identification of medication to be delivered and administered or administered through medication assistance, the means of securing medication with attention to the safeguarding of legend drugs, and the means of maintaining a record of the delivery, administration, self-administration, or medication assistance of all medication. The jail administrator or chief law enforcement executive shall designate a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, or a registered nurse or advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, to train the designated nonpractitioner jail personnel in proper medication procedures and monitor their compliance with the procedures.

(3) The jail administrator or chief law enforcement executive shall consult with one or more pharmacists, and one or more licensed physicians or nurses, in the course of developing the policies described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. A jail shall provide the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs with a copy of the jail's current policies regarding medication management.

(4) The practitioner or nonpractitioner jail personnel delivering, administering, or providing medication assistance is in receipt of (a) for prescription drugs, a written, current, and unexpired prescription, and instructions for administration from a licensed practitioner prescribing within the scope of his or her prescriptive authority for administration of the prescription drug; (b) for nonprescription drugs, a written, current, and unexpired instruction from a licensed practitioner regarding the administration of the nonprescription drug; and (c) for minors under the age of eighteen, a written, current consent from the minor's parent, legal guardian, or custodian consenting to the administration of the medication.

(5) Nonpractitioner jail personnel may help in the preparation of legend drugs or controlled substances for self-administration where a practitioner has determined and communicated orally or by written direction that the medication preparation assistance is necessary and appropriate. Medication assistance shall not include assistance with intravenous medications or injectable medications.

(6) Nonpractitioner jail personnel shall not include inmates.

(7) All medication is delivered and administered and all medication assistance is provided by a practitioner or nonpractitioner jail personnel pursuant to the policies adopted in this section, and in compliance with the prescription of a practitioner prescribing within the scope of his or her prescriptive authority, or the written instructions as provided in this section.

(8) The jail administrator or the chief law enforcement executive shall ensure that all nonpractitioner jail personnel authorized to deliver, administer, and provide medication assistance are trained pursuant to the policies adopted in this section prior to being permitted to deliver, administer, or provide medication assistance to an inmate. [2009 c 411 § 4.]

**70.48.500 Use of restraints on pregnant women or youth in custody—Allowed in extraordinary circumstances.** (1) Except in extraordinary circumstances no restraints of any kind may be used on any pregnant woman or youth incarcerated in a correctional facility or any facility covered by this chapter during transportation to and from visits to medical providers and court proceedings during the third trimester of her pregnancy, or during postpartum recovery. For purposes of this section, "extraordinary circumstances" exist where a corrections officer or employee of the correctional facility or any facility covered by this chapter makes an individualized determination that restraints are necessary to prevent an incarcerated pregnant woman or youth from escaping, or from injuring herself, medical or correctional personnel, or others. In the event the corrections officer or employee of the correctional facility or any facility covered by this chapter determines that extraordinary circumstances exist and restraints are used, the corrections officer or employee must fully document in writing the reasons that he or she determined such extraordinary circumstances existed such that restraints were used. As part of this documentation, the corrections officer or employee must also include the kind of restraints used and the reasons those restraints were considered the least restrictive available and the most reasonable under the circumstances.

(2) While the pregnant woman or youth is in labor or in childbirth no restraints of any kind may be used. Nothing in this section affects the use of hospital restraints requested for the medical safety of a patient by treating physicians licensed under Title 18 RCW.

(3) Anytime restraints are permitted to be used on a pregnant woman or youth, the restraints must be the least restrictive available and the most reasonable under the circumstances, but in no case shall leg irons or waist chains be used on any woman or youth known to be pregnant.

(4) No correctional personnel or employee of the correctional facility or any facility covered by this chapter shall be present in the room during the pregnant woman's or youth's labor or childbirth, unless specifically requested by medical personnel. If the employee's presence is requested by medical personnel, the employee should be female, if practicable.

(5) If the doctor, nurse, or other health professional treating the pregnant woman or youth requests that restraints not be used, the corrections officer or employee accompanying the pregnant woman or youth shall immediately remove all restraints. [2010 c 181 § 5.]

**70.48.501 Use of restraints on pregnant women or youth in custody—Provision of information to staff, women, or youth of childbearing age in custody.** (1) The jail administrator or his or her designee or chief law enforcement executive or his or her designee shall provide notice of the requirements of chapter 181, Laws of 2010 to the appropriate staff at a correctional facility or a facility covered by this chapter. Appropriate staff shall include all medical staff and staff who are involved in the transportation of pregnant women and youth as well as such other staff deemed appropriate.

(2) The jail administrator or his or her designee or chief law enforcement executive or his or her designee shall cause the requirements of chapter 181, Laws of 2010 to be provided

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to all women and youth of childbearing age at intake. In addition, the jail administrator or his or her designee or chief law enforcement executive or his or her designee shall cause a notice containing the requirements of chapter 181, Laws of 2010 to be posted in locations in which medical care is provided within the facilities. [2010 c 181 § 6.]

**70.48.502 Use of restraints on pregnant women or youth in custody—Limited immunity from liability.** No civil liability may be imposed by any court on the county or its jail officers or employees under RCW 70.48.500 and 70.48.501 except upon proof of gross negligence. [2010 c 181 § 14.]

**70.48.800 Use of restraints on pregnant women or youth in custody—Informational packet.** The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, the department of corrections, the department of social and health services, juvenile rehabilitation administration, and the criminal justice training commission shall jointly develop an informational packet on the requirements of chapter 181, Laws of 2010. The packet shall be ready for distribution no later than September 1, 2010. [2010 c 181 § 13.]

## Chapter 70.50 RCW

### STATE OTOLOGIST

#### Sections

- 70.50.010 Appointment—Salary.  
70.50.020 Duties.

**Reviser's note:** Powers and duties of the department of social and health services and the secretary of social and health services transferred to the department of health and the secretary of health. See RCW 43.70.060.

*Hearing tests for public school children: RCW 28A.210.020.*

**70.50.010 Appointment—Salary.** The secretary of health shall appoint and employ an otologist skilled in diagnosis of diseases of the ear and defects in hearing, especially for school children with an impaired sense of hearing, and shall fix the salary of such otologist in a sum not exceeding the salary of the secretary. [1991 c 3 § 340; 1979 c 141 § 108; 1945 c 23 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6010-10.]

**70.50.020 Duties.** The otologist shall cooperate with the state department of public instruction, and with the state, county, and city health officers, seeking for the children in the schools who are hard of hearing, or have an impaired sense of hearing, and making otological inspections and examinations of children referred to him or her by such departments and officers. Where necessary or proper, he or she shall make recommendations to parents or guardians of such children, and urge them to submit such recommendations to physicians to be selected by such parents or guardians. [2012 c 117 § 381; 1945 c 23 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6010-11.]

**Chapter 70.54 RCW**  
**MISCELLANEOUS HEALTH AND SAFETY**  
**PROVISIONS**

## Sections

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*Control of cities and towns over water pollution: Chapter 35.88 RCW.*

*Council for children and families: Chapter 43.121 RCW.*

*Nuisances, generally: Chapters 7.48 and 9.66 RCW.*

*Water pollution control: Chapter 90.48 RCW.*

**70.54.005 Transfer of duties to the department of health.** The powers and duties of the secretary of social and health services under this chapter shall be performed by the secretary of health. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 250.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.54.010 Polluting water supply—Penalty.** Every person who shall deposit or suffer to be deposited in any spring, well, stream, river or lake, the water of which is or may be used for drinking purposes, or on any property owned, leased or otherwise controlled by any municipal corporation, corporation or person as a watershed or drainage basin for a public or private water system, any matter or thing whatever, dangerous or deleterious to health, or any matter or thing which may or could pollute the waters of such spring, well, stream, river, lake or water system, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1909 c 249 § 290; RRS § 2542.]

**70.54.020 Furnishing impure water—Penalty.** Every owner, agent, manager, operator or other person having charge of any waterworks furnishing water for public or private use, who shall knowingly permit any act or omit any duty or precaution by reason whereof the purity or healthfulness of the water supplied shall become impaired, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1909 c 249 § 291; RRS § 2543.]

**70.54.030 Pollution of watershed of city in adjoining state—Penalty.** Any person who shall place or cause to be placed within any watershed from which any city or municipal corporation of any adjoining state obtains its water supply, any substance which either by itself or in connection with other matter will corrupt, pollute or impair the quality of said water supply, or the owner of any dead animal who shall knowingly leave or cause to be left the carcass or any portion thereof within any such watershed in such condition as to in any way corrupt or pollute such water supply shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by fine in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars. [1909 c 16 § 2; RRS § 9281.]

**70.54.040 Secretary to advise local authorities on sanitation.** The commissioners of any county or the mayor of any city may call upon the secretary of health for advice relative to improving sanitary conditions or disposing of garbage and sewage or obtaining a pure water supply, and when so called upon the secretary shall either personally or by an assistant make a careful examination into the conditions existing and shall make a full report containing his or her advice to the county or city making such request. [1991 c 3 § 341; 1979 c 141 § 109; 1909 c 208 § 3; RRS § 6006.]

**70.54.050 Exposing contagious disease—Penalty.** Every person who shall willfully expose himself or herself to another, or any animal affected with any contagious or infectious disease, in any public place or thoroughfare, except upon his or her or its necessary removal in a manner not dangerous to the public health; and every person so affected who shall expose any other person thereto without his or her knowledge, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [2012 c 117 § 382; 1909 c 249 § 287; RRS § 2539.]

**70.54.060 Ambulances and drivers.** (1) The drivers of all ambulances shall be required to take the advanced first aid course as prescribed by the American Red Cross.

(2) All ambulances must be at all times equipped with first aid equipment consisting of leg and arm splints and stan-

dard twenty-four unit first aid kit as prescribed by the American Red Cross. [1945 c 65 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6131-1. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1945 c 65 § 2 now codified as RCW 70.54.060, part.]

**70.54.065 Ambulances and drivers—Penalty.** Any person violating any of the provisions herein shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1945 c 65 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6131-2. Formerly RCW 70.54.060, part.]

**70.54.070 Door of public buildings to swing outward—Penalty.** The doors of all theatres, opera houses, school buildings, churches, public halls, or places used for public entertainments, exhibitions or meetings, which are used exclusively or in part for admission to or egress from the same, or any part thereof, shall be so hung and arranged as to open outwardly, and during any exhibition, entertainment or meeting, shall be kept unlocked and unfastened, and in such condition that in case of danger or necessity, immediate escape from such building shall not be prevented or delayed; and every agent or lessee of any such building who shall rent the same or allow it to be used for any of the aforesaid public purposes without having the doors thereof hung and arranged as hereinbefore provided, shall, for each violation of any provision of this section, be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1909 c 249 § 273; RRS § 2525.]

**70.54.080 Liability of person handling steamboat or steam boiler.** Every person who shall apply, or cause to be applied to a steam boiler a higher pressure of steam than is allowed by law, or by any inspector, officer or person authorized to limit the same; every captain or other person having charge of the machinery or boiler in a steamboat used for the conveyance of passengers on the waters of this state, who, from ignorance or gross neglect, or for the purpose of increasing the speed of such boat, shall create or cause to be created an undue or unsafe pressure of steam; and every engineer or other person having charge of a steam boiler, steam engine or other apparatus for generating or employing steam, who shall wilfully or from ignorance or gross neglect, create or allow to be created such an undue quantity of steam as to burst the boiler, engine or apparatus, or cause any other accident, whereby human life is endangered, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1909 c 249 § 280; RRS § 2532.]

*Boilers and unfired pressure vessels: Chapter 70.79 RCW.*

*Industrial safety and health: Chapter 43.22 RCW.*

**70.54.090 Attachment of objects to utility poles—Penalty.** (1) It shall be unlawful to attach to utility poles any of the following: Advertising signs, posters, vending machines, or any similar object which presents a hazard to, or endangers the lives of, electrical workers. Any attachment to utility poles shall only be made with the permission of the utility involved, and shall be placed not less than twelve feet above the surface of the ground.

(2) A person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 351; 1953 c 185 § 1.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

(2016 Ed.)

**70.54.120 Immunity from implied warranties and civil liability relating to blood, blood products, tissues, organs, or bones—Scope—Effective date.** The procurement, processing, storage, distribution, administration, or use of whole blood, plasma, blood products and blood derivatives for the purpose of injecting or transfusing the same, or any of them, or of tissues, organs, or bones for the purpose of transplanting them, or any of them, into the human body is declared to be, for all purposes whatsoever, the rendition of a service by each and every person, firm, or corporation participating therein, and is declared not to be covered by any implied warranty under the Uniform Commercial Code, Title 62A RCW, or otherwise, and no civil liability shall be incurred as a result of any of such acts, except in the case of wilful or negligent conduct: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this section shall apply only to liability alleged in the contraction of hepatitis, malaria, and acquired immune deficiency disease and shall not apply to any transaction in which the donor receives compensation: PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section shall only apply where the person, firm or corporation rendering the above service shall have maintained records of donor suitability and donor identification: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in this section shall be considered by the courts in determining or applying the law to any blood transfusion occurring before June 10, 1971 and the court shall decide such case as though this section had not been passed. [1987 c 84 § 1; 1985 c 321 § 1; 1971 c 56 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.54.130 Laetrile—Legislative declaration.** It is the intent of the legislature that passage of RCW 70.54.130 through 70.54.150 shall not constitute any endorsement whatever of the efficacy of amygdalin (Laetrile) in the treatment of cancer, but represents only the legislature's endorsement of a patient's freedom of choice, so long as the patient has been given sufficient information in writing to make an informed decision regarding his/her treatment and the substance is not proven to be directly detrimental to health. [1977 ex.s. c 122 § 1.]

**70.54.140 Laetrile—Interference with physician/patient relationship by health facility—Pharmacy quality assurance commission, duties.** No hospital or health facility may interfere with the physician/patient relationship by restricting or forbidding the use of amygdalin (Laetrile) when prescribed or administered by a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW and requested by a patient under his/her care who has requested the substance after having been given sufficient information in writing to make an informed decision.

For the purposes of RCW 70.54.130 through 70.54.150, the pharmacy quality assurance commission shall provide for the certification as to the identity of amygdalin (Laetrile) by random sample testing or other testing procedures, and shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement and enforce its authority under this section. [2013 c 19 § 123; 1977 ex.s. c 122 § 2.]

**70.54.150 Physicians not subject to disciplinary action for prescribing or administering laetrile—Conditions.** No physician may be subject to disciplinary action by

any entity of either the state of Washington or a professional association for prescribing or administering amygdalin (Lae-trile) to a patient under his/her care who has requested the substance after having been given sufficient information in writing to make an informed decision.

It is not the intent of this section to shield a physician from acts or omissions which otherwise would constitute unprofessional conduct. [1986 c 259 § 150; 1977 ex.s. c 122 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.54.160 Public restrooms—Pay facilities—Penalty.**

(1) Every establishment which maintains restrooms for use by the public shall not discriminate in charges required between facilities used by men and facilities used by women.

(2) When coin lock controls are used, the controls shall be so allocated as to allow for a proportionate equality of free toilet units available to women as compared with those units available to men, and at least one-half of the units in any restroom shall be free of charge. As used in this section, toilet units are defined as constituting commodes and urinals.

(3) In situations involving coin locks placed on restroom entry doors, admission keys shall be readily provided without charge when requested, and notice as to the availability of the keys shall be posted on the restroom entry door.

(4) Any owner, agent, manager, or other person charged with the responsibility of the operation of an establishment who operates such establishment in violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 352; 1977 ex.s. c 97 § 1.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**70.54.180 Deaf persons access to emergency services—Telecommunication devices.** (1) For the purpose of this section "telecommunication device" means an instrument for telecommunication in which speaking or hearing is not required for communicators.

(2) The county legislative authority of each county with a population of eighteen thousand or more and the governing body of each city with a population in excess of ten thousand shall provide by July 1, 1980, for a telecommunication device in their jurisdiction or through a central dispatch office that will assure access to police, fire, or other emergency services.

(3) The county legislative authority of each county with a population of eighteen thousand or less shall by July 1, 1980, make a determination of whether sufficient need exists with their respective counties to require installation of a telecommunication device. Reconsideration of such determination will be made at any future date when a deaf individual indicates a need for such an instrument. [1991 c 363 § 142; 1979 ex.s. c 63 § 2.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 63:** "The legislature finds that many citizens of this state who are unable to utilize telephone services in a regular manner due to hearing defects are able to communicate by teletypewriters where hearing is not required for communication. Hence, it is the purpose of section 2 of this act [RCW 70.54.180] to require that telecommunication devices for the deaf be installed." [1979 ex.s. c 63 § 1.]

**70.54.190 DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide)—Use—Liability.** No hospital or health facility may interfere with the physician/patient relationship by restricting or forbidding the use of DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide) when prescribed or administered by a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW and requested by a patient under his/her care who has requested the substance after having been given sufficient information in writing to make an informed decision.

No physician may be subject to disciplinary action by any entity of either the state of Washington or a professional association for prescribing or administering DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide) to a patient under his/her care who has requested the substance after having been given sufficient information in writing to make an informed decision.

It is not the intent of this section to shield a physician from acts or omissions which otherwise would constitute unprofessional conduct. [1986 c 259 § 151; 1981 c 50 § 2.]

*DMSO authorized: RCW 69.04.565.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.54.200 Fees for repository of vaccines, biologics.** The department shall prescribe by rule a schedule of fees predicated on the cost of providing a repository of emergency vaccines and other biologics. [1981 c 284 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** Although 1981 c 284 directs this section be added to chapter 74.04 RCW, codification here is considered more appropriate. The "department" referred to is apparently the department of social and health services.

**70.54.220 Practitioners to provide information on prenatal testing and cord blood banking.** All persons licensed or certified by the state of Washington to provide prenatal care or to practice medicine shall provide information to all pregnant women in their care regarding:

- (1) The use and availability of prenatal tests; and
- (2) Using objective and standardized information: (a) The differences between and potential benefits and risks involved in public and private cord blood banking that is sufficient to allow a pregnant woman to make an informed decision before her third trimester of pregnancy on whether to participate in a private or public cord blood banking program; and (b) the opportunity to donate, to a public cord blood bank, blood and tissue extracted from the placenta and umbilical cord following delivery of a newborn child. [2009 c 495 § 9; (2009 c 495 § 8 expired July 1, 2010); 2008 c 56 § 2; 1988 c 276 § 5.]

**Effective date—2009 c 495 § 9:** "Section 9 of this act takes effect July 1, 2010." [2009 c 495 § 16.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 495 § 8:** "Section 8 of this act expires July 1, 2010." [2009 c 495 § 15.]

**Purpose—Effective date—2008 c 56:** See note following RCW 70.54.222.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.54.222 Cord blood banks—Regulation—Application of consumer protection act—Definitions.** (1) A cord blood bank advertising, offering to provide, or providing private cord blood banking services to residents in this state must:

- (a) Have all applicable licenses, accreditations, and other authorizations required under federal and Washington state law to engage in cord blood banking;

(b) Include, in any advertising or educational materials made available to the general public or provided to health services providers or potential cord blood donors: (i) A statement identifying the cord blood bank's licenses, accreditations, and other authorizations required in (a) of this subsection; and (ii) information about the cord blood bank's rate of success in collecting, processing, and storing sterile cord blood units that have adequate, viable yields of targeted cells; and

(c)(i) Provide to the cord blood donor the results of appropriate quality control tests performed on the donor's collected cord blood; and

(ii) If the test results provided under (c)(i) of this subsection demonstrate that the collected cord blood may not be recommended for long-term storage and potential future medical uses because of low cell yield, foreign contamination, or other reasons determined by the cord blood bank's medical director, provide the cord blood donor with the option not to be charged fees for processing or storage services, including a refund of any fees paid. The cord blood bank must provide the cord blood donor with sufficient information to make an informed decision regarding this option.

(2) The legislature finds that the practices covered by this section are matters vitally affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. A violation of this section is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business and is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Autologous use" means the transplantation, including implanting, transplanting, infusion, or transfer, of cord blood into the individual from whom the cord blood was collected.

(b) "Cord blood bank" means an operation engaged in collecting, processing, storing, distributing, or transplanting hematopoietic progenitor cells present in placental or umbilical cord blood.

(c) "Hematopoietic progenitor cells" means pluripotent cells that may be capable of self-renewal and differentiation into any mature blood cell.

(d) "Private cord blood banking" means a cord blood bank that provides, for a fee, cord blood banking services for the autologous use of the cord blood. [2008 c 56 § 3.]

**Purpose—2008 c 56:** "The purpose of this act is to promote public awareness and education of the general public and potential cord blood donors on the benefits of public or private cord blood banking, and to establish safeguards related to effective private banking of cord blood." [2008 c 56 § 1.]

**Effective date—2008 c 56:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2010." [2008 c 56 § 4.]

**70.54.230 Cancer registry program.** The secretary of health may contract with either a recognized regional cancer research institution or regional tumor registry, or both, which shall hereinafter be called the contractor, to establish a statewide cancer registry program and to obtain cancer reports from all or a portion of the state as required in RCW 70.54.240 and to make available data for use in cancer

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research and for purposes of improving the public health. [1990 c 280 § 2.]

**Intent—1990 c 280:** "It is the intent of the legislature to establish a system to accurately monitor the incidence of cancer in the state of Washington for the purposes of understanding, controlling, and reducing the occurrence of cancer in this state. In order to accomplish this, the legislature has determined that cancer cases shall be reported to the department of health, and that there shall be established a statewide population-based cancer registry." [1990 c 280 § 1.]

**70.54.240 Cancer registry program—Reporting requirements.** (1) The department of health shall adopt rules as to which types of cancer shall be reported, who shall report, and the form and timing of the reports. A patient's usual occupation or, if the patient is retired, the primary occupation of the patient before retirement must be reported.

(2) Every health care facility and independent clinical laboratory, and those physicians or others providing health care who diagnose or treat any patient with cancer who is not hospitalized within one month of diagnosis, will provide the contractor with the information required under subsection (1) of this section. The required information may be collected on a regional basis where such a system exists and forwarded to the contractor in a form suitable for the purposes of RCW 70.54.230 through 70.54.270. Such reporting arrangements shall be reduced to a written agreement between the contractor and any regional reporting agency which shall detail the manner, form, and timeliness of the reporting. [2011 c 38 § 1; 1990 c 280 § 3.]

**Intent—1990 c 280:** See note following RCW 70.54.230.

**70.54.250 Cancer registry program—Confidentiality.** (1) Data obtained under RCW 70.54.240 shall be used for statistical, scientific, medical research, and public health purposes only.

(2) The department and its contractor shall ensure that access to data contained in the registry is consistent with federal law for the protection of human subjects and consistent with chapter 42.48 RCW. [1990 c 280 § 4.]

**Intent—1990 c 280:** See note following RCW 70.54.230.

**70.54.260 Liability.** Providing information required under RCW 70.54.240 or 70.54.250 shall not create any liability on the part of the provider nor shall it constitute a breach of confidentiality. The contractor shall, at the request of the provider, but not more frequently than once a year, sign an oath of confidentiality, which reads substantially as follows:

"As a condition of conducting research concerning persons who have received services from (name of the health care provider or facility), I . . . . ., agree not to divulge, publish, or otherwise make known to unauthorized persons or the public any information obtained in the course of such research that could lead to identification of such persons receiving services, or to the identification of their health care providers. I recognize that unauthorized release of confidential information may subject me to civil liability under the provisions of state law."

[1990 c 280 § 5.]

**Intent—1990 c 280:** See note following RCW 70.54.230.

**70.54.270 Rule making.** The department shall adopt rules to implement RCW 70.54.230 through 70.54.260, including but not limited to a definition of cancer. [1990 c 280 § 6.]

**Intent—1990 c 280:** See note following RCW 70.54.230.

**70.54.280 Bone marrow donor recruitment and education program—Generally—Target minority populations.** The department of health shall establish a bone marrow donor recruitment and education program to educate residents of the state about:

- (1) The need for bone marrow donors;
- (2) The procedures required to become registered as a potential bone marrow donor, including procedures for determining a person's tissue type; and
- (3) The procedures a donor must undergo to donate bone marrow or other sources of blood stem cells.

The department of health shall make special efforts to educate and recruit citizens from minority populations to volunteer as potential bone marrow donors. Means of communication may include use of press, radio, and television, and placement of educational materials in appropriate health care facilities, blood banks, and state and local agencies. The department of health in conjunction with the department of licensing shall make educational materials available at all places where driver licenses are issued or renewed. [1992 c 109 § 2.]

**Findings—1992 c 109:** "The legislature finds that an estimated sixteen thousand American children and adults are stricken each year with leukemia, aplastic anemia, or other fatal blood diseases. For many of these individuals, bone marrow transplantation is the only chance for survival. Nearly seventy percent cannot find a suitable bone marrow match within their own families. The chance that a patient will find a matching, unrelated donor in the general population is between one in a hundred and one in a million.

The legislature further finds that because tissue types are inherited, and different tissue types are found in different ethnic groups, the chances of finding an unrelated donor vary according to the patient's ethnic and racial background. Patients from minority groups are therefore less likely to find matching, unrelated donors.

It is the intent of the legislature to establish a statewide bone marrow donor education and recruitment program in order to increase the number of Washington residents who become bone marrow donors, and to increase the chance that patients in need of bone marrow transplants will find a suitable bone marrow match." [1992 c 109 § 1.]

**70.54.290 Bone marrow donor recruitment and education program—State employees to be recruited.** The department of health shall make special efforts to educate and recruit state employees to volunteer as potential bone marrow donors. Such efforts shall include, but not be limited to, conducting a bone marrow donor drive to encourage state employees to volunteer as potential bone marrow donors. The drive shall include educational materials furnished by the national bone marrow donor program and presentations that explain the need for bone marrow donors, and the procedures for becoming registered as potential bone marrow donors. The cost of educational materials and presentations to state employees shall be borne by the national marrow donor program. [1992 c 109 § 3.]

**Findings—1992 c 109:** See note following RCW 70.54.280.

**70.54.300 Bone marrow donor recruitment and education program—Private sector and community involvement.** In addition to educating and recruiting state employ-

ees, the department of health shall make special efforts to encourage community and private sector businesses and associations to initiate independent efforts to achieve the goals of chapter 109, Laws of 1992. [1992 c 109 § 4.]

**Findings—1992 c 109:** See note following RCW 70.54.280.

**70.54.305 Bone marrow donation—Status as minor not a disqualifying factor.** A person's status as a minor may not disqualify him or her from bone marrow donation. [2000 c 116 § 1.]

**70.54.310 Semiautomatic external defibrillator—Duty of acquirer—Immunity from civil liability.** (1) As used in this section, "defibrillator" means a semiautomatic external defibrillator as prescribed by a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW or an osteopath licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW.

(2) A person or entity who acquires a defibrillator shall ensure that:

(a) Expected defibrillator users receive reasonable instruction in defibrillator use and cardiopulmonary resuscitation by a course approved by the department of health;

(b) The defibrillator is maintained and tested by the acquirer according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines;

(c) Upon acquiring a defibrillator, medical direction is enlisted by the acquirer from a licensed physician in the use of the defibrillator and cardiopulmonary resuscitation;

(d) The person or entity who acquires a defibrillator shall notify the local emergency medical services organization about the existence and the location of the defibrillator; and

(e) The defibrillator user shall call 911 or its local equivalent as soon as possible after the emergency use of the defibrillator and shall assure that appropriate follow-up data is made available as requested by emergency medical service or other health care providers.

(3) A person who uses a defibrillator at the scene of an emergency and all other persons and entities providing services under this section are immune from civil liability for any personal injury that results from any act or omission in the use of the defibrillator in an emergency setting.

(4) The immunity from civil liability does not apply if the acts or omissions amount to gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(5) The requirements of subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to any individual using a defibrillator in an emergency setting if that individual is acting as a good samaritan under RCW 4.24.300. [1998 c 150 § 1.]

**70.54.320 Electrology and tattooing—Findings.** The legislature finds and declares that the practices of electrology and tattooing involve an invasive procedure with the use of needles and instruments which may be dangerous when improperly sterilized presenting a risk of infecting the client with blood-borne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis B. It is in the interests of the public health, safety, and welfare to establish requirements for the sterilization procedures in the commercial practices of electrology and tattooing in this state. [2001 c 194 § 1.]

**70.54.330 Electrology and tattooing—Definitions.**

The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 70.54.320, 70.54.340, and 70.54.350 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Electrologist" means a person who practices the business of electrology for a fee.

(2) "Electrology" means the process by which hair is permanently removed through the utilization of solid needle/probe electrode epilation, including thermolysis, being of shortwave, high frequency type, and including electrolysis, being of galvanic type, or a combination of both which is accomplished by a superimposed or sequential blend.

(3) "Tattoo artist" means a person who practices the business of tattooing for a fee.

(4) "Tattooing" means the indelible mark, figure, or decorative design introduced by insertion of nontoxic dyes or pigments into or under the subcutaneous portion of the skin upon the body of a live human being for cosmetic or figurative purposes. [2001 c 194 § 2.]

**70.54.340 Electrology, body art, body piercing, and tattooing—Rules, sterilization requirements.** The secretary of health shall adopt by rule requirements, in accordance with nationally recognized professional standards, for precautions against the spread of disease, including the sterilization of needles and other instruments, including sharps and jewelry, employed by electrologists, persons engaged in the practice of body art, body piercing, and tattoo artists. The secretary shall consider the standard precautions for infection control, as recommended by the United States centers for disease control, and guidelines for infection control, as recommended by national industry standards in the adoption of these sterilization requirements. [2009 c 412 § 19; 2001 c 194 § 3.]

**Effective date—2009 c 412 §§ 1-21:** See RCW 18.300.901.

**Short title—Implementation—2009 c 412:** See RCW 18.300.900 and 18.300.902.

*Definition of body art, body piercing, and tattooing: RCW 18.300.010.*

**70.54.350 Electrology and tattooing—Practitioners to comply with rules—Penalty.** (1) Any person who practices electrology or tattooing shall comply with the rules adopted by the department of health under \*RCW 70.54.340.

(2) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor. [2001 c 194 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 70.54.340 was amended by 2009 c 412 § 19, adding body art and body piercing to its application.

**70.54.370 Meningococcal disease—Students to receive informational materials.** (1) Except for community and technical colleges, each degree-granting public or private postsecondary residential campus that provides on-campus or group housing shall provide information on meningococcal disease to each enrolled matriculated first-time student. Community and technical colleges must provide the information only to those students who are offered on-campus or group housing. The information about meningococcal disease shall include:

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(a) Symptoms, risks, especially as the risks relate to circumstances of group living arrangements, and treatment; and

(b) Current recommendations from the United States centers for disease control and prevention regarding the receipt of vaccines for meningococcal disease and where the vaccination can be received.

(2) This section shall not be construed to require the department of health or the postsecondary educational institution to provide the vaccination to students.

(3) The department of health shall be consulted regarding the preparation of the information materials provided to the first-time students.

(4) If institutions provide electronic enrollment or registration to first-time students, the information required by this section shall be provided electronically and acknowledged by the student before completion of electronic enrollment or registration.

(5) This section does not create a private right of action. [2003 c 398 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** Substitute House Bill No. 1059, Substitute House Bill No. 1173, and Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1827 were enacted during the 2003 regular session of the legislature, but were vetoed in part by the governor. A stipulated judgment, No. 03-2-01988-4 filed in the Superior Court of Thurston County, between the governor and the legislature, settled litigation over the governor's use of veto powers and declared the vetoes of SHB 1059, SHB 1173, and ESHB 1827 null and void. Consequently, the text of this section has been returned to the version passed by the legislature prior to the vetoes. For vetoed text and message, see chapter 398, Laws of 2003.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.54.400 Retail restroom access—Customers with medical conditions—Penalty.** (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Customer" means an individual who is lawfully on the premises of a retail establishment.

(b) "Eligible medical condition" means:

(i) Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or any other inflammatory bowel disease;

(ii) Irritable bowel syndrome;

(iii) Any condition requiring use of an ostomy device; or

(iv) Any permanent or temporary medical condition that requires immediate access to a restroom.

(c) "Employee restroom" means a restroom intended for employees only in a retail facility and not intended for customers.

(d) "Health care provider" means an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, an osteopathic physician or surgeon licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, an osteopathic physicians assistant licensed under chapter 18.57A RCW, a physician or surgeon licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, or a physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW.

(e) "Retail establishment" means a place of business open to the general public for the sale of goods or services. Retail establishment does not include any structure such as a filling station, service station, or restaurant of eight hundred square feet or less that has an employee restroom located within that structure.

(2) A retail establishment that has an employee restroom must allow a customer with an eligible medical condition to use that employee restroom during normal business hours if:

(a) The customer requesting the use of the employee restroom provides in writing either:

(i) A signed statement by the customer's health care provider on a form that has been prepared by the department of health under subsection (4) of this section; or

(ii) An identification card that is issued by a nonprofit organization whose purpose includes serving individuals who suffer from an eligible medical condition; and

(b) One of the following conditions are met:

(i) The employee restroom is reasonably safe and is not located in an area where providing access would create an obvious health or safety risk to the customer; or

(ii) Allowing the customer to access the restroom facility does not pose a security risk to the retail establishment or its employees.

(3) A retail establishment that has an employee restroom must allow a customer to use that employee restroom during normal business hours if:

(a)(i) Three or more employees of the retail establishment are working at the time the customer requests use of the employee restroom; and

(ii) The retail establishment does not normally make a restroom available to the public; and

(b)(i) The employee restroom is reasonably safe and is not located in an area where providing access would create an obvious health or safety risk to the customer; or

(ii) Allowing the customer to access the employee restroom does not pose a security risk to the retail establishment or its employees.

(4) The department of health shall develop a standard electronic form that may be signed by a health care provider as evidence of the existence of an eligible medical condition as required by subsection (2) of this section. The form shall include a brief description of a customer's rights under this section and shall be made available for a customer or his or her health care provider to access by computer. Nothing in this section requires the department to distribute printed versions of the form.

(5) Fraudulent use of a form as evidence of the existence of an eligible medical condition is a misdemeanor punishable under RCW 9A.20.010.

(6) For a first violation of this section, the city or county attorney shall issue a warning letter to the owner or operator of the retail establishment, and to any employee of a retail establishment who denies access to an employee restroom in violation of this section, informing the owner or operator of the establishment and employee of the requirements of this section. A retail establishment or an employee of a retail establishment that violates this section after receiving a warning letter is guilty of a class 2 civil infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW.

(7) A retail establishment is not required to make any physical changes to an employee restroom under this section and may require that an employee accompany a customer or a customer with an eligible medical condition to the employee restroom.

(8) A retail establishment or an employee of a retail establishment is not civilly liable for any act or omission in allowing a customer or a customer with an eligible medical condition to use an employee restroom if the act or omission meets all of the following:

(a) It is not willful or grossly negligent;

(b) It occurs in an area of the retail establishment that is not accessible to the public; and

(c) It results in an injury to or death of the customer or the customer with an eligible medical condition or any individual other than an employee accompanying the customer or the customer with an eligible medical condition. [2009 c 438 § 1.]

**70.54.410 Unintended pregnancies—Sexual health education funding.** (1) To reduce unintended pregnancies, state agencies may apply for sexual health education funding for programs that are medically and scientifically accurate, including, but not limited to, programs on abstinence, the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and the prevention of unintended pregnancies. The state shall ensure that such programs:

(a) Are evidence-based;

(b) Use state funds cost-effectively;

(c) Maximize the use of federal matching funds; and

(d) Are consistent with RCW 28A.300.475, the state's healthy youth act, as existing on July 26, 2009.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Medically and scientifically accurate" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.300.475, as existing on July 26, 2009; and

(b) "Evidence-based" means a program that uses practices proven to the greatest extent possible through research in compliance with scientific methods to be effective and beneficial for the target population. [2009 c 303 § 1.]

**70.54.420 Accountable care organization pilot projects—Report to the legislature.** (1) The administrator shall within available resources appoint a lead organization by January 1, 2011, to support at least one integrated health care delivery system and one network of nonintegrated community health care providers in establishing two distinct accountable care organization pilot projects. The intent is that at least two accountable care organization pilot projects be in the process of implementation no later than January 1, 2012. In order to obtain expert guidance and consultation in design and implementation of the pilots, the lead organization shall contract with a recognized national learning collaborative with a reputable research organization having expertise in the development and implementation of accountable care organizations and payment systems.

(2) The lead organization designated by the administrator under this section shall:

(a) Be representative of health care providers and payors across the state;

(b) Have expertise and knowledge in medical payment and practice reform;

(c) Be able to support the costs of its work without recourse to state funding. The administrator and the lead organization are authorized and encouraged to seek federal funds, as well as solicit, receive, contract for, collect, and hold grants, donations, and gifts to support the implementation of this section and may scale back implementation to fall within resulting resource parameters;

(d) In collaboration with the health care authority, identify and convene work groups, as needed, to accomplish the goals of chapter 220, Laws of 2010; and

(e) Submit regular reports to the administrator on the progress of implementing the requirements of chapter 220, Laws of 2010.

(3) As used in this section, an "accountable care organization" is an entity that enables networks consisting of health care providers or a health care delivery system to become accountable for the overall costs and quality of care for the population they jointly serve and to share in the savings created by improving quality and slowing spending growth while relying on the following principles:

(a) Local accountability:

(i) Accountable care organizations must be composed of local delivery systems; and

(ii) Accountable care organizations spending benchmarks must make the local system accountable for cost, quality, and capacity;

(b) Appropriate payment and delivery models:

(i) Appropriate care organizations with expenditures below benchmarks are recognized and rewarded with appropriate financial incentives;

(ii) Payment models have financial incentives that allow stakeholders to make investments that improve care and slow cost growth such as health information technology; and

(iii) Patient-centered medical homes are an integral component to an accountable care organization with a focus on improving patient outcomes, optimizing the use of health care information technology, patient registries, and chronic disease management, thereby improving the primary care team, and achieving cost savings through lowering health care utilization;

(c) Performance measurement:

(i) Measurement is essential to ensure that appropriate care is being delivered and that cost savings are not the result of limiting necessary care; and

(ii) Accountable care organizations must report patient experience data in addition to clinical process and outcome measures.

(4) The lead organization, subject to available resources, shall research other opportunities to establish accountable care organization pilot projects, which may become available through participation in a demonstration project in medicaid, payment reform in medicare, national health care reform, or other federal changes that support the development of accountable care organizations.

(5) The lead organization, subject to available resources, shall coordinate the accountable care organization selection process with the primary care medical home reimbursement pilot projects established in \*RCW 70.54.380 and the ongoing joint project of the department of health and the Washington academy of family physicians patient-centered medical home collaborative being put into practice under section 2, chapter 295, Laws of 2008, as well as other private and public efforts to promote adoption of medical homes within the state.

(6) The lead organization shall make a report to the health care committees of the legislature, by January 1, 2013, on the progress of the accountable care organization pilot projects, recommendations about further expansion, and

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needed changes to the statute to more broadly implement and oversee accountable care organizations in the state.

(7) As used in this section, "administrator," "health care provider," "lead organization," and "payor" have the same meaning as provided in RCW 41.05.036. [2010 c 220 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.54.380 expired July 1, 2013, pursuant to 2009 c 305 § 4.

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 220:** "(1)(a) The legislature finds that a necessary component of bending the health care cost curve is innovative payment and practice reforms that capitalize on current incentives and create new incentives in the delivery system to further the goals of increased quality, accessibility, and affordability.

(b) The legislature further finds that accountable care organizations have received significant attention in the recent health care reform debate and have been found by the congressional budget office to be one of the few comprehensive reform models that can be relied on to reduce costs.

(c) The legislature further finds that accountable care organizations present an intriguing path forward on reform that builds on current provider referral patterns and offers shared savings payments to providers willing to be held accountable for quality and costs.

(d) The legislature further finds that the accountable care organization framework offers a basic method of decoupling volume and intensity from revenue and profit and is thus a crucial step toward achieving a truly sustainable health care delivery system.

(2) The legislature declares that collaboration among public payors, private health carriers, third-party purchasers, health care delivery systems, and providers to identify appropriate reimbursement methods to align incentives in support of accountable care organizations is in the best interest of the public. The legislature therefore intends to exempt from state antitrust laws, and to provide immunity from federal antitrust laws through the state action doctrine, for activities undertaken pursuant to pilots designed and implemented under RCW 70.54.420 that might otherwise be constrained by such laws. The legislature does not intend and does not authorize any person or entity to engage in activities or to conspire to engage in activities that would constitute per se violations of state and federal antitrust laws including, but not limited to, agreements among competing health care providers or health carriers as to the price or specific level of reimbursement for health care services.

(3) The legislature further finds that public-private partnerships and joint projects, such as the Washington patient-centered medical home collaborative administered and funded jointly between the department of health and the Washington academy of family physicians, are research-supported, evidence-based primary care delivery projects that should be encouraged to the fullest extent possible because they improve health outcomes for patients and increase primary care clinical effectiveness, thereby reducing the overall costs in our health care system." [2010 c 220 § 1.]

**70.54.430 First responders—Emergency response service—Contact information.** (1) When requested by first responders during an emergency, employees of companies providing personal emergency response services must provide to first responders the name, address, and any other information necessary for first responders to contact subscribers within the jurisdiction of the emergency.

(2) Companies providing personal emergency response services may adopt policies to respond to requests from first responders to release subscriber contact information during an emergency. Policies may include procedures to:

(a) Verify that the requester is a first responder;

(b) Verify that the request is made pursuant to an emergency;

(c) Fulfill the request by providing the subscriber contact information; and

(d) Deny the request if no emergency exists or if the requester is not a first responder.

(3) Information received by a first responder under subsection (1) of this section is confidential and exempt from disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW, and may be used only in responding to the emergency that prompted the request for

information. Any first responder receiving the information must destroy it at the end of the emergency.

(4) It is not a violation of this section if a personal emergency response services company or an employee makes a good faith effort to comply with this section. In addition, the company or employee is immune from civil liability for a good faith effort to comply with this section. Should a company or employee prevail upon the defense provided in this section, the company or employee is entitled to recover expenses and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in establishing the defense.

(5) First responders and their employing jurisdictions are not liable for failing to request the information in subsection (1) of this section. In addition, chapter 30, Laws of 2015 does not create a private right of action nor does it create any civil liability on the part of the state or any of its subdivisions, including first responders.

(6) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Emergency" means an occurrence that renders the personal emergency response services system inoperable for a period of twenty-four or more continuous hours, and that requires the attention of first responders acting within the scope of their official duties.

(b) "First responder" means firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical personnel, as licensed or certificated by this state.

(c) "Personal emergency response services" means a service provided for profit that allows persons in need of emergency assistance to contact a call center by activating a wearable device, such as a pendant or bracelet.

(7) This section does not require a personal emergency response services company to:

(a) Provide first responders with subscriber contact information in nonemergency situations; or

(b) Provide subscriber contact information to entities other than first responders. [2015 c 30 § 1.]

**70.54.440 Epinephrine autoinjectors—Prescribing to certain entities—Training—Liability—Incident reporting.** (1) An authorized health care provider may prescribe epinephrine autoinjectors in the name of an authorized entity for use in accordance with this section, and pharmacists, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and physicians may dispense epinephrine autoinjectors pursuant to a prescription issued in the name of an authorized entity.

(2) An authorized entity may acquire and stock a supply of epinephrine autoinjectors pursuant to a prescription issued in accordance with this section. The epinephrine autoinjectors must be stored in a location readily accessible in an emergency and in accordance with the epinephrine autoinjector's instructions for use and any additional requirements that may be established by the department of health. An authorized entity shall designate employees or agents who have completed the training required by subsection (4) of this section to be responsible for the storage, maintenance, and general oversight of epinephrine autoinjectors acquired by the authorized entity.

(3) An employee or agent of an authorized entity, or other individual, who has completed the training required by subsection (4) of this section may, on the premises of or in connection with the authorized entity, use epinephrine auto-

injectors prescribed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to:

(a) Provide an epinephrine autoinjector to any individual who the employee, agent, or other individual believes in good faith is experiencing anaphylaxis for immediate self-administration, regardless of whether the individual has a prescription for an epinephrine autoinjector or has previously been diagnosed with an allergy.

(b) Administer an epinephrine autoinjector to any individual who the employee, agent, or other individual believes in good faith is experiencing anaphylaxis, regardless of whether the individual has a prescription for an epinephrine autoinjector or has previously been diagnosed with an allergy.

(4)(a) An employee, agent, or other individual described in subsection (3) of this section must complete an anaphylaxis training program prior to providing or administering an epinephrine autoinjector made available by an authorized entity. The training must be conducted by a nationally recognized organization experienced in training laypersons in emergency health treatment or an entity or individual approved by the department of health. Training may be conducted online or in person and, at a minimum, must cover:

(i) Techniques on how to recognize symptoms of severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis;

(ii) Standards and procedures for the storage and administration of an epinephrine autoinjector; and

(iii) Emergency follow-up procedures.

(b) The entity that conducts the training shall issue a certificate, on a form developed or approved by the department of health, to each person who successfully completes the anaphylaxis training program.

(5) An authorized entity that possesses and makes available epinephrine autoinjectors and its employees, agents, and other trained individuals; an authorized health care provider that prescribes epinephrine autoinjectors to an authorized entity; and an individual or entity that conducts the training described in subsection (4) of this section is not liable for any injuries or related damages that result from the administration or self-administration of an epinephrine autoinjector, the failure to administer an epinephrine autoinjector, or any other act or omission taken pursuant to this section: PROVIDED, However, this immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. The administration of an epinephrine autoinjector in accordance with this section is not the practice of medicine. This section does not eliminate, limit, or reduce any other immunity or defense that may be available under state law, including that provided under RCW 4.24.300. An entity located in this state is not liable for any injuries or related damages that result from the provision or administration of an epinephrine autoinjector by its employees or agents outside of this state if the entity or its employee or agent (a) would not have been liable for the injuries or related damages had the provision or administration occurred within this state, or (b) are [is] not liable for the injuries or related damages under the law of the state in which the provision or administration occurred.

(6) An authorized entity that possesses and makes available epinephrine autoinjectors shall submit to the department of health, on a form developed by the department of health, a

report of each incident on the authorized entity's premises that involves the administration of the authorized entity's epinephrine autoinjector. The department of health shall annually publish a report that summarizes and analyzes all reports submitted to it under this subsection.

(7) As used in this section:

(a) "Administer" means the direct application of an epinephrine autoinjector to the body of an individual.

(b) "Authorized entity" means any entity or organization at or in connection with which allergens capable of causing anaphylaxis may be present, including, but not limited to, restaurants, recreation camps, youth sports leagues, amusement parks, colleges, universities, and sports arenas.

(c) "Authorized health care provider" means an individual allowed by law to prescribe and administer prescription drugs in the course of professional practice.

(d) "Epinephrine autoinjector" means a single-use device used for the automatic injection of a premeasured dose of epinephrine into the human body.

(e) "Provide" means the supply of one or more epinephrine autoinjectors to an individual.

(f) "Self-administration" means a person's discretionary use of an epinephrine autoinjector. [2016 c 10 § 1.]

**70.54.450 Maternal mortality review panel—Membership—Duties—Confidentiality, testimonial privilege, and liability—Identification of maternal deaths—Reports. (Expires June 30, 2020.)** (1) For the purposes of this section, "maternal mortality" or "maternal death" means a death of a woman while pregnant or within one year of delivering or following the end of a pregnancy, whether or not the woman's death is related to or aggravated by the pregnancy.

(2) A maternal mortality review panel is established to conduct comprehensive, multidisciplinary reviews of maternal deaths in Washington to identify factors associated with the deaths and make recommendations for system changes to improve health care services for women in this state. The members of the panel must be appointed by the secretary of the department of health, must serve without compensation, and may include:

(a) An obstetrician;

(b) A physician specializing in maternal fetal medicine;

(c) A neonatologist;

(d) A midwife with licensure in the state of Washington;

(e) A representative from the department of health who works in the field of maternal and child health;

(f) A department of health epidemiologist with experience analyzing perinatal data;

(g) A pathologist; and

(h) A representative of the community mental health centers.

(3) The maternal mortality review panel must conduct comprehensive, multidisciplinary reviews of maternal mortality in Washington. The panel may not call witnesses or take testimony from any individual involved in the investigation of a maternal death or enforce any public health standard or criminal law or otherwise participate in any legal proceeding relating to a maternal death.

(4)(a) Information, documents, proceedings, records, and opinions created, collected, or maintained by the mater-

nity mortality review panel or the department of health in support of the maternal mortality review panel are confidential and are not subject to public inspection or copying under chapter 42.56 RCW and are not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal action.

(b) Any person who was in attendance at a meeting of the maternal mortality review panel or who participated in the creation, collection, or maintenance of the panel's information, documents, proceedings, records, or opinions may not be permitted or required to testify in any civil or criminal action as to the content of such proceedings, or the panel's information, documents, records, or opinions. This subsection does not prevent a member of the panel from testifying in a civil or criminal action concerning facts which form the basis for the panel's proceedings of which the panel member had personal knowledge acquired independently of the panel or which is public information.

(c) Any person who, in substantial good faith, participates as a member of the maternal mortality review panel or provides information to further the purposes of the maternal mortality review panel may not be subject to an action for civil damages or other relief as a result of the activity or its consequences.

(d) All meetings, proceedings, and deliberations of the maternal mortality review panel may, at the discretion of the maternal mortality review panel, be confidential and may be conducted in executive session.

(e) The maternal mortality review panel and the secretary of the department of health may retain identifiable information regarding facilities where maternal deaths, or from which the patient was transferred, occur and geographic information on each case solely for the purposes of trending and analysis over time. All individually identifiable information must be removed before any case review by the panel.

(5) The department of health shall review department available data to identify maternal deaths. To aid in determining whether a maternal death was related to or aggravated by the pregnancy, and whether it was preventable, the department of health has the authority to:

(a) Request and receive data for specific maternal deaths including, but not limited to, all medical records, autopsy reports, medical examiner reports, coroner reports, and social service records; and

(b) Request and receive data as described in (a) of this subsection from health care providers, health care facilities, clinics, laboratories, medical examiners, coroners, professions and facilities licensed by the department of health, local health jurisdictions, the health care authority and its licensees and providers, and the department of social and health services and its licensees and providers.

(6) Upon request by the department of health, health care providers, health care facilities, clinics, laboratories, medical examiners, coroners, professions and facilities licensed by the department of health, local health jurisdictions, the health care authority and its licensees and providers, and the department of social and health services and its licensees and providers must provide all medical records, autopsy reports, medical examiner reports, coroner reports, social services records, information and records related to sexually transmitted diseases, and other data requested for specific maternal

deaths as provided for in subsection (5) of this section to the department.

(7) By July 1, 2017, and biennially thereafter, the maternal mortality review panel must submit a report to the secretary of the department of health and the health care committees of the senate and house of representatives. The report must protect the confidentiality of all decedents and other participants involved in any incident. The report must be distributed to relevant stakeholder groups for performance improvement. Interim results may be shared at the Washington state hospital association coordinated quality improvement program. The report must include the following:

(a) A description of the maternal deaths reviewed by the panel during the preceding twenty-four months, including statistics and causes of maternal deaths presented in the aggregate, but the report must not disclose any identifying information of patients, decedents, providers, and organizations involved; and

(b) Evidence-based system changes and possible legislation to improve maternal outcomes and reduce preventable maternal deaths in Washington. [2016 c 238 § 1.]

**Expiration date—2016 c 238:** "This act expires June 30, 2020." [2016 c 238 § 4.]

### Chapter 70.56 RCW

#### ADVERSE HEALTH EVENTS AND INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM

##### Sections

70.56.010	Definitions.
70.56.020	Notification of adverse health events—Notification and report required—Rules.
70.56.030	Department of health—Duties—Rules.
70.56.040	Contract with independent entity—Duties of independent entity—Establishment of notification and reporting system—Annual reports to governor, legislature.
70.56.050	Confidentiality of notifications and reports.
70.56.900	Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Severability—2006 c 8.

**70.56.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Adverse health event" or "adverse event" means the list of serious reportable events adopted by the national quality forum in 2002, in its consensus report on serious reportable events in health care. The department shall update the list, through adoption of rules, as subsequent changes are made by the national quality forum. The term does not include an incident.

(2) "Ambulatory surgical facility" means a facility licensed under chapter 70.230 RCW.

(3) "Childbirth center" means a facility licensed under chapter 18.46 RCW.

(4) "Correctional medical facility" means a part or unit of a correctional facility operated by the department of corrections under chapter 72.10 RCW that provides medical services for lengths of stay in excess of twenty-four hours to offenders.

(5) "Department" means the department of health.

(6) "Health care worker" means an employee, independent contractor, licensee, or other individual who is directly

involved in the delivery of health services in a medical facility.

(7) "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW.

(8) "Incident" means an event, occurrence, or situation involving the clinical care of a patient in a medical facility that:

(a) Results in unanticipated injury to a patient that is not related to the natural course of the patient's illness or underlying condition and does not constitute an adverse event; or

(b) Could have injured the patient but did not either cause an unanticipated injury or require the delivery of additional health care services to the patient.

"Incident" does not include an adverse event.

(9) "Independent entity" means that entity that the department of health contracts with under RCW 70.56.040 to receive notifications and reports of adverse events and incidents, and carry out the activities specified in RCW 70.56.040.

(10) "Medical facility" means a childbirth center, hospital, psychiatric hospital, or correctional medical facility. An ambulatory surgical facility shall be considered a medical facility for purposes of this chapter upon the effective date of any requirement for state registration or licensure of ambulatory surgical facilities.

(11) "Psychiatric hospital" means a hospital facility licensed as a psychiatric hospital under chapter 71.12 RCW. [2007 c 273 § 20; 2006 c 8 § 105.]

**Effective date—Implementation—2007 c 273:** See RCW 70.230.900 and 70.230.901.

**70.56.020 Notification of adverse health events—Notification and report required—Rules.** (1) The legislature intends to establish an adverse health events and incident notification and reporting system that is designed to facilitate quality improvement in the health care system, improve patient safety, assist the public in making informed health care choices, and decrease medical errors in a nonpunitive manner. The notification and reporting system shall not be designed to punish errors by health care practitioners or health care facility employees.

(2) When a medical facility confirms that an adverse event has occurred, it shall submit to the department of health:

(a) Notification of the event, with the date, type of adverse event, and any additional contextual information the facility chooses to provide, within forty-eight hours; and

(b) A report regarding the event within forty-five days.

The notification and report shall be submitted to the department using the internet-based system established under RCW 70.56.040(2) if the system is operational.

(c) A medical facility may amend the notification or report within sixty days of the submission.

(3) The notification and report shall be filed in a format specified by the department after consultation with medical facilities and the independent entity if an independent entity has been contracted for under RCW 70.56.040(1). The format shall identify the facility, but shall not include any identifying information for any of the health care professionals, facility employees, or patients involved. This provision does not modify the duty of a hospital to make a report to the depart-

ment of health or a disciplinary authority if a licensed practitioner has committed unprofessional conduct as defined in RCW 18.130.180.

(4) As part of the report filed under subsection (2)(b) of this section, the medical facility must conduct a root cause analysis of the event, describe the corrective action plan that will be implemented consistent with the findings of the analysis, or provide an explanation of any reasons for not taking corrective action. The department shall adopt rules, in consultation with medical facilities and the independent entity if an independent entity has been contracted for under RCW 70.56.040(1), related to the form and content of the root cause analysis and corrective action plan. In developing the rules, consideration shall be given to existing standards for root cause analysis or corrective action plans adopted by the joint commission on accreditation of health facilities and other national or governmental entities.

(5) If, in the course of investigating a complaint received from an employee of a medical facility, the department determines that the facility has not provided notification of an adverse event or undertaken efforts to investigate the occurrence of an adverse event, the department shall direct the facility to provide notification or to undertake an investigation of the event.

(6) The protections of RCW 43.70.075 apply to notifications of adverse events that are submitted in good faith by employees of medical facilities. [2009 c 495 § 12; 2008 c 136 § 1; 2006 c 8 § 106.]

**Effective date—2009 c 495:** See note following RCW 43.20.050.

#### **70.56.030 Department of health—Duties—Rules. (1)**

The department shall:

(a) Receive and investigate, where necessary, notifications and reports of adverse events, including root cause analyses and corrective action plans submitted as part of reports, and communicate to individual facilities the department's conclusions, if any, regarding an adverse event reported by a facility; and

(b) Adopt rules as necessary to implement this chapter.

(2) The department may enforce the reporting requirements of RCW 70.56.020 using its existing enforcement authority provided in chapter 18.46 RCW for childbirth centers, chapter 70.41 RCW for hospitals, and chapter 71.12 RCW for psychiatric hospitals. [2009 c 495 § 13; 2009 c 488 § 1; 2007 c 259 § 13; 2006 c 8 § 107.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 488 § 1 and by 2009 c 495 § 13, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2009 c 495:** See note following RCW 43.20.050.

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

**70.56.040 Contract with independent entity—Duties of independent entity—Establishment of notification and reporting system—Annual reports to governor, legislature. (1)** To the extent funds are appropriated specifically for this purpose, the department shall contract with a qualified, independent entity to receive notifications and reports of adverse events and incidents, and carry out the activities specified in this section. In establishing qualifications for,

and choosing the independent entity, the department shall strongly consider the patient safety organization criteria included in the federal patient safety and quality improvement act of 2005, P.L. 109-41, and any regulations adopted to implement this chapter.

(2) If an independent entity is contracted for under subsection (1) of this section, the independent entity shall:

(a) In collaboration with the department of health, establish an internet-based system for medical facilities and the health care workers of a medical facility to submit notifications and reports of adverse events and incidents, which shall be accessible twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The system shall be a portal to report both adverse events and incidents, and notifications and reports of adverse events shall be immediately transmitted to the department. The system shall be a secure system that protects the confidentiality of personal health information and provider and facility specific information submitted in notifications and reports, including appropriate encryption and an accurate means of authenticating the identity of users of the system. When the system becomes operational, medical facilities shall submit all notifications and reports by means of the system;

(b) Collect, analyze, and evaluate data regarding notifications and reports of adverse events and incidents, including the identification of performance indicators and patterns in frequency or severity at certain medical facilities or in certain regions of the state;

(c) Develop recommendations for changes in health care practices and procedures, which may be instituted for the purpose of reducing the number or severity of adverse events and incidents;

(d) Directly advise reporting medical facilities of immediate changes that can be instituted to reduce adverse events or incidents;

(e) Issue recommendations to medical facilities on a facility-specific or on a statewide basis regarding changes, trends, and improvements in health care practices and procedures for the purpose of reducing the number and severity of adverse events or incidents. Prior to issuing recommendations, consideration shall be given to the following factors: Expectation of improved quality of care, implementation feasibility, other relevant implementation practices, and the cost impact to patients, payers, and medical facilities. Statewide recommendations shall be issued to medical facilities on a continuing basis and shall be published and posted on a publicly accessible web site. The recommendations made to medical facilities under this section shall not be considered mandatory for licensure purposes unless they are adopted by the department as rules pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW; and

(f) Monitor implementation of reporting systems addressing adverse events or their equivalent in other states and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature as necessary for modifications to this chapter to keep the system as nearly consistent as possible with similar systems in other states.

(3)(a) The independent entity shall report no later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter in any year that an independent entity is contracted for under subsection (1) of this section to the governor and the legislature on the activities under this chapter in the preceding year. The report shall include:

(i) The number of adverse events and incidents reported by medical facilities, in the aggregate, on a geographical basis, and a summary of actions taken by facilities in response to the adverse events or incidents;

(ii) In the aggregate, the information derived from the data collected, including any recognized trends concerning patient safety;

(iii) Recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes that may help improve patient safety in the state; and

(iv) Information, presented in the aggregate, to inform and educate consumers and providers, on best practices and prevention tools that medical facilities are implementing to prevent adverse events as well as other patient safety initiatives medical facilities are undertaking to promote patient safety.

(b) The annual report shall be made available for public inspection and shall be posted on the department's and the independent entity's web site.

(4) The independent entity shall conduct all activities under this section in a manner that preserves the confidentiality of facilities, documents, materials, or information made confidential by RCW 70.56.050.

(5) Medical facilities and health care workers may provide notification of incidents to the independent entity. The notification shall be filed in a format specified by the independent entity, after consultation with the department and medical facilities, and shall identify the facility but shall not include any identifying information for any of the health care professionals, facility employees, or patients involved. This provision does not modify the duty of a hospital to make a report to the department or a disciplinary authority if a licensed practitioner has committed unprofessional conduct as defined in RCW 18.130.180. The protections of RCW 43.70.075 apply to notifications of incidents that are submitted in good faith by employees of medical facilities. [2009 c 495 § 14; 2008 c 136 § 2; 2006 c 8 § 108.]

**Effective date—2009 c 495:** See note following RCW 43.20.050.

**70.56.050 Confidentiality of notifications and reports.** (1)(a) When notification of an adverse event under RCW 70.56.020(2)(a) or of an incident under RCW 70.56.040(5), or a report regarding an adverse event under RCW 70.56.020(2)(b) is made by or through a coordinated quality improvement program under RCW 43.70.510 or 70.41.200, or by a peer review committee under RCW 4.24.250, information and documents, including complaints and incident reports, created specifically for and collected and maintained by a quality improvement committee for the purpose of preparing a notification of an adverse event or incident or a report regarding an adverse event, the report itself, and the notification of an incident, shall be subject to the confidentiality protections of those laws and RCW 42.56.360(1)(c).

(b) The notification of an adverse event under RCW 70.56.020(2)(a), shall be subject to public disclosure and not exempt from disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. Any public disclosure of an adverse event notification must include any contextual information the medical facility chose to provide under RCW 70.56.020(2)(a).

(2)(a) When notification of an adverse event under RCW 70.56.020(2)(a) or of an incident under RCW 70.56.040(5),

or a report regarding an adverse event under RCW 70.56.020(2)(b), made by a health care worker uses information and documents, including complaints and incident reports, created specifically for and collected and maintained by a quality improvement committee under RCW 43.70.510 or 70.41.200 or a peer review committee under RCW 4.24.250, a notification of an incident, the report itself, and the information or documents used for the purpose of preparing notifications or the report, shall be subject to the confidentiality protections of those laws and RCW 42.56.360(1)(c).

(b) The notification of an adverse event under RCW 70.56.020(2)(a) shall be subject to public disclosure and not exempt from disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. Any public disclosure of an adverse event notification must include any contextual information the medical facility chose to provide under RCW 70.56.020(2)(a). [2008 c 136 § 3; 2006 c 8 § 110.]

**70.56.900 Findings—Intent—Part headings and sub-headings not law—Severability—2006 c 8.** See notes following RCW 5.64.010.

## Chapter 70.58 RCW VITAL STATISTICS

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- 70.58.270 Data on inmates of hospitals, etc.
- 70.58.280 Penalty.
- 70.58.380 Certificates for out-of-state marriage license requirements.
- 70.58.390 Certificates of presumed death.
- 70.58.400 Certificate of death—Presence of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).
- 70.58.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Vital statistics*

*duties of state registrar: RCW 43.70.160.*  
*registration of: RCW 43.70.150.*

**70.58.005 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Business days" means Monday through Friday except official state holidays.

(2) "Department" means the department of health.

(3) "Electronic approval" or "electronically approve" means approving the content of an electronically filed vital record through the processes provided by the department. Electronic approval processes shall be consistent with policies, standards, and procedures developed by the director of the consolidated technology services agency.

(4) "Embalmer" means a person licensed as required in chapter 18.39 RCW and defined in RCW 18.39.010.

(5) "Funeral director" means a person licensed as required in chapter 18.39 RCW and defined in RCW 18.39.010.

(6) "Vital records" means records of birth, death, fetal death, marriage, dissolution, annulment, and legal separation, as maintained under the supervision of the state registrar of vital statistics. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 412; 2015 c 225 § 103; 2009 c 231 § 1; 2005 c 365 § 151; 1991 c 3 § 342; 1987 c 223 § 1.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 1 §§ 401-405, 409, 411, and 412:** See note following RCW 2.36.057.

**70.58.010 Registration districts.** Each city of the first class shall constitute a primary registration district and each county and the territory of counties jointly comprising a health district, exclusive of the portion included within cities of the first class, shall constitute a primary registration area. All other counties and municipal areas not included in the foregoing shall be divided into registration areas by the state registrar as he or she may deem essential to obtain the most efficient registration of vital events as provided by law. [2012 c 117 § 383; 1979 ex.s. c 52 § 2; 1951 c 106 § 4; 1915 c 180 § 1; 1907 c 83 § 2; RRS § 6019.]

**70.58.020 Local registrars—Deputies.** Under the direction and control of the state registrar, the health officer of each city of the first class shall be the local registrar in and for the primary registration district under his or her supervision as health officer and the health officer of each county and district health department shall be the local registrar in and for the registration area which he or she supervises as health officer and shall serve as such as long as he or she performs the registration duties as prescribed by law. He or she may be removed as local registrar of the registration area which he or she serves by the state board of health upon its finding of evidence of neglect in the performance of his or

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her duties as such registrar. The state registrar shall appoint local registrars for those registration areas not included in the foregoing and also in areas where the state board of health has removed the health officer from this position as registrar.

Each local registrar, subject to the approval of the state registrar, shall appoint in writing a sufficient number of deputy registrars to administer the laws relating to vital statistics, and shall certify the appointment of such deputies to the state registrar. Deputy registrars shall act in the case of absence, death, illness, or disability of the local registrar, or such other conditions as may be deemed sufficient cause to require their services. [2012 c 117 § 384; 1979 ex.s. c 52 § 3; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 5; 1951 c 106 § 5; 1915 c 180 § 2; 1907 c 83 § 3; RRS § 6020.]

*Director of combined city-county health department as registrar: RCW 70.08.060.*

**70.58.030 Duties of local registrars.** The local registrar shall supply blank forms of certificates to such persons as require them. He or she shall carefully examine each certificate of birth, death, and fetal death when presented for record, and see that it has been made out in accordance with the provisions of law and the instructions of the state registrar. If any certificate of death is incomplete or unsatisfactory, the local registrar shall call attention to the defects in the return, and withhold issuing the burial-transit permit until it is corrected. If the certificate of death is properly executed and complete, he or she shall issue a burial-transit permit to the funeral director or person acting as such. If a certificate of a birth is incomplete, he or she shall immediately notify the informant, and require that the missing items be supplied if they can be obtained. He or she shall sign as local registrar to each certificate filed in attest of the date of filing in the office. He or she shall make a record of each birth, death, and fetal death certificate registered in such manner as directed by the state registrar. The local registrar shall transmit to the state registrar each original death or fetal death certificate no less than thirty days after the certificate was registered nor more than sixty days after the certificate was registered. On or before the fifteenth day and the last day of each month, each local registrar shall transmit to the state registrar all original birth certificates that were registered prior to that day and which had not been transmitted previously. A local registrar shall transmit an original certificate to the state registrar whenever the state registrar requests the transfer of the certificate from the local registrar. If no births or no deaths occurred in any month, he or she shall, on the tenth day of the following month, report that fact to the state registrar, on a card provided for this purpose. Local registrars in counties in which a first-class city or a city of twenty-seven thousand or more population is located may retain an exact copy of the original and make certified copies of the exact copy. [1990 c 99 § 1; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 6; 1907 c 83 § 18; RRS § 6035.]

**70.58.040 Compensation of local registrars.** A local registrar shall be paid the sum of one dollar for each birth, death, or fetal death certificate registered for his or her district which sum shall cover making out the burial-transit permit and record of the certificate to be filed and preserved in his or her office. If no births or deaths were registered during any month, the local registrar shall be paid the sum of one

dollar for each report to that effect: PROVIDED, That all local health officers who are by statute required to serve as local registrars shall not be entitled to the fee of one dollar. Neither shall any members of their staffs be entitled to the above fee of one dollar when such persons serve as deputy registrars. All fees payable to local registrars shall be paid by the treasurer of the county or city, properly chargeable therewith, out of the funds of the county or city, upon warrants drawn by the auditor, or other proper officer of the county or city. No warrant shall be issued to a local registrar except upon a statement, signed by the state registrar, stating the names and addresses respectively of the local registrars entitled to fees from the county or city, and the number of certificates and reports of births, deaths, and fetal deaths, properly returned to the state registrar, by each local registrar, during three preceding calendar months prior to the date of the statement, and the amount of fees to which each local registrar is entitled, which statement the state registrar shall file with the proper officers during the months of January, April, July, and October of each year. Upon filing of the statement, the auditor or other proper officer of the county or city shall issue warrants for the amount due each local registrar. [2012 c 117 § 385; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 7; 1951 c 106 § 8; 1915 c 180 § 10; 1907 c 83 § 19; RRS § 6036.]

**70.58.050 Duty to enforce law.** The local registrars are hereby charged with the strict and thorough enforcement of the provisions of \*this act in their districts, under the supervision and direction of the state registrar. And they shall make an immediate report to the state registrar of any violations of this law coming to their notice by observation or upon the complaint of any person, or otherwise. The state registrar is hereby charged with the thorough and efficient execution of the provisions of \*this act in every part of the state, and with supervisory power over local registrars, to the end that all of the requirements shall be uniformly complied with. He or she shall have authority to investigate cases of irregularity or violation of law, personally or by accredited representative, and all local registrars shall aid him or her, upon request, in such investigation. When he or she shall deem it necessary, he or she shall report cases of violation of any of the provisions of \*this act to the prosecuting attorney of the proper county with a statement of the fact and circumstances; and when any such case is reported to them by the state registrar, all prosecuting attorneys or officials acting in such capacity shall forthwith initiate and promptly follow up the necessary court proceedings against the parties responsible for the alleged violations of law. And upon request of the state registrar, the attorney general shall likewise assist in the enforcement of the provisions of \*this act. [2012 c 117 § 386; 1907 c 83 § 22; RRS § 6039.]

*\*Reviser's note:* "this act" appears in 1907 c 83 codified as RCW 70.58.010 through 70.58.100, 70.58.230 through 70.58.280, and 43.20A.620 through 43.20A.630.

**70.58.055 Certificates generally.** (1) To promote and maintain nationwide uniformity in the system of vital statistics, the certificates required by this chapter or by the rules adopted under this chapter shall include, as a minimum, the items recommended by the federal agency responsible for national vital statistics including social security numbers.

(2)(a) The state board of health by rule may require additional pertinent information relative to the birth and manner of delivery as it may deem necessary for statistical study. This information shall be placed in a confidential section of the birth certificate form and shall not be used for certification, nor shall it be subject to the view of the public except as provided in (b) of this subsection. The state board of health may eliminate from the forms items that it determines are not necessary for statistical study.

(b) Information contained in the confidential section of the birth certificate form may only be available for review by:

(i) A member of the public upon order of the court; or

(ii) The individual who is the subject of the birth certificate upon confirmation of the identity of the requestor in a manner approved by the state board of health. Confidential information provided to the individual who is the subject of the birth certificate shall be limited to information on the child and shall not include information on the mother or father.

(3) Each certificate or other document required by this chapter shall be on a form or in a format prescribed by the state registrar.

(4) All vital records shall contain the data required for registration. No certificate may be held to be complete and correct that does not supply all items of information called for or that does not satisfactorily account for the omission of required items.

(5) Information required in certificates or documents authorized by this chapter may be filed and registered by photographic, electronic, or other means as prescribed by the state registrar. [2009 c 44 § 1; 1997 c 58 § 948; 1991 c 96 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.58.061 Electronic and hard copy transmission.** The department is authorized to prescribe by rule the schedule and system for electronic and hard copy transmission of certificates and documents required by this chapter. [1991 c 96 § 2.]

**70.58.065 Local registrar use of electronic databases.** The department, in mutual agreement with a local health officer as defined in RCW 70.05.010, may authorize a local registrar to access the statewide birth database or death database and to issue a certified copy of birth or death certificates from the respective statewide electronic databases. In such cases, the department may bill local registrars for only direct line charges associated with accessing birth and death databases. [1991 c 96 § 3.]

**70.58.070 Registration of births required.** All births that occur in the state shall be immediately registered in the districts in which they occur, as hereinafter provided. [1907 c 83 § 11; RRS § 6028.]

**70.58.080 Birth certificates—Filing—Establishing paternity—Surname of child.** (1) Within ten days after the birth of any child, the attending physician, midwife, or his or her agent shall:

(a) Fill out a certificate of birth, giving all of the particulars required, including: (i) The mother's name and date of

birth, and (ii) if the mother and father are married at the time of birth or an acknowledgment of paternity has been signed or one has been filed with the state registrar of vital statistics naming the man as the father, the father's name and date of birth; and

(b) File the certificate of birth together with the mother's and father's social security numbers with the state registrar of vital statistics.

(2) The local registrar shall forward the birth certificate, any signed acknowledgment of paternity that has not been filed with the state registrar of vital statistics, and the mother's and father's social security numbers to the state office of vital statistics pursuant to RCW 70.58.030.

(3) The state registrar of vital statistics shall make available to the division of child support the birth certificates, the mother's and father's social security numbers and acknowledgments of paternity.

(4) Upon the birth of a child to an unmarried woman, the attending physician, midwife, or his or her agent shall:

(a) Provide an opportunity for the child's mother and natural father to complete an acknowledgment of paternity. The completed acknowledgment shall be filed with the state registrar of vital statistics. The acknowledgment shall be prepared as required by RCW 26.26.305.

(b) Provide written information and oral information, furnished by the department of social and health services, to the mother and the father regarding the benefits of having the child's paternity established and of the availability of paternity establishment services, including a request for support enforcement services. The oral and written information shall also include information regarding the alternatives to, the legal consequences of, and the rights, including, if one parent is a minor any rights afforded due to minority status, and responsibilities that arise from, signing the acknowledgment of paternity.

(5) The physician or midwife or his or her agent is entitled to reimbursement for reasonable costs, which the department shall establish by rule, when an acknowledgment of paternity is filed with the state registrar of vital statistics.

(6) If there is no attending physician or midwife, the father or mother of the child, householder or owner of the premises, manager or superintendent of the public or private institution in which the birth occurred, shall notify the local registrar, within ten days after the birth, of the fact of the birth, and the local registrar shall secure the necessary information and signature to make a proper certificate of birth.

(7) When an infant is found for whom no certificate of birth is known to be on file, a birth certificate shall be filed within the time and in the form prescribed by the state board of health.

(8) When no alleged father is named on a birth certificate of a child born to an unwed mother the mother may give any surname she so desires to her child but shall designate in space provided for father's name on the birth certificate "None Named". [2002 c 302 § 708; 1997 c 58 § 937; 1989 c 55 § 2; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 8; 1951 c 106 § 6; 1907 c 83 § 12; RRS § 6029.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **70.58.082 Vital records—Rules—Release of copies.**

No person may prepare or issue any vital record that purports

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to be an original, certified copy, or copy of a vital record except as authorized in this chapter.

The department shall adopt rules providing for the release of paper or electronic copies of vital records that include adequate standards for security and confidentiality, ensure the proper record is identified, and prevent fraudulent use of records. All certified copies of vital records in the state must be on paper and in a format provided and approved by the department and must include security features to deter the alteration, counterfeiting, duplication, or simulation without ready detection.

Federal, state, and local governmental agencies may, upon request and with submission of the appropriate fee, be furnished copies of vital records if the vital record will be used for the agencies' official duties. The department may enter into agreements with offices of vital statistics outside the state for the transmission of copies of vital records to those offices when the vital records relate to residents of those jurisdictions and receipt of copies of vital records from those offices. The agreement must specify the statistical and administrative purposes for which the vital records may be used and must provide instructions for the proper retention and disposition of the copies. Copies of vital records that are received by the department from other offices of vital statistics outside the state must be handled as provided under the agreements.

The department may disclose information that may identify any person named in any birth certificate [vital] record for research purposes as provided under chapter 42.48 RCW. [2005 c 365 § 152; 1997 c 108 § 1.]

**70.58.085 Birth certificates suitable for display—Issuance—Fee—Disposition of funds.** (1) In addition to the original birth certificate, the state registrar shall issue upon request and upon payment of the fee established pursuant to subsection (3) of this section a birth certificate representing that the birth of the person named thereon is recorded in the office of the registrar. The certificate issued under this section shall be in a form consistent with the need to protect the integrity of vital records but shall be suitable for display. It may bear the seal of the state printed thereon and may be signed by the governor. It shall have the same status as evidence as the original birth certificate.

(2) Of the funds received under subsection (1) of this section, the amount needed to reimburse the registrar for expenses incurred in administering this section shall be credited to the state registrar account. The remainder shall be credited to the children's trust fund established under RCW 43.121.100.

(3) The fee shall be set by the council established pursuant to \*RCW 43.121.020, at a level likely to maximize revenues for the children's trust fund. [2004 c 53 § 1; 1987 c 351 § 6.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 43.121.020 was repealed by 2011 1st sp.s. c 32 § 12, effective June 30, 2012.

**Legislative findings—1987 c 351:** "The legislature finds that children are society's most valuable resource and that child abuse and neglect is a threat to the physical, mental, and emotional health of children. The legislature further finds that assisting community-based private nonprofit and public organizations, agencies, or school districts in identifying and establishing needed primary prevention programs will reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and the necessity for costly subsequent intervention in

family life by the state. Child abuse and neglect prevention programs can be most effectively and economically administered through the use of trained volunteers and the cooperative efforts of the communities, citizens, and the state. The legislature finds that the Washington council for prevention of child abuse is an effective counsel for reducing child abuse but limited resources have prevented the council from funding promising prevention concepts statewide.

It is the intent of the legislature to establish a cost-neutral revenue system for the children's trust fund which is designed to fund primary prevention programs and innovative prevention related activities such as research or public awareness campaigns. The fund shall be supported through revenue created by the sale of heirloom birth certificates. This concept has proven to be a cost-effective approach to funding child abuse prevention in the state of Oregon. The legislature believes that this is an innovative way of using private dollars to supplement our public dollars to reduce child abuse and neglect." [1987 c 351 § 1.]

**70.58.095 New certificate of birth—Legitimation, paternity—Substitution for original—Inspection of original, when—When delayed registration required.** The state registrar of vital statistics shall establish a new certificate of birth for a person born in this state when he or she receives a request that a new certificate be established and such evidence as required by regulation of the state board of health proving that such person has been acknowledged, or that a court of competent jurisdiction has determined the paternity of such person. When a new certificate of birth is established, the actual place and date of birth shall be shown. It shall be substituted for the original certificate of birth. Thereafter, the original certificate and the evidence of paternity, or acknowledgment shall not be subject to inspection except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or upon written request of the department of social and health services, the attorney general, or a prosecuting attorney, stating that the documents are being sought in furtherance of an action to enforce a duty of support. If no certificate of birth is on file for the person for whom a new certificate is to be established under this section, a delayed registration of birth shall be filed with the state registrar of vital statistics as provided in RCW 70.58.120. [2012 c 117 § 387; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 14; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 42 § 38; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 21.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.58.098 Information regarding credit report security freeze. (Effective January 1, 2017.)** The issuer of a certified birth certificate shall include information prepared by the department setting forth the advisability of a security freeze under RCW 19.182.230 and the process for acquiring a security freeze. [2016 c 135 § 3.]

**Effective date—2016 c 135:** See note following RCW 19.182.220.

**70.58.100 Supplemental report on name of child.** It shall be the duty of every local registrar when any certificate of birth of a living child is presented without statement of the given name, to make out and deliver to the parents of such child a special blank for the supplemental report of the given name of the child, which shall be filled out as directed and returned to the registrar as soon as the child has been named. [1915 c 180 § 8; 1907 c 83 § 14; RRS § 6031.]

**70.58.104 Reproductions of vital records—Disclosure of information for research purposes—Furnishing of birth and death records by local registrars.** (1) The state registrar may prepare typewritten, photographic, electronic,

or other reproductions of records of birth, death, fetal death, marriage, or decrees of divorce, annulment, or legal separation registered under law or that portion of the record of any birth which shows the child's full name, sex, date of birth, and date of filing of the certificate. Such reproductions, when certified by the state registrar, shall be considered for all purposes the same as the original and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein.

(2) The department may authorize by regulation the disclosure of information contained in vital records for research purposes. All research proposals must be submitted to the department and must be reviewed and approved as to scientific merit and to ensure that confidentiality safeguards are provided in accordance with department policy.

(3) Local registrars may, upon request, furnish certified copies of the records of birth, death, and fetal death, subject to all provisions of state law applicable to the state registrar. [1991 c 96 § 4; 1987 c 223 § 2.]

**70.58.107 Fees charged by department and local registrars.** The department of health shall charge a fee of twenty dollars for certified copies of records and for copies or information provided for research, statistical, or administrative purposes, and eight dollars for a search of the files or records when no copy is made. The department shall prescribe by regulation fees to be paid for preparing sealed files and for opening sealed files.

No fee may be demanded or required for furnishing certified copies of a birth, death, fetal death, marriage, divorce, annulment, or legal separation record for use in connection with a claim for compensation or pension pending before the veterans administration. No fee may be demanded or required for furnishing certified copies of a death certificate of a sex offender for use by a law enforcement agency in maintaining a registered sex offender database, or that of any offender requested by a county clerk or court in the state of Washington for purposes of extinguishing the offender's legal financial obligation.

The department shall keep a true and correct account of all fees received and transmit the fees to the state treasurer on a weekly basis.

Local registrars shall charge the same fees as the state as hereinabove provided and as prescribed by department regulation except in cases where payment is made by credit card, charge card, debit card, smart card, stored value card, federal wire, automatic clearinghouse system, or other electronic communication. Payment by these electronic methods may be subject to an additional fee consistent with the requirements established by RCW 36.29.190. All such fees collected, except for seven dollars of each fee collected for the issuance of birth certificates and first copies of death certificates and fourteen dollars of each fee collected for additional copies of the same death certificate ordered at the same time as the first copy, shall be paid to the jurisdictional health department.

All local registrars in cities and counties shall keep a true and correct account of all fees received under this section for the issuance of certified copies and shall transmit seven dollars of the fees collected for birth certificates and first copies of death certificates and fourteen dollars of the fee collected for additional copies of death certificates to the state treasurer

on or before the first day of January, April, July, and October. All but five dollars of the fees turned over to the state treasurer by local registrars shall be paid to the department of health for the purpose of developing and maintaining the state vital records systems, including a web-based electronic death registration system.

Eight dollars of each fee imposed for the issuance of certified copies, except for copies suitable for display issued under RCW 70.58.085, at both the state and local levels shall be held by the state treasurer in the death investigations' account established by RCW 43.79.445. [2007 c 200 § 2; 2007 c 91 § 2. Prior: 2003 c 272 § 1; 2003 c 241 § 1; 1997 c 223 § 1; 1991 c 3 § 343; 1988 c 40 § 1; 1987 c 223 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2007 c 91 § 2 and by 2007 c 200 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**70.58.110 Delayed registration of births—Authorized.** Whenever a birth which occurred in this state on or after July 1, 1907, is not on record in the office of the state registrar or in the office of the auditor of the county in which the birth occurred if the birth was prior to July 1, 1907, application for the registration of the birth may be made by the interested person to the state registrar: PROVIDED, That if the person whose birth is to be recorded be a child under four years of age the attending physician, if available, shall make the registration. [1953 c 90 § 2; 1943 c 176 § 1; 1941 c 167 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6011-1.]

**70.58.120 Delayed registration of births—Application—Evidence required.** The delayed registration of birth form shall be provided by the state registrar and shall be signed by the registrant if of legal age, or by the attendant at birth, parent, or guardian if the registrant is not of legal age. In instances of delayed registration of birth where the person whose birth is to be recorded is four years of age or over but under twelve years of age and in instances where the person whose birth is to be recorded is less than four years of age and the attending physician is not available to make the registration, the facts concerning date of birth, place of birth, and parentage shall be established by at least one piece of documentary evidence. In instances of delayed registration of birth where the person whose birth is to be recorded is twelve years of age or over, the facts concerning date of birth and place of birth shall be established by at least three documents of which only one may be an affidavit. The facts concerning parentage shall be established by at least one document. Documents, other than affidavits, or documents established prior to the fourth birthday of the registrant, shall be at least five years old or shall have been made from records established at least five years prior to the date of application. [1961 ex.s. c 5 § 9; 1953 c 90 § 3; 1943 c 176 § 2; 1941 c 167 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6011-2.]

**70.58.130 Delayed registration of births—Where registered—Copy as evidence.** The birth shall be registered in the records of the state registrar. A certified copy of the record shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein. [1961 ex.s. c 5 § 10; 1953 c 90 § 4; 1951 c 106 § 2; 1943 c 176 § 4; 1941 c 167 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6011-4.]

**70.58.145 Order establishing record of birth when delayed registration not available—Procedure.** When a person alleged to be born in this state is unable to meet the requirements for a delayed registration of birth in accordance with RCW 70.58.120, he or she may petition the superior court of the county of residence or of the county of birth for an order establishing a record of the date and place of his or her birth, and his or her parentage. The court shall fix a time for hearing the petition, and the state registrar shall be given notice at least twenty days prior to the date set for hearing in order that he or she may present at the hearing any information he or she believes will be useful to the court. If the court from the evidence presented to it finds that the petitioner was born in this state, the court shall issue an order to establish a record of birth. This order shall include the birth data to be registered. If the court orders the birth of a person born in this state registered, it shall be registered in the records of the state registrar. [2012 c 117 § 388; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 20.]

**70.58.150 "Fetal death," "evidence of life," defined.** A fetal death means any product of conception that shows no evidence of life after complete expulsion or extraction from its mother. The words "evidence of life" include breathing, beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles. [1961 ex.s. c 5 § 11; 1945 c 159 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6024-5.]

**70.58.160 Certificate of death or fetal death required.** A certificate of every death or fetal death shall be filed with the local registrar of the district in which the death or fetal death occurred within three business days after the occurrence is known, or if the place of death or fetal death is not known, then with the local registrar of the district in which the human remains are found within one business day thereafter. In every instance a certificate shall be filed prior to the interment or other disposition of the human remains. However, a certificate of fetal death shall not be required if the period of gestation is less than twenty weeks. [2005 c 365 § 153; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 12; 1945 c 159 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6024-1. Prior: 1915 c 180 § 4; 1907 c 83 § 5.]

**70.58.170 Certificate of death or fetal death—By whom filed.** The funeral director or person having the right to control the disposition of the human remains under RCW 68.50.160 shall file the certificate of death or fetal death. In preparing such certificate, the funeral director or person having the right to control the disposition of the human remains under RCW 68.50.160 shall obtain and enter on the certificate such personal data as the certificate requires from the person or persons best qualified to supply them. He or she shall present the certificate of death to the physician, physician's assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner last in attendance upon the deceased, or, if the deceased died without medical attendance, to the health officer, medical examiner, coroner, or prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction, who shall certify the cause of death according to his or her best knowledge and belief and shall sign or electronically approve the certificate of death or fetal death within two business days after being presented with the certificate unless good cause for not signing or electronically approving the certificate within the two business days can be established.

He or she shall present the certificate of fetal death to the physician, physician's assistant, advanced registered nurse practitioner, midwife, or other person in attendance at the fetal death, who shall certify the fetal death and such medical data pertaining thereto as he or she can furnish. [2009 c 231 § 2; 2005 c 365 § 154; 2000 c 133 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 162 § 1; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 13; 1945 c 159 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6024-2.]

**70.58.175 Certificate of death—Domestic partnership information.** Information recorded on death certificates shall include domestic partnership status and the surviving partner's information to the same extent such information is recorded for marital status and the surviving spouse's information. [2007 c 156 § 32.]

**70.58.180 Certificate when no physician, physician's assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner in attendance—Legally accepted cause of death.** If the death occurred without medical attendance, the funeral director or person having the right to control the disposition of the human remains under RCW 68.50.160 shall notify the coroner, medical examiner, or prosecuting attorney if there is no coroner or medical examiner in the county. If the circumstances suggest that the death or fetal death was caused by unlawful or unnatural causes or if there is no local health officer with jurisdiction, the coroner or medical examiner, or the prosecuting attorney shall complete and sign or electronically approve the certification, noting upon the certificate that no physician, physician's assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner was in attendance at the time of death. In case of any death without medical attendance in which there is no suspicion of death from unlawful or unnatural causes, the local health officer or his or her deputy, the coroner or medical examiner, and if none, the prosecuting attorney, shall complete and sign or electronically approve the certification, noting upon the certificate that no physician, physician's assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner was in attendance at the time of death, and noting the cause of death without the holding of an inquest or performing of an autopsy or postmortem, but from statements of relatives, persons in attendance during the last sickness, persons present at the time of death or other persons having adequate knowledge of the facts.

The cause of death, the manner and mode in which death occurred, as noted by the coroner or medical examiner, or if none, the prosecuting attorney or the health officer and incorporated in the death certificate filed with the department shall be the legally accepted manner and mode by which the deceased came to his or her death and shall be the legally accepted cause of death. [2009 c 231 § 3; 2005 c 365 § 155; 2000 c 133 § 2; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 14; 1953 c 188 § 5; 1945 c 159 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6024-3. Prior: 1915 c 180 § 5; 1907 c 83 § 7.]

**70.58.190 Permit to dispose of human remains when cause of death undetermined.** If the cause of death cannot be determined within three business days, the certification of its cause may be filed after the prescribed period, but the attending physician, coroner, or prosecuting attorney shall give the local registrar of the district in which the death occurred written notice of the reason for the delay, in order

that a permit for the disposition of the human remains may be issued if required. [2005 c 365 § 156; 1945 c 159 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6024-4.]

**70.58.210 Birth certificate upon adoption.** (1) Whenever a decree of adoption has been entered declaring a child, born in the state of Washington, adopted in any court of competent jurisdiction in the state of Washington or any other state or any territory of the United States, a certified copy of the decree of adoption shall be recorded with the proper department of registration of births in the state of Washington and a certificate of birth shall issue upon request, bearing the new name of the child as shown in the decree of adoption, the names of the adoptive parents of the child and the age, sex, and date of birth of the child, but no reference in any birth certificate shall have reference to the adoption of the child. However, original registration of births shall remain a part of the record of the board of health.

(2) Whenever a decree of adoption has been entered declaring a child, born outside of the United States and its territories, adopted in any court of competent jurisdiction in the state of Washington, a certified copy of the decree of adoption together with evidence as to the child's birth date and birth place provided by the original birth certificate, or by a certified copy, extract, or translation thereof or by a certified copy of some other document essentially equivalent thereto, shall be recorded with the proper department of registration of births in the state of Washington. The records of the United States immigration and naturalization service or of the United States department of state are essentially equivalent to the birth certificate. A certificate of birth shall issue upon request, bearing the new name of the child as shown in the decree of adoption, the names of the adoptive parents of the child and the age, sex, and date of birth of the child, but no reference in any birth certificate shall have reference to the adoption of the child. Unless the court orders otherwise, the certificate of birth shall have the same overall appearance as the certificate which would have been issued if the adopted child had been born in the state of Washington.

A person born outside of the United States and its territories for whom a decree of adoption has been entered in a court of this state before September 1, 1979, may apply for a certificate of birth under this subsection by furnishing the proper department of registration of births with a certified copy of the decree of adoption together with the other evidence required by this subsection as to the date and place of birth. Upon receipt of the decree and evidence, a certificate of birth shall be issued in accordance with this subsection. [1979 ex.s. c 101 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 42 § 40; 1943 c 12 § 1; 1939 c 133 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6013-1.]

*Adoption: Chapter 26.33 RCW.*

*Decree of adoption—Duties of state registrar of vital statistics: RCW 26.33.290.*

*Uniform parentage act: Chapter 26.26 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.58.230 Permits for burial, removal, etc., required—Removal to another district without permit, notice to registrar, fee.** It shall be unlawful for any person to inter, deposit in a vault, grave, or tomb, cremate, or otherwise dispose of, or disinter or remove from one registration

district to another, or hold for more than three business days after death, the human remains of any person whose death occurred in this state or any human remains which shall be found in this state, without obtaining, from the local registrar of the district in which the death occurred or in which the human remains were found, a permit for the burial, disinterment, or removal of the human remains. However, a licensed funeral director or embalmer of this state or a funeral establishment licensed in another state contiguous to Washington, with a current certificate of removal registration issued by the director of the department of licensing, may remove human remains from the district where the death occurred to another registration district or Oregon or Idaho without having obtained a permit but in such cases the funeral director or embalmer shall at the time of removing human remains file with or mail to the local registrar of the district where the death occurred a notice of removal upon a blank to be furnished by the state registrar. The notice of removal shall be signed or electronically approved by the funeral director or embalmer and shall contain the name and address of the local registrar with whom the certificate of death will be filed and the burial-transit permit secured. Every local registrar, accepting a death certificate and issuing a burial-transit permit for a death that occurred outside his or her district, shall be entitled to a fee of one dollar to be paid by the funeral director or embalmer at the time the death certificate is accepted and the permit is secured. It shall be unlawful for any person to bring into or transport within the state or inter, deposit in a vault, grave, or tomb, or cremate or otherwise dispose of human remains of any person whose death occurred outside this state unless the human remains are accompanied by a removal or transit permit issued in accordance with the law and health regulations in force where the death occurred, or unless a special permit for bringing the human remains into this state shall be obtained from the state registrar. [2009 c 231 § 4; 2005 c 365 § 157; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 16; 1915 c 180 § 3; 1907 c 83 § 4; RRS § 6021.]

*Cemeteries and human remains: Title 68 RCW.*

**70.58.240 Duties of funeral directors.** Each funeral director or person having the right to control the disposition of the human remains under RCW 68.50.160 shall obtain a certificate of death, sign or electronically approve and file the certificate with the local registrar, and secure a burial-transit permit, prior to any permanent disposition of the human remains. He or she shall obtain the personal and statistical particulars required, from the person best qualified to supply them. He or she shall present the certificate to the attending physician or in case the death occurred without any medical attendance, to the proper official for certification for the medical certificate of the cause of death and other particulars necessary to complete the record. He or she shall supply the information required relative to the date and place of disposition and he or she shall sign or electronically approve and present the completed certificate to the local registrar, for the issuance of a burial-transit permit. He or she shall deliver the burial permit to the sexton, or person in charge of the place of burial, before interring the human remains; or shall attach the transit permit to the box containing the corpse, when shipped by any transportation company, and the permit shall accompany the corpse to its destination. [2009 c 231 § 5; 2005 c

365 § 158; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 17; 1915 c 180 § 6; 1907 c 83 § 8; RRS § 6025.]

**70.58.250 Burial-transit permit—Requisites.** The burial-transit permit shall contain a statement by the local registrar and over his or her signature or electronic approval, that a satisfactory certificate of death having been filed with him or her, as required by law, permission is granted to inter, remove, or otherwise dispose of the body; stating the name of the deceased and other necessary details upon the form prescribed by the state registrar. [2009 c 231 § 6; 1961 ex.s. c 5 § 18; 1907 c 83 § 9; RRS § 6026.]

**70.58.260 Burial grounds—Duties of individual in charge of the premises.** It shall be unlawful for any person in charge of any premises in which bodies of deceased persons are interred, cremated, or otherwise permanently disposed of, to permit the interment, cremation, or other disposition of any body upon such premises unless it is accompanied by a burial, removal, or transit permit as provided in this chapter. It shall be the duty of the person in charge of any such premises to, in case of the interment, cremation, or other disposition of human remains therein, endorse upon the permit the date and character of such disposition, over his or her signature or electronic approval, to return all permits so endorsed to the local registrar of the district in which the death occurred within ten days from the date of such disposition, and to keep a record of all human remains disposed of on the premises under his or her charge, stating, in each case, the name of the deceased person, if known, the place of death, the date of burial or other disposition, and the name and address of the undertaker, which record shall at all times be open to public inspection, and it shall be the duty of every undertaker, or person acting as such, when burying human remains in a cemetery or burial grounds having no person in charge, to sign or electronically approve the burial, removal, or transit permit, giving the date of burial, write across the face of the permit the words "no person in charge", and file the burial, removal, or transit permit within ten days with the registrar of the district in which the death occurred. [2009 c 231 § 7; 2005 c 365 § 159; 1915 c 180 § 7; 1907 c 83 § 10; RRS § 6027.]

**70.58.270 Data on inmates of hospitals, etc.** All superintendents or managers, or other persons in charge of hospitals, almshouses, lying-in or other institutions, public or private, to which persons resort for treatment of disease, confinement, or are committed by process of law, are hereby required to make a record of all the personal and statistical particulars relative to the inmates in their institutions, at the date of approval of \*this act, that are required in the form of the certificate provided for by this act, as directed by the state registrar; and thereafter such record shall be by them made for all future inmates at the time of their admission. And in case of persons admitted or committed for medical treatment of contagious disease, the physician in charge shall specify, for entry in the record, the nature of the disease, and where, in his or her opinion, it was contracted. The personal particulars and information required by this section shall be obtained from the individual himself or herself, if it is practicable to do so; and when they cannot be so obtained, they shall be

secured in as complete a manner as possible from the relatives, friends, or other persons acquainted with the facts. [2012 c 117 § 389; 1907 c 83 § 16; RRS § 6033.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For "this act," see note following RCW 70.58.050.

**70.58.280 Penalty.** (1) Every person who violates or willfully fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with any provisions of \*this act is guilty of a misdemeanor and for a second offense shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars, and for a third and each subsequent offense shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars or more than two hundred and fifty dollars or by imprisonment for not more than ninety days, or by both fine and imprisonment.

(2) Every person who willfully furnishes any false information for any certificate required by \*this act or who makes any false statement in any such certificate is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 353; 1915 c 180 § 12; 1907 c 83 § 21; RRS § 6038.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For "this act," see note following RCW 70.58.050.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**70.58.380 Certificates for out-of-state marriage license requirements.** The department shall prescribe by rule a schedule of fees for providing certificates necessary to meet marriage license requirements of other states. The fees shall be predicated on the costs of conducting premarital blood screening tests and issuing certificates. [1981 c 284 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** Although 1981 c 284 directs this section be added to chapter 74.04 RCW, codification here is considered more appropriate. The department of social and health services is apparently the department referred to.

**70.58.390 Certificates of presumed death.** A county coroner, medical examiner, or the prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction may file a certificate of presumed death when the official filing the certificate determines to the best of the official's knowledge and belief that there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to indicate that a person has in fact died in the county or in waters contiguous to the county and that it is unlikely that the body will be recovered. The certificate shall recite, to the extent possible, the date, circumstances, and place of the death, and shall be the legally accepted fact of death.

In the event that the county in which the death occurred cannot be determined with certainty, the county coroner, medical examiner, or prosecuting attorney in the county in which the events occurred and in which the decedent was last known to be alive may file a certificate of presumed death under this section.

The official filing the certificate of presumed death shall file the certificate with the local registrar of the county where the death was presumed to have occurred, and thereafter all persons and parties acting in good faith may rely thereon with acquittance. [2005 c 365 § 160; 1981 c 176 § 1.]

**70.58.400 Certificate of death—Presence of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).** In completing a certificate of death in compliance with this chapter, a physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse

practitioner must note the presence of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, if it is a cause or contributing factor in the patient's death. [2009 c 244 § 3.]

**70.58.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 153.]

## Chapter 70.62 RCW

### TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS—LICENSING—INSPECTIONS

#### Sections

70.62.200	Purpose.
70.62.210	Definitions.
70.62.220	License required—Fee—Display.
70.62.240	Rules.
70.62.250	Powers and duties of department.
70.62.260	Licenses—Applications—Expiration—Renewal.
70.62.270	Suspension or revocation of licenses—Civil fine.
70.62.280	Violations—Penalty.
70.62.290	Adoption of fire and safety rules.

**Reviser's note:** Throughout this chapter, the terms "this 1971 amendatory act" or "this act" have been changed to "this chapter." "This 1971 amendatory act" and "this act" consist of this chapter, the amendment of RCW 43.22.050 and the repeal of RCW 70.62.010 through 70.62.130 and 43.22.060 through 43.22.110 by 1971 ex.s. c 239.

*Hotels: Chapter 19.48 RCW.*

*Lien of hotels, lodging and boarding houses: Chapter 60.64 RCW.*

**70.62.200 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to provide for the development, establishment, and enforcement of standards for the maintenance and operation of transient accommodations through a licensing program to promote the protection of the health and safety of individuals using such accommodations in this state. [1994 c 250 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 239 § 1.]

**70.62.210 Definitions.** The following terms whenever used or referred to in this chapter shall have the following respective meanings for the purposes of this chapter, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) The term "transient accommodation" shall mean any facility such as a hotel, motel, condominium, resort, or any other facility or place offering three or more lodging units to travelers and transient guests.

(2) The term "person" shall mean any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association or joint stock association, and the legal successor thereof.

(3) The term "secretary" shall mean the secretary of the Washington state department of health and any duly authorized representative thereof.

(4) The term "board" shall mean the Washington state board of health.

(5) The term "department" shall mean the Washington state department of health.

(6) The term "lodging unit" shall mean one self-contained unit designated by number, letter or some other method of identification. [1991 c 3 § 347; 1971 ex.s. c 239 § 2.]

**70.62.220 License required—Fee—Display.** The person operating a transient accommodation as defined in this chapter shall secure each year an annual operating license and shall pay a fee to cover the cost of licensure and enforcement activities as established by the department under RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.250. The initial licensure period shall run for one year from the date of issuance, and the license shall be renewed annually on that date. The license fee shall be paid to the department. The license shall be conspicuously displayed in the lobby or office of the facility for which it is issued. [1994 c 250 § 2; 1987 c 75 § 9; 1982 c 201 § 10; 1971 ex.s. c 239 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.62.240 Rules.** The board shall adopt such rules as may be necessary to assure that each transient accommodation will be operated and maintained in a manner consistent with the health and safety of the members of the public using such facilities. Such rules shall provide for adequate light, heat, ventilation, cleanliness, and sanitation and shall include provisions to assure adequate maintenance. All rules and amendments thereto shall be adopted in conformance with the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. [1994 c 250 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 239 § 5.]

**70.62.250 Powers and duties of department.** The department is hereby granted and shall have and exercise, in addition to the powers herein granted, all the powers necessary and appropriate to carry out and execute the purposes of this chapter, including but not limited to the power:

(1) To develop such rules and regulations for proposed adoption by the board as may be necessary to implement the purposes of this chapter;

(2) To enter and inspect at any reasonable time any transient accommodation and to make such investigations as are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter and any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder: PROVIDED, That no room or suite shall be entered for inspection unless said room or suite is not occupied by any patron or guest of the transient accommodation at the time of entry;

(3) To perform such other duties and employ such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter; and

(4) To administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the board. [1971 ex.s. c 239 § 6; (1994 c 250 § 4 expired June 30, 1997).]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2016 Ed.)

**70.62.260 Licenses—Applications—Expiration—Renewal.** (1) No person shall operate a transient accommodation as defined in this chapter without having a valid license issued by the department. Applications for a transient accommodation license shall be filed with the department sixty days or more before initiating business as a transient accommodation. All licenses issued under the provisions of this chapter shall expire one year from the effective date.

(2) All applications for renewal of licenses shall be either: (a) Postmarked no later than midnight on the date the license expires; or (b) if personally presented to the department or sent by electronic means, received by the department by 5:00 p.m. on the date the license expires.

(3) A licensee that submits a license renewal application in accordance with this section and the rules and fee schedule adopted under this chapter shall be deemed to possess a valid license for the year following the expiration date of the expiring license, or until the department suspends or revokes the license pursuant to RCW 70.62.270.

(4) The license of a licensee that fails to submit a license renewal application in accordance with this section, and the rules and fee schedule adopted under this chapter, shall become invalid on the thirty-fifth day after the expiration date, unless the licensee shall have corrected any and all deficiencies in the renewal application and paid a penalty fee as established by rule by the department before the thirty-fifth day following the expiration date. An invalid license may be reinstated upon reapplication as an applicant for a new license under subsection (1) of this section.

(5) Each license shall be issued only for the premises and persons named in the application. [2004 c 162 § 1; 1994 c 250 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 239 § 7.]

**70.62.270 Suspension or revocation of licenses—Civil fine.** (1) Licenses issued under this chapter may be suspended or revoked upon the failure or refusal of the person operating a transient accommodation to comply with the provisions of this chapter, or of any rules adopted under this chapter by the board. All such proceedings shall be governed by the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW.

(2) In lieu of or in addition to license suspension or revocation, the department may assess a civil fine in accordance with RCW 43.70.095. [1994 c 250 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 239 § 8.]

**70.62.280 Violations—Penalty.** Any violation of this chapter or the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder by any person operating a transient accommodation shall be a misdemeanor and shall be punished as such. Each day of operation of a transient accommodation in violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense. [1971 ex.s. c 239 § 10.]

**70.62.290 Adoption of fire and safety rules.** Rules establishing fire and life safety requirements, not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, shall continue to be adopted by the \*director of community, trade, and economic development, through the director of fire protection. [1994 c 250 § 8; 1986 c 266 § 95; 1971 ex.s. c 239 § 11.]

\*Reviser's note: The "director of community, trade, and economic development" was changed to the "director of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 70.74 RCW

## WASHINGTON STATE EXPLOSIVES ACT

## Sections

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70.74.400	Seizure and forfeiture.
70.74.410	Reporting theft or loss of explosives.

**70.74.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context:

(1) The terms "authorized," "approved," or "approval" shall be held to mean authorized, approved, or approval by the department of labor and industries.

(2) The term "blasting agent" shall be held to mean and include any material or mixture consisting of a fuel and oxidizer, that is intended for blasting and not otherwise defined as an explosive; if the finished product, as mixed for use or

shipment, cannot be detonated by means of a number 8 test blasting cap when unconfined. A number 8 test blasting cap is one containing two grams of a mixture of eighty percent mercury fulminate and twenty percent potassium chlorate, or a blasting cap of equivalent strength. An equivalent strength cap comprises 0.40-0.45 grams of PETN base charge pressed in an aluminum shell with bottom thickness not to exceed 0.03 of an inch, to a specific gravity of not less than 1.4 g/cc., and primed with standard weights of primer depending on the manufacturer.

(3) The term "dealer" shall be held to mean and include any person who purchases explosives or blasting agents for the sole purpose of resale, and not for use or consumption.

(4) The term "efficient artificial barricade" shall be held to mean an artificial mound or properly revetted wall of earth of a minimum thickness of not less than three feet or such other artificial barricade as approved by the department of labor and industries.

(5) The term "explosive" or "explosives" whenever used in this chapter, shall be held to mean and include any chemical compound or mechanical mixture that is commonly used or intended for the purpose of producing an explosion, that contains any oxidizing and combustible units, or other ingredients, in such proportions, quantities, or packing, that an ignition by fire, by friction, by concussion, by percussion, or by detonation of any part of the compound or mixture may cause such a sudden generation of highly heated gases that the resultant gaseous pressures are capable of producing destructive effects on contiguous objects or of destroying life or limb. In addition, the term "explosives" shall include all material which is classified as division 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, or 1.6 explosives by the United States department of transportation. For the purposes of this chapter, small arms ammunition, small arms ammunition primers, smokeless powder not exceeding fifty pounds, and black powder not exceeding five pounds shall not be defined as explosives, unless possessed or used for a purpose inconsistent with small arms use or other lawful purpose.

(6) Classification of explosives shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) DIVISION 1.1 and 1.2 EXPLOSIVES: Possess mass explosion or detonating hazard and include dynamite, nitroglycerin, picric acid, lead azide, fulminate of mercury, black powder exceeding five pounds, blasting caps in quantities of 1001 or more, and detonating primers.

(b) DIVISION 1.3 EXPLOSIVES: Possess a minor blast hazard, a minor projection hazard, or a flammable hazard and include propellant explosives, including smokeless powder exceeding fifty pounds.

(c) DIVISION 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6 EXPLOSIVES: Include certain types of manufactured articles which contain division 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3 explosives, or all, as components, but in restricted quantities, and also include blasting caps in quantities of 1000 or less.

(7) The term "explosive-actuated power devices" shall be held to mean any tool or special mechanized device which is actuated by explosives, but not to include propellant-actuated power devices.

(8) The term "explosives manufacturing building," shall be held to mean and include any building or other structure (excepting magazines) containing explosives, in which the

manufacture of explosives, or any processing involving explosives, is carried on, and any building where explosives are used as a component part or ingredient in the manufacture of any article or device.

(9) The term "explosives manufacturing plant" shall be held to mean and include all lands, with the buildings situated thereon, used in connection with the manufacturing or processing of explosives or in which any process involving explosives is carried on, or the storage of explosives thereat, as well as any premises where explosives are used as a component part or ingredient in the manufacture of any article or device.

(10) The term "forbidden or not acceptable explosives" shall be held to mean and include explosives which are forbidden or not acceptable for transportation by common carriers by rail freight, rail express, highway, or water in accordance with the regulations of the federal department of transportation.

(11) The term "fuel" shall be held to mean and include a substance which may react with the oxygen in the air or with the oxygen yielded by an oxidizer to produce combustion.

(12) The term "handloader" shall be held to mean and include any person who engages in the noncommercial assembling of small arms ammunition for his or her own use, specifically the operation of installing new primers, powder, and projectiles into cartridge cases.

(13) The term "handloader components" means small arms ammunition, small arms ammunition primers, smokeless powder not exceeding fifty pounds, and black powder as used in muzzle loading firearms not exceeding five pounds.

(14) The term "highway" shall be held to mean and include any public street, public alley, or public road, including a privately financed, constructed, or maintained road that is regularly and openly traveled by the general public.

(15) The term "improvised device" means a device which is fabricated with explosives or destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and which is designed, or has the capacity, to disfigure, destroy, distract, or harass.

(16) The term "inhabited building," shall be held to mean and include only a building regularly occupied in whole or in part as a habitation for human beings, or any church, schoolhouse, railroad station, store, or other building where people are accustomed to assemble, other than any building or structure occupied in connection with the manufacture, transportation, storage, or use of explosives.

(17) The term "magazine," shall be held to mean and include any building or other structure, other than an explosives manufacturing building, used for the storage of explosives.

(18) The term "motor vehicle" shall be held to mean and include any self-propelled automobile, truck, tractor, semi-trailer or full trailer, or other conveyance used for the transportation of freight.

(19) The term "natural barricade" shall be held to mean and include any natural hill, mound, wall, or barrier composed of earth or rock or other solid material of a minimum thickness of not less than three feet.

(20) The term "oxidizer" shall be held to mean a substance that yields oxygen readily to stimulate the combustion of organic matter or other fuel.

(21) The term "person" shall be held to mean and include any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, society, joint stock company, joint stock association, and including any trustee, receiver, assignee, or personal representative thereof.

(22) The term "propellant-actuated power device" shall be held to mean and include any tool or special mechanized device or gas generator system which is actuated by a propellant or which releases and directs work through a propellant charge.

(23) The term "public conveyance" shall be held to mean and include any railroad car, streetcar, ferry, cab, bus, airplane, or other vehicle which is carrying passengers for hire.

(24) The term "public utility transmission system" shall mean power transmission lines over 10 KV, telephone cables, or microwave transmission systems, or buried or exposed pipelines carrying water, natural gas, petroleum, or crude oil, or refined products and chemicals, whose services are regulated by the utilities and transportation commission, municipal, or other publicly owned systems.

(25) The term "purchaser" shall be held to mean any person who buys, accepts, or receives any explosives or blasting agents.

(26) The term "pyrotechnic" shall be held to mean and include any combustible or explosive compositions or manufactured articles designed and prepared for the purpose of producing audible or visible effects which are commonly referred to as fireworks as defined in chapter 70.77 RCW.

(27) The term "railroad" shall be held to mean and include any steam, electric, or other railroad which carries passengers for hire.

(28) The term "small arms ammunition" shall be held to mean and include any shotgun, rifle, pistol, or revolver cartridge, and cartridges for propellant-actuated power devices and industrial guns. Military-type ammunition containing explosive bursting charges, incendiary, tracer, spotting, or pyrotechnic projectiles is excluded from this definition.

(29) The term "small arms ammunition primers" shall be held to mean small percussion-sensitive explosive charges encased in a cup, used to ignite propellant powder and shall include percussion caps as used in muzzle loaders.

(30) The term "smokeless powder" shall be held to mean and include solid chemicals or solid chemical mixtures in excess of fifty pounds which function by rapid combustion.

(31) The term "user" shall be held to mean and include any natural person, manufacturer, or blaster who acquires, purchases, or uses explosives as an ultimate consumer or who supervises such use.

Words used in the singular number shall include the plural, and the plural the singular. [2012 c 117 § 390; 2002 c 370 § 1; 1993 c 293 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 88 § 5; 1970 ex.s. c 72 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 3; 1931 c 111 § 1; RRS § 5440-1.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.013 Funds collected by department.** All funds collected by the department under RCW 70.74.137 through 70.74.146 and 70.74.360 shall be transferred to the state treasurer for deposit into the accident and medical aid funds under RCW 51.44.010 and 51.44.020. [2008 c 285 § 11.]

**Intent—Captions not law—Effective date—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**70.74.020 Restrictions on manufacture, sale, or storage—Users—Reports on storage—Waiver.** (1) No person shall manufacture, possess, store, sell, purchase, transport, or use explosives or blasting agents except in compliance with this chapter.

(2) The director of the department of labor and industries shall make and promulgate rules and regulations concerning qualifications of users of explosives and shall have the authority to issue licenses for users of explosives to effectuate the purpose of this chapter: PROVIDED, That where there is a finding by the director that the use or disposition of explosives in any class of industry presents no unusual hazard to the safety of life or limb of persons employed therewith, and where the users are supervised by a superior in an employment relationship who is sufficiently experienced in the use of explosives, and who possesses a license for such use under this chapter, the director in his or her discretion may exclude said users in those classes of industry from individual licensing.

(3) The director of the department of labor and industries shall make and promulgate rules and regulations concerning the manufacture, sale, purchase, use, transportation, storage, and disposal of explosives, and shall have the authority to issue licenses for the manufacture, purchase, sale, use, transportation, and storage of explosives to effectuate the purpose of this chapter. The director of the department of labor and industries is hereby delegated the authority to grant written waiver of this chapter whenever it can be shown that the manufacturing, handling, or storing of explosives are in compliance with applicable national or federal explosive safety standards: PROVIDED, That any resident of this state who is qualified to purchase explosives in this state and who has complied with the provisions of this chapter applicable to him or her may purchase explosives from an authorized dealer of a bordering state and may transport said explosives into this state for use herein: PROVIDED FURTHER, That residents of this state shall, within ten days of the date of purchase, present to the department of labor and industries a report signed by both vendor and vendee of every purchase from an out of state dealer, said report indicating the date of purchase, name of vendor, vendor's license number, vendor's business address, amount and kind of explosives purchased, the name of the purchaser, the purchaser's license number, and the name of receiver if different than purchaser.

(4) It shall be unlawful to sell, give away, or otherwise dispose of, or deliver to any person under twenty-one years of age any explosives including black powder, and blasting caps or other explosive igniters, whether said person is acting for himself or herself or for any other person: PROVIDED, That small arms ammunition and handloader components shall not be considered explosives for the purposes of this section: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if there is a finding by the director that said use or disposition of explosives poses no unusual hazard to the safety of life or limb in any class of industry, where persons eighteen years of age or older are employed as users, and where said persons are adequately trained and adequately supervised by a superior in an employment relationship who is sufficiently experienced in

the use of explosives, and who possesses a valid license for such use under this chapter, the director in his or her discretion may exclude said persons in that class of industry from said minimum age requirement.

(5) All persons engaged in keeping, using, or storing any compound, mixture, or material, in wet condition, or otherwise, which upon drying out or undergoing other physical changes, may become an explosive within the definition of RCW 70.74.010, shall report in writing subscribed to by such person or his or her agent, to the department of labor and industries, report blanks to be furnished by such department, and such reports to require:

- (a) The kind of compound, mixture, or material kept or stored, and maximum quantity thereof;
- (b) Condition or state of compound, mixture, or material;
- (c) Place where kept or stored.

The department of labor and industries may at any time cause an inspection to be made to determine whether the condition of the compound, mixture, or material is as reported. [2012 c 117 § 391; 1982 c 111 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 88 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 4; 1967 c 99 § 1; 1931 c 111 § 2; RRS § 5440-2.]

**70.74.022 License required to manufacture, purchase, sell, use, possess, transport, or store explosives—Penalty—Surrender of explosives by unlicensed person—Other relief.** (1) It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, purchase, sell, offer for sale, use, possess, transport, or store any explosive, improvised device, or components that are intended to be assembled into an explosive or improvised device without having a validly issued license from the department of labor and industries, which license has not been revoked or suspended. Violation of this section is a class C felony.

(2) Upon notice from the department of labor and industries or any law enforcement agency having jurisdiction, a person manufacturing, purchasing, selling, offering for sale, using, possessing, transporting, or storing any explosive, improvised device, or components of explosives or improvised devices without a license shall immediately surrender those explosives, improvised devices, or components to the department or to the respective law enforcement agency.

(3) At any time that the director of labor and industries requests the surrender of explosives, improvised devices, or components of explosives or improvised devices, from any person pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the director may in addition request the attorney general to make application to the superior court of the county in which the unlawful practice exists for a temporary restraining order or such other relief as appears to be appropriate under the circumstances. [1993 c 293 § 2; 1988 c 198 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.025 Magazines—Classification, location and construction—Standards—Use.** The director of the department of labor and industries shall establish by rule or regulation requirements for classification, location and construction of magazines for storage of explosives in compliance with accepted applicable explosive safety standards. All explosives shall be kept in magazines which meet the requirements of this chapter. [1969 ex.s. c 137 § 9.]

**70.74.030 Quantity and distance tables for storage—Adoption by rule.** All explosive manufacturing buildings and magazines in which explosives or blasting agents except small arms ammunition and smokeless powder are had, kept, or stored, must be located at distances from inhabited buildings, railroads, highways, and public utility transmission systems in conformity with the quantity and distance tables adopted by the department of labor and industries by rule. The department of labor and industries shall adopt the quantity and distance tables promulgated by the federal bureau of alcohol, tobacco, and firearms unless the department determines the tables to be inappropriate. The tables shall be the basis on which applications for storage license[s] are made and storage licenses issued as provided in RCW 70.74.110 and 70.74.120. [1988 c 198 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 88 § 7; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 10; 1931 c 111 § 5; RRS § 5440-5.]

**70.74.040 Limit on storage quantity.** No quantity in excess of three hundred thousand pounds, or the equivalent in blasting caps shall be had, kept or stored in any factory building or magazine in this state. [1970 ex.s. c 72 § 2; 1931 c 111 § 4; RRS § 5440-4.]

**70.74.050 Quantity and distance table for explosives manufacturing buildings.** All explosives manufacturing buildings shall be located one from the other and from other buildings on explosives manufacturing plants in which persons are regularly employed, and all magazines shall be located from factory buildings and buildings on explosives plants in which persons are regularly employed, in conformity with the intraexplosives plant quantity and distance table below set forth:

EXPLOSIVES		
Pounds Over	Pounds Not Over	Distance Feet
		Separate Building or Within Substantial Dividing Walls
....	10	
10	25	40
25	50	60
50	100	80
100	200	100
200	300	120
300	400	130
400	500	140
500	750	160
750	1,000	180
1,000	1,500	210
1,500	2,000	230
2,000	3,000	260
3,000	4,000	280
4,000	5,000	300
5,000	6,000	320
6,000	7,000	340
7,000	8,000	360
8,000	9,000	380
9,000	10,000	400

EXPLOSIVES		
Pounds Over	Pounds Not Over	Distance Feet
		Separate Building or Within Substantial Dividing Walls
10,000	12,500	420
12,500	15,000	450
15,000	17,500	470
17,500	20,000	490
20,000	25,000	530
25,000	30,000	560
30,000	35,000	590
35,000	40,000	620
40,000	45,000	640
45,000	50,000	660
50,000	55,000	680
55,000	60,000	700
60,000	65,000	720
65,000	70,000	740
70,000	75,000	770
75,000	80,000	780
80,000	85,000	790
85,000	90,000	800
90,000	95,000	820
95,000	100,000	830
100,000	125,000	900
125,000	150,000	950
150,000	175,000	1,000
175,000	200,000	1,050
200,000	225,000	1,100
225,000	250,000	1,150

[1972 ex.s. c 88 § 8; 1931 c 111 § 5; RRS § 5440-5.]

**70.74.061 Quantity and distance tables for separation between magazines—Adoption by rule.** Magazines containing blasting caps and electric blasting caps shall be separated from other magazines containing like contents, or from magazines containing explosives by distances set in the quantity and distance tables adopted by the department of labor and industries by rule. The department of labor and industries shall adopt the quantity and distance tables promulgated by the federal bureau of alcohol, tobacco, and firearms unless the department determines the tables to be inappropriate. The tables shall be the basis on which applications for storage license[s] are made and storage licenses issued as provided in RCW 70.74.110 and 70.74.120. [1988 c 198 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 11.]

**70.74.100 Storage of caps with explosives prohibited.** No blasting caps, or other detonating or fulminating caps, or detonators, or flame-producing devices shall be kept or stored in any magazine in which other explosives are kept or stored. [1969 ex.s. c 137 § 12; 1931 c 111 § 10; RRS § 5440-10.]

**70.74.110 Manufacturer's report—Inspection—License.** All persons engaged in the manufacture of explosives, or any process involving explosives, or where explo-

sives are used as a component part in the manufacture of any article or device, on August 11, 1969, shall within sixty days thereafter, and all persons engaging in the manufacture of explosives, or any process involving explosives, or where explosives are used as a component part in the manufacture of any article or device after August 11, 1969, shall, before so engaging, make an application in writing, subscribed to by such person or his or her agent, to the department of labor and industries, the application stating:

- (1) Location of place of manufacture or processing;
- (2) Kind of explosives manufactured, processed, or used;
- (3) The distance that such explosives manufacturing building is located or intended to be located from the other factory buildings, magazines, inhabited buildings, railroads and highways, and public utility transmission systems;
- (4) The name and address of the applicant;
- (5) The reason for desiring to manufacture explosives;
- (6) The applicant's citizenship, if the applicant is an individual;
- (7) If the applicant is a partnership, the names and addresses of the partners, and their citizenship;
- (8) If the applicant is an association or corporation, the names and addresses of the officers and directors thereof, and their citizenship; and
- (9) Such other pertinent information as the director of labor and industries shall require to effectuate the purpose of this chapter.

There shall be kept in the main office on the premises of each explosives manufacturing plant a plan of said plant showing the location of all explosives manufacturing buildings and the distance they are located from other factory buildings where persons are employed and from magazines, and these plans shall at all times be open to inspection by duly authorized inspectors of the department of labor and industries. The superintendent of each plant shall upon demand of said inspector furnish the following information:

- (a) The maximum amount and kind of explosive material which is or will be present in each building at one time.
- (b) The nature and kind of work carried on in each building and whether or not said buildings are surrounded by natural or artificial barricades.

Except as provided in RCW 70.74.370, the department of labor and industries shall as soon as possible after receiving such application cause an inspection to be made of the explosives manufacturing plant, and if found to be in accordance with RCW 70.74.030 and 70.74.050 and 70.74.061, such department shall issue a license to the person applying therefor showing compliance with the provisions of this chapter if the applicant demonstrates that either the applicant or the officers, agents, or employees of the applicant are sufficiently experienced in the manufacture of explosives and the applicant meets the qualifications for a license under RCW 70.74.360. Such license shall continue in full force and effect until expired, suspended, or revoked by the department pursuant to this chapter. [2012 c 117 § 392; 1997 c 58 § 870; 1988 c 198 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 13; 1941 c 101 § 1; 1931 c 111 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 5440-1.]

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.120 Storage report—Inspection—License—Cancellation.** All persons engaged in keeping or storing and all persons having in their possession explosives on August 11, 1969, shall within sixty days thereafter, and all persons engaging in keeping or storing explosives or coming into possession thereof after August 11, 1969, shall before engaging in the keeping or storing of explosives or taking possession thereof, make an application in writing subscribed to by such person or his or her agent, to the department of labor and industries stating:

- (1) The location of the magazine, if any, if then existing, or in case of a new magazine, the proposed location of such magazine;
- (2) The kind of explosives that are kept or stored or possessed or intended to be kept or stored or possessed and the maximum quantity that is intended to be kept or stored or possessed thereat;
- (3) The distance that such magazine is located or intended to be located from other magazines, inhabited buildings, explosives manufacturing buildings, railroads, highways, and public utility transmission systems;
- (4) The name and address of the applicant;
- (5) The reason for desiring to store or possess explosives;
- (6) The citizenship of the applicant if the applicant is an individual;
- (7) If the applicant is a partnership, the names and addresses of the partners and their citizenship;
- (8) If the applicant is an association or corporation, the names and addresses of the officers and directors thereof and their citizenship;
- (9) And such other pertinent information as the director of the department of labor and industries shall require to effectuate the purpose of this chapter.

The department of labor and industries shall, as soon as may be after receiving such application, cause an inspection to be made of the magazine, if then constructed, and, in the case of a new magazine, as soon as may be after same is found to be constructed in accordance with the specification provided in RCW 70.74.025, such department shall determine the amount of explosives that may be kept and stored in such magazine by reference to the quantity and distance tables specified in or adopted under this chapter and shall issue a license to the person applying therefor if the applicant demonstrates that either the applicant or the officers, agents, or employees of the applicant are sufficiently experienced in the handling of explosives and possess suitable storage facilities therefor, and that the applicant meets the qualifications for a license under RCW 70.74.360. Said license shall set forth the maximum quantity of explosives that may be had, kept, or stored by said person. Such license shall be valid until canceled for one or more of the causes hereinafter provided. Whenever by reason of change in the physical conditions surrounding said magazine at the time of the issuance of the license therefor, such as:

- (a) The erection of buildings nearer said magazine;
- (b) The construction of railroads nearer said magazine;
- (c) The opening for public travel of highways nearer said magazine; or
- (d) The construction of public utilities transmission systems near said magazine; then the amounts of explosives

which may be lawfully had, kept, or stored in said magazine must be reduced to conform to such changed conditions in accordance with the quantity and distance table notwithstanding the license, and the department of labor and industries shall modify or cancel such license in accordance with the changed conditions. Whenever any person to whom a license has been issued, keeps or stores in the magazine or has in his or her possession, any quantity of explosives in excess of the maximum amount set forth in said license, or whenever any person fails for thirty days to pay the annual license fee hereinafter provided after the same becomes due, the department is authorized to cancel such license. Whenever a license is canceled by the department for any cause herein specified, the department shall notify the person to whom such license is issued of the fact of such cancellation and shall in said notice direct the removal of all explosives stored in said magazine within ten days from the giving of said notice, or, if the cause of cancellation be the failure to pay the annual license fee, or the fact that explosives are kept for an unlawful purpose, the department of labor and industries shall order such person to dispossess himself or herself of said explosives within ten days from the giving of said notice. Failure to remove the explosives stored in said magazine or to dispossess oneself of the explosives as herein provided within the time specified in said notice shall constitute a violation of this chapter. [2012 c 117 § 393; 1988 c 198 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 14; 1941 c 101 § 2; 1931 c 111 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 5440-12.]

**70.74.130 Dealer in explosives—Application—License.** Every person desiring to engage in the business of dealing in explosives shall apply to the department of labor and industries for a license therefor. Said application shall state, among other things:

- (1) The name and address of applicant;
- (2) The reason for desiring to engage in the business of dealing in explosives;
- (3) Citizenship, if an individual applicant;
- (4) If a partnership, the names and addresses of the partners and their citizenship;
- (5) If an association or corporation, the names and addresses of the officers and directors thereof and their citizenship; and
- (6) Such other pertinent information as the director of labor and industries shall require to effectuate the purpose of this chapter.

Except as provided in RCW 70.74.370, the department of labor and industries shall issue the license if the applicant demonstrates that either the applicant or the principal officers, agents, or employees of the applicant are experienced in the business of dealing in explosives, possess suitable facilities therefor, have not been convicted of any crime that would warrant revocation or nonrenewal of a license under this chapter, and have never had an explosives-related license revoked under this chapter or under similar provisions of any other state. [1997 c 58 § 871; 1988 c 198 § 7; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 16; 1941 c 101 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 5440-12a.]

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2016 Ed.)

**70.74.135 Purchaser of explosives—Application—License.** All persons desiring to purchase explosives except handloader components shall apply to the department of labor and industries for a license. Said application shall state, among other things:

- (1) The location where explosives are to be used;
- (2) The kind and amount of explosives to be used;
- (3) The name and address of the applicant;
- (4) The reason for desiring to use explosives;
- (5) The citizenship of the applicant if the applicant is an individual;
- (6) If the applicant is a partnership, the names and addresses of the partners and their citizenship;
- (7) If the applicant is an association or corporation, the names and addresses of the officers and directors thereof and their citizenship; and
- (8) Such other pertinent information as the director of the department of labor and industries shall require to effectuate the purpose of this chapter.

The department of labor and industries shall issue the license if the applicant demonstrates that either the applicant or the officers, agents or employees of the applicant are sufficiently experienced in the use of explosives to authorize a purchase license. However, no purchaser's license may be issued to any person who cannot document proof of possession or right to use approved and licensed storage facilities unless the person signs a statement certifying that explosives will not be stored. [1988 c 198 § 8; 1971 ex.s. c 302 § 7; 1970 ex.s. c 72 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.137 Purchaser's license fee.** Every person applying for a purchaser's license, or renewal thereof, shall pay an annual license fee of twenty-five dollars. The director of labor and industries may adjust the amount of the license fee to reflect the administrative costs of the department. The fee shall not exceed one hundred dollars.

Said license fee shall accompany the application and shall be transmitted by the department to the state treasurer: PROVIDED, That if the applicant is denied a purchaser's license the license fee shall be returned to said applicant by registered mail. [2008 c 285 § 5; 1988 c 198 § 12; 1972 ex.s. c 88 § 2.]

**Intent—Captions not law—Effective date—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**70.74.140 Storage license fee.** Every person engaging in the business of keeping or storing of explosives shall pay an annual license fee for each magazine maintained, to be graduated by the department of labor and industries according to the quantity kept or stored therein, of fifty dollars. The director of labor and industries may adjust the amount of the license fee to reflect the administrative costs of the department. The fee shall not exceed four hundred dollars.

Said license fee shall accompany the application and shall be transmitted by the department to the state treasurer. [2008 c 285 § 6; 1988 c 198 § 13; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 15; 1931 c 111 § 13; RRS § 5440-13.]

**Intent—Captions not law—Effective date—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

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**70.74.142 User's license or renewal—Fee.** Every person applying for a user's license, or renewal thereof, under this chapter shall pay an annual license fee of fifty dollars. The director of labor and industries may adjust the amount of the license fee to reflect the administrative costs of the department. The fee shall not exceed two hundred dollars.

Said license fee shall accompany the application, and be transmitted by the department to the state treasurer: PROVIDED, That if the applicant is denied a user's license the license fee shall be returned to said applicant by registered mail. [2008 c 285 § 7; 1988 c 198 § 14; 1972 ex.s. c 88 § 1.]

**Intent—Captions not law—Effective date—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**70.74.144 Manufacturer's license fee—Manufacturers to comply with dealer requirements when selling.** Every person engaged in the business of manufacturing explosives shall pay an annual license fee of fifty dollars. The director of labor and industries may adjust the amount of the license fee to reflect the administrative costs of the department. The fee shall not exceed two hundred dollars.

Businesses licensed to manufacture explosives are not required to have a dealer's license, but must comply with all of the dealer requirements of this chapter when they sell explosives.

The license fee shall accompany the application and shall be transmitted by the department to the state treasurer. [2008 c 285 § 8; 1988 c 198 § 15.]

**Intent—Captions not law—Effective date—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**70.74.146 Seller's license fee—Sellers to comply with dealer requirements.** Every person engaged in the business of selling explosives shall pay an annual license fee of fifty dollars. The director of labor and industries may adjust the amount of the license fee to reflect the administrative costs of the department. The fee shall not exceed two hundred dollars.

Businesses licensed to sell explosives must comply with all of the dealer requirements of this chapter.

The license fee shall accompany the application and shall be transmitted by the department to the state treasurer. [2008 c 285 § 9; 1988 c 198 § 16.]

**Intent—Captions not law—Effective date—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**70.74.150 Annual inspection.** The department of labor and industries shall make, or cause to be made, at least one inspection during every year, of each licensed explosives plant or magazine. [1931 c 111 § 14; RRS § 5440-14.]

**70.74.160 Unlawful access to explosives.** No person, except the director of labor and industries or the director's authorized agent, the owner, the owner's agent, or a person authorized to enter by the owner or owner's agent, or a law enforcement officer acting within his or her official capacity, may enter any explosives manufacturing building, magazine or car, vehicle or other common carrier containing explosives in this state. Violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW. [1993 c 293 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 19; 1931 c 111 § 15; RRS § 5440-15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.170 Discharge of firearms or igniting flame near explosives.** No person shall discharge any firearms at or against any magazine or explosives manufacturing buildings or ignite any flame or flame-producing device nearer than two hundred feet from said magazine or explosives manufacturing building. [1969 ex.s. c 137 § 20; 1931 c 111 § 16; RRS § 5440-16.]

**70.74.180 Explosive devices prohibited—Penalty.** Any person who has in his or her possession or control any shell, bomb, or similar device, charged or filled with one or more explosives, intending to use it or cause it to be used for an unlawful purpose, is guilty of a class A felony, and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in a state prison for a term of not more than twenty years. [2003 c 53 § 354; 1984 c 55 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 21; 1931 c 111 § 18; RRS § 5440-18.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**70.74.191 Exemptions.** The laws contained in this chapter and regulations prescribed by the department of labor and industries pursuant to this chapter shall not apply to:

(1) Explosives or blasting agents in the course of transportation by way of railroad, water, highway, or air under the jurisdiction of, and in conformity with, regulations adopted by the federal department of transportation, the Washington state utilities and transportation commission, and the Washington state patrol;

(2) The laboratories of schools, colleges, and similar institutions if confined to the purpose of instruction or research and if not exceeding the quantity of one pound;

(3) Explosives in the forms prescribed by the official United States Pharmacopoeia;

(4) The transportation, storage, and use of explosives or blasting agents in the normal and emergency operations of United States agencies and departments including the regular United States military departments on military reservations; arsenals, navy yards, depots, or other establishments owned by, operated by, or on behalf of, the United States; or the duly authorized militia of any state; or to emergency operations of any state department or agency, any police, or any municipality or county;

(5) A hazardous devices technician when carrying out normal and emergency operations, handling evidence, and operating and maintaining a specially designed emergency response vehicle that carries no more than ten pounds of explosive material or when conducting training and whose employer possesses the minimum safety equipment prescribed by the federal bureau of investigation for hazardous devices work. For purposes of this section, a hazardous devices technician is a person who is a graduate of the federal bureau of investigation hazardous devices school and who is employed by a state, county, or municipality;

(6) The importation, sale, possession, and use of fireworks as defined in chapter 70.77 RCW, signaling devices, flares, fuses, and torpedoes;

(7) The transportation, storage, and use of explosives or blasting agents in the normal and emergency avalanche control procedures as conducted by trained and licensed ski area operator personnel. However, the storage, transportation, and

use of explosives and blasting agents for such use shall meet the requirements of regulations adopted by the director of labor and industries;

(8) The storage of consumer fireworks as defined in chapter 70.77 RCW pursuant to a forfeiture or seizure under chapter 70.77 RCW by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, or his or her deputy, or by state agencies or local governments having general law enforcement authority;

(9) The transportation and storage of explosive actuated tactical devices, including noise and flash diversionary devices, by local law enforcement tactical response teams and officers in law enforcement department-issued vehicles designated for use by tactical response teams and officers, provided the explosive devices are stored and secured in compliance with regulations and rulings adopted by the federal bureau of alcohol, tobacco, firearms and explosives; and

(10) Any violation under this chapter if any existing ordinance of any city, municipality, or county is more stringent than this chapter. [2013 c 140 § 1; 2002 c 370 § 2; 1998 c 40 § 1; 1993 c 293 § 5; 1985 c 191 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 5.]

**Purpose—1985 c 191:** "It is the purpose of this 1985 act to protect the public by enabling ski area operators to exercise appropriate avalanche control measures. The legislature finds that avalanche control is of vital importance to safety in ski areas and that the provisions of the Washington state explosives act contain restrictions which do not reflect special needs for the use of explosives as a means of clearing an area of serious avalanche risks. This 1985 act recognizes these needs while providing for a system of regulations designed to ensure that the use of explosives for avalanche control conforms to fundamental safety requirements." [1985 c 191 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.201 Municipal or county ordinances unaffected—State preemption.** This chapter shall not affect, modify or limit the power of a city, municipality or county in this state to make an ordinance that is more stringent than this chapter which is applicable within their respective corporate limits or boundaries: PROVIDED, That the state shall be deemed to have preempted the field of regulation of small arms ammunition and handloader components. [1970 ex.s. c 72 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 6.]

**70.74.210 Coal mining code unaffected.** All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing in this act shall be construed as amending, limiting, or repealing any provision of chapter 36, session laws of 1917, known as the coal mining code. [1931 c 111 § 22; RRS § 5440-22.]

**70.74.230 Shipments out of state—Dealer's records.** If any manufacturer of explosives or dealer therein shall have shipped any explosives into another state, and the laws of such other state shall designate an officer or agency to regulate the possession, receipt or storage of explosives, and such officer or agency shall so require, such manufacturer shall, at least once each calendar month, file with such officer or agency of such other state a report giving the names of all purchasers and the amount and description of all explosives sold or delivered in such other state. Dealers in explosives shall keep a record of all explosives purchased or sold by them, which record shall include the name and address of each vendor and vendee, the date of each sale or purchase,

and the amount and kind of explosives sold or purchased. Such records shall be open for inspection by the duly authorized agents of the department of labor and industries and by all federal, state and local law enforcement officers at all times, and a copy of such record shall be furnished once each calendar month to the department of labor and industries in such form as said department shall prescribe. [1941 c 101 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 5440-23.]

**70.74.240 Sale to unlicensed person prohibited.** No dealer shall sell, barter, give or dispose of explosives to any person who does not hold a license to purchase explosives issued under the provisions of this chapter. [1970 ex.s. c 72 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 17; 1941 c 101 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 5440-24.]

**70.74.250 Blasting near fur farms and hatcheries.** Between the dates of January 15th and June 15th of each year it shall be unlawful for any person to do, or cause to be done, any blasting within fifteen hundred feet from any fur farm or commercial hatchery except in case of emergency without first giving to the person in charge of such farm or hatchery twenty-four hours notice: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in the case of an established quarry and sand and gravel operations, and where it is necessary for blasting to be done continually, the notice required in this section may be made at the beginning of the period each year when blasting is to be done. [1941 c 107 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 5440-25.]

**70.74.270 Malicious placement of an explosive—Penalties.** A person who maliciously places any explosive or improvised device in, upon, under, against, or near any building, car, vessel, railroad track, airplane, public utility transmission system, or structure, in such manner or under such circumstances as to destroy or injure it if exploded is guilty of:

(1) Malicious placement of an explosive in the first degree if the offense is committed with intent to commit a terrorist act. Malicious placement of an explosive in the first degree is a class A felony;

(2) Malicious placement of an explosive in the second degree if the offense is committed under circumstances not amounting to malicious placement of an explosive in the first degree and if the circumstances and surroundings are such that the safety of any person might be endangered by the explosion. Malicious placement of an explosive in the second degree is a class B felony;

(3) Malicious placement of an explosive in the third degree if the offense is committed under circumstances not amounting to malicious placement of an explosive in the first or second degree. Malicious placement of an explosive in the third degree is a class B felony. [1997 c 120 § 1; 1993 c 293 § 6; 1992 c 7 § 49; 1984 c 55 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 302 § 8; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 23; 1909 c 249 § 400; RRS § 2652.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.272 Malicious placement of an imitation device—Penalties.** (1) A person who maliciously places any imitation device in, upon, under, against, or near any building, car, vessel, railroad track, airplane, public utility transmission system, or structure, with the intent to give the

appearance or impression that the imitation device is an explosive or improvised device, is guilty of:

(a) Malicious placement of an imitation device in the first degree if the offense is committed with intent to commit a terrorist act. Malicious placement of an imitation device in the first degree is a class B felony;

(b) Malicious placement of an imitation device in the second degree if the offense is committed under circumstances not amounting to malicious placement of an imitation device in the first degree. Malicious placement of an imitation device in the second degree is a class C felony.

(2) For purposes of this section, "imitation device" means a device or substance that is not an explosive or improvised device, but which by appearance or representation would lead a reasonable person to believe that the device or substance is an explosive or improvised device. [1997 c 120 § 2.]

**70.74.275 Intimidation or harassment with an explosive—Class C felony.** Unless otherwise allowed to do so under this chapter, a person who exhibits a device designed, assembled, fabricated, or manufactured, to convey the appearance of an explosive or improvised device, and who intends to, and does, intimidate or harass a person, is guilty of a class C felony. [1993 c 293 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.280 Malicious explosion of a substance—Penalties.** A person who maliciously, by the explosion of gunpowder or any other explosive substance or material, destroy or damage any building, car, airplane, vessel, common carrier, railroad track, or public utility transmission system or structure is guilty of:

(1) Malicious explosion of a substance in the first degree if the offense is committed with intent to commit a terrorist act. Malicious explosion of a substance in the first degree is a class A felony;

(2) Malicious explosion of a substance in the second degree if the offense is committed under circumstances not amounting to malicious explosion of a substance in the first degree and if thereby the life or safety of a human being is endangered. Malicious explosion of a substance in the second degree is a class A felony;

(3) Malicious explosion of a substance in the third degree if the offense is committed under circumstances not amounting to malicious explosion of a substance in the first or second degree. Malicious explosion of a substance in the third degree is a class B felony. [1997 c 120 § 3; 1992 c 7 § 50; 1971 ex.s. c 302 § 9; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 24; 1909 c 249 § 401; RRS § 2653.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.285 "Terrorist act" defined.** For the purposes of RCW 70.74.270, 70.74.272, and 70.74.280 "terrorist act" means an act that is intended to: (1) Intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (2) influence the policy of a branch or level of government by intimidation or coercion; (3) affect the conduct of a branch or level of government by intimidation or coercion; or (4) retaliate against a branch or level of government for a policy or conduct of the government. [1997 c 120 § 4.]

**70.74.295 Abandonment of explosives.** It shall be unlawful for any person to abandon explosives or improvised devices. Violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW. [1993 c 293 § 7; 1972 ex.s. c 88 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.297 Separate storage of components capable of detonation when mixed.** Any two components which, when mixed, become capable of detonation by a No. 6 cap must be stored in separate locked containers or in a licensed, approved magazine. [1972 ex.s. c 88 § 4.]

**70.74.300 Explosive containers to be marked—Penalty.** Every person who shall put up for sale, or who shall deliver to any warehouse operator, dock, depot, or common carrier any package, cask, or can containing any explosive, nitroglycerin, dynamite, or powder, without having been properly labeled thereon to indicate its explosive classification, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [2011 c 336 § 840; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 26; 1909 c 249 § 254; RRS § 2506.]

**70.74.310 Gas bombs, explosives, stink bombs, etc.** Any person other than a lawfully constituted peace officer of this state who shall deposit, leave, place, spray, scatter, spread, or throw in any building, or any place, or who shall counsel, aid, assist, encourage, incite, or direct any other person or persons to deposit, leave, place, spray, scatter, spread, or throw, in any building or place, or who shall have in his or her possession for the purpose of, and with the intent of depositing, leaving, placing, spraying, scattering, spreading, or throwing, in any building or place, or of counseling, aiding, assisting, encouraging, inciting, or directing any other person or persons to deposit, leave, place, spray, scatter, spread, or throw, any stink bomb, stink paint, tear bomb, tear shell, explosive, or flame-producing device, or any other device, material, chemical, or substance, which, when exploded or opened, or without such exploding or opening, by reason of its offensive and pungent odor, does or will annoy, injure, endanger, or inconvenience any person or persons, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor: PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to persons in the military service, actually engaged in the performance of military duties, pursuant to orders from competent authority nor to any property owner or person acting under his or her authority in providing protection against the commission of a felony. [2012 c 117 § 394; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 27; 1927 c 245 § 1; RRS § 2504-1.]

**70.74.320 Small arms ammunition, primers and propellants—Transportation regulations.** The federal regulations of the United States department of transportation on the transportation of small arms ammunition, of small arms ammunition primers, and of small arms smokeless propellants are hereby adopted in this chapter by reference.

The director of the department of labor and industries has the authority to issue future regulations in accordance with amendments and additions to the federal regulations of the United States department of transportation on the transportation of small arms ammunition, of small arms ammuni-

tion primers, and of small arms smokeless propellants. [1969 ex.s. c 137 § 28.]

**70.74.330 Small arms ammunition, primers and propellants—Separation from flammable materials.** Small arms ammunition shall be separated from flammable liquids, flammable solids and oxidizing materials by a fire-resistant wall of one-hour rating or by a distance of twenty-five feet. [1969 ex.s. c 137 § 29.]

**70.74.340 Small arms ammunition, primers and propellants—Transportation, storage and display requirements.** Quantities of small arms smokeless propellant (class B) in shipping containers approved by the federal department of transportation not in excess of fifty pounds may be transported in a private vehicle.

Quantities in excess of twenty-five pounds but not to exceed fifty pounds in a private passenger vehicle shall be transported in an approved magazine as specified by the department of labor and industries rules and regulations.

Transportation of quantities in excess of fifty pounds is prohibited in passenger vehicles: PROVIDED, That this requirement shall not apply to duly licensed dealers.

Transportation of quantities in excess of fifty pounds shall be in accordance with federal department of transportation regulations.

Small arms smokeless propellant intended for personal use in quantities not to exceed twenty-five pounds may be stored without restriction in residences; quantities over twenty-five pounds but not to exceed fifty pounds shall be stored in a strong box or cabinet constructed with three-fourths inch plywood (minimum), or equivalent, on all sides, top, and bottom.

Black powder as used in muzzle loading firearms may be transported in a private vehicle or stored without restriction in private residences in quantities not to exceed five pounds.

Not more than seventy-five pounds of small arms smokeless propellant, in containers of one pound maximum capacity may be displayed in commercial establishments.

Not more than twenty-five pounds of black powder as used in muzzle loading firearms may be stored in commercial establishments of which not more than four pounds in containers of one pound maximum capacity may be displayed.

Quantities in excess of one hundred fifty pounds of smokeless propellant or twenty-five pounds of black powder as used in muzzle loading firearms shall be stored in magazines constructed as specified in the rules and regulations for construction of magazines, and located in compliance with this chapter.

All small arms smokeless propellant when stored shall be packed in federal department of transportation approved containers. [1970 ex.s. c 72 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 137 § 30.]

**70.74.350 Small arms ammunition, primers and propellants—Primers, transportation and storage requirements.** Small arms ammunition primers shall not be transported or stored except in the original shipping container approved by the federal department of transportation.

Truck or rail transportation of small arms ammunition primers shall be in accordance with the federal regulation of the United States department of transportation.

No more than twenty-five thousand small arms ammunition primers shall be transported in a private passenger vehicle: PROVIDED, That this requirement shall not apply to duly licensed dealers.

Quantities not to exceed ten thousand small arms ammunition primers may be stored in a residence.

Small arms ammunition primers shall be separate from flammable liquids, flammable solids, and oxidizing materials by a fire-resistant wall of one-hour rating or by a distance of twenty-five feet.

Not more than seven hundred fifty thousand small arms ammunition primers shall be stored in any one building except as next provided; no more than one hundred thousand shall be stored in any one pile, and piles shall be separated by at least fifteen feet.

Quantities of small arms ammunition primers in excess of seven hundred fifty thousand shall be stored in magazines in accordance with RCW 70.74.025. [1969 ex.s. c 137 § 31.]

**70.74.360 Licenses—Fingerprint and criminal record checks—Fee—Licenses prohibited for certain persons—License fees.** (1) The director of labor and industries shall require, as a condition precedent to the original issuance and upon renewal every three years thereafter of any explosive license, fingerprinting and criminal history record information checks of every applicant. In the case of a corporation, fingerprinting and criminal history record information checks shall be required for the management officials directly responsible for the operations where explosives are used if such persons have not previously had their fingerprints recorded with the department of labor and industries. In the case of a partnership, fingerprinting and criminal history record information checks shall be required of all general partners. Such fingerprints as are required by the department of labor and industries shall be submitted on forms provided by the department to the identification section of the Washington state patrol and to the identification division of the federal bureau of investigation in order that these agencies may search their records for prior convictions of the individuals fingerprinted. The Washington state patrol shall provide to the director of labor and industries such criminal record information as the director may request. The applicant shall give full cooperation to the department of labor and industries and shall assist the department of labor and industries in all aspects of the fingerprinting and criminal history record information check. The applicant shall be required to pay the current federal and state fee for fingerprint-based criminal history background checks.

(2) The director of labor and industries shall not issue a license to manufacture, purchase, store, use, or deal with explosives to:

(a) Any person under twenty-one years of age;

(b) Any person whose license is suspended or whose license has been revoked, except as provided in RCW 70.74.370;

(c) Any person who has been convicted in this state or elsewhere of a violent offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030, perjury, false swearing, or bomb threats or a crime involving a schedule I or II controlled substance, or any other drug or alcohol related offense, unless such other drug or alcohol related offense does not reflect a drug or alcohol dependency.

However, the director of labor and industries may issue a license if the person suffering a drug or alcohol related dependency is participating in or has completed an alcohol or drug recovery program acceptable to the department of labor and industries and has established control of their alcohol or drug dependency. The director of labor and industries shall require the applicant to provide proof of such participation and control; or

(d) Any person who has previously been adjudged to be mentally ill or insane, or to be incompetent due to any mental disability or disease and who has not at the time of application been restored to competency.

(3) The director of labor and industries may establish reasonable licensing fees for the manufacture, dealing, purchase, use, and storage of explosives. [2009 c 39 § 1; 2008 c 285 § 10; 1988 c 198 § 3.]

**Intent—Captions not law—Effective date—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**70.74.370 License revocation, nonrenewal, or suspension.** (1) The department of labor and industries shall revoke and not renew the license of any person holding a manufacturer, dealer, purchaser, user, or storage license upon conviction of any of the following offenses, which conviction has become final:

(a) A violent offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030;

(b) A crime involving perjury or false swearing, including the making of a false affidavit or statement under oath to the department of labor and industries in an application or report made pursuant to this title;

(c) A crime involving bomb threats;

(d) A crime involving a schedule I or II controlled substance, or any other drug or alcohol related offense, unless such other drug or alcohol related offense does not reflect a drug or alcohol dependency. However, the department of labor and industries may condition renewal of the license to any convicted person suffering a drug or alcohol dependency who is participating in an alcoholism or drug recovery program acceptable to the department of labor and industries and has established control of their alcohol or drug dependency. The department of labor and industries shall require the licensee to provide proof of such participation and control;

(e) A crime relating to possession, use, transfer, or sale of explosives under this chapter or any other chapter of the Revised Code of Washington.

(2) The department of labor and industries shall revoke the license of any person adjudged to be mentally ill or insane, or to be incompetent due to any mental disability or disease. The director shall not renew the license until the person has been restored to competency.

(3) The department of labor and industries is authorized to suspend, for a period of time not to exceed six months, the license of any person who has violated this chapter or the rules promulgated pursuant to this chapter.

(4) The department of labor and industries may revoke the license of any person who has repeatedly violated this chapter or the rules promulgated pursuant to this chapter, or who has twice had his or her license suspended under this chapter.

(5) The department of labor and industries shall immediately suspend the license or certificate of a person who has

been certified pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a person who is not in compliance with a support order or a \*residential or visitation order. If the person has continued to meet all other requirements for reinstatement during the suspension, reissuance of the license or certificate shall be automatic upon the department of labor and industries' receipt of a release issued by the department of social and health services stating that the licensee is in compliance with the order.

(6) Upon receipt of notification by the department of labor and industries of revocation or suspension, a licensee must surrender immediately to the department any or all such licenses revoked or suspended. [1997 c 58 § 872; 1988 c 198 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** 1997 c 58 § 886 requiring a court to order certification of noncompliance with residential provisions of a court-ordered parenting plan was vetoed. Provisions ordering the department of social and health services to certify a responsible parent based on a court order to certify for non-compliance with residential provisions of a parenting plan were vetoed. See RCW 74.20A.320.

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.380 Licenses—Expiration—Extension of storage licenses.** With the exception of storage licenses for permanent facilities, every license issued under the authority of this chapter shall expire after one year from the date issued unless suspended or revoked. The director of labor and industries may extend the duration of storage licenses for permanent facilities to two years provided the location, distances, and use of the facilities remain unchanged. The fee for the two-year storage license shall be twice the annual fee. [1988 c 198 § 9.]

**70.74.390 Implementation of chapter and rules pursuant to chapter 49.17 RCW.** Unless specifically provided otherwise by statute, this chapter and the rules adopted thereunder shall be implemented and enforced, including penalties, violations, citations, appeals, and other administrative procedures, pursuant to the Washington industrial safety and health act, chapter 49.17 RCW. [1988 c 198 § 11.]

**70.74.400 Seizure and forfeiture.** (1) Explosives, improvised devices, and components of explosives and improvised devices that are possessed, manufactured, delivered, imported, exported, stored, sold, purchased, transported, abandoned, detonated, or used, or intended to be used, in violation of a provision of this chapter are subject to seizure and forfeiture by a law enforcement agency and no property right exists in them.

(2) The law enforcement agency making the seizure shall notify the Washington state department of labor and industries of the seizure.

(3) Seizure of explosives, improvised devices, and components of explosives and improvised devices under subsection (1) of this section may be made if:

(a) The seizure is incident to arrest or a search under a search warrant;

(b) The explosives, improvised devices, or components have been the subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state

in an injunction or forfeiture proceeding based upon this chapter;

(c) A law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the explosives, improvised devices, or components are directly or indirectly dangerous to health or safety; or

(d) The law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the explosives, improvised devices, or components were used or were intended to be used in violation of this chapter.

(4) A law enforcement agency shall destroy explosives seized under this chapter when it is necessary to protect the public safety and welfare. When destruction is not necessary to protect the public safety and welfare, and the explosives are not being held for evidence, a seizure pursuant to this section commences proceedings for forfeiture.

(5) The law enforcement agency under whose authority the seizure was made shall issue a written notice of the seizure and commencement of the forfeiture proceedings to the person from whom the explosives were seized, to any known owner of the explosives, and to any person who has a known interest in the explosives. The notice shall be issued within fifteen days of the seizure. The notice of seizure and commencement of the forfeiture proceedings shall be served in the same manner as provided in RCW 4.28.080 for service of a summons. The law enforcement agency shall provide a form by which the person or persons may request a hearing before the law enforcement agency to contest the seizure.

(6) If no person notifies the seizing law enforcement agency in writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of the explosives, improvised devices, or components within thirty days of the date the notice was issued, the seized explosives, devices, or components shall be deemed forfeited.

(7) If, within thirty days of the issuance of the notice, any person notifies the seizing law enforcement agency in writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of items seized, the person or persons shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard as to the claim or right. The hearing shall be before the chief law enforcement or the officer's designee of the seizing agency, except that the person asserting the claim or right may remove the matter to a court of competent jurisdiction if the aggregate value of the items seized is more than five hundred dollars. The hearing and any appeal shall be conducted according to chapter 34.05 RCW. The seizing law enforcement agency shall bear the burden of proving that the person (a) has no lawful right of ownership or possession and (b) that the items seized were possessed, manufactured, stored, sold, purchased, transported, abandoned, detonated, or used in violation of a provision of this chapter with the person's knowledge or consent.

(8) The seizing law enforcement agency shall promptly return the items seized to the claimant upon a determination that the claimant is entitled to possession of the items seized.

(9) If the items seized are forfeited under this statute, the seizing agency shall dispose of the explosives by summary destruction. However, when explosives are destroyed either to protect public safety or because the explosives were forfeited, the person from whom the explosives were seized loses all rights of action against the law enforcement agency or its employees acting within the scope of their employment,

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or other governmental entity or employee involved with the seizure and destruction of explosives.

(10) This section is not intended to change the seizure and forfeiture powers, enforcement, and penalties available to the department of labor and industries pursuant to chapter 49.17 RCW as provided in RCW 70.74.390. [2002 c 370 § 3; 1993 c 293 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.74.410 Reporting theft or loss of explosives.** A person who knows of a theft or loss of explosives for which that person is responsible under this chapter shall report the theft or loss to the local law enforcement agency within twenty-four hours of discovery of the theft or loss. The local law enforcement agency shall immediately report the theft or loss to the department of labor and industries. [1993 c 293 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### Chapter 70.75 RCW FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT— STANDARDIZATION

#### Sections

70.75.010	Standard thread specified—Exceptions.
70.75.020	Duties of chief of the Washington state patrol.
70.75.030	Duties of chief of the Washington state patrol—Notification of industrial establishments and property owners having equipment.
70.75.040	Sale of nonstandard equipment as misdemeanor—Exceptions.

**70.75.010 Standard thread specified—Exceptions.** All equipment for fire protection purposes, other than for forest firefighting, purchased by state and municipal authorities, or any other authorities having charge of public property, shall be equipped with the standard threads designated as the national standard thread as adopted by the American Insurance Association and defined in its pamphlet No. 194, dated 1963: PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to steamer connections on fire hydrants. [1967 c 152 § 1.]

**70.75.020 Duties of chief of the Washington state patrol.** The standardization of existing fire protection equipment in this state shall be arranged for and carried out by or under the direction of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. He or she shall provide the appliances necessary for carrying on this work, shall proceed with such standardization as rapidly as possible, and shall require the completion of such work within a period of five years from June 8, 1967: PROVIDED, That the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may exempt special purpose fire equipment and existing fire protection equipment from standardization when it is established that such equipment is not essential to the coordination of public fire protection operations. [1995 c 369 § 41; 1986 c 266 § 96; 1967 c 152 § 2.]

*State fire protection: Chapter 43.44 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.75.030 Duties of chief of the Washington state patrol—Notification of industrial establishments and property owners having equipment.** The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protec-

tion, shall notify industrial establishments and property owners having equipment, which may be necessary for fire department use in protecting the property or putting out fire, of any changes necessary to bring their equipment up to the requirements of the standard established by RCW 70.75.020, and shall render such assistance as may be available for converting substandard equipment to meet standard specifications and requirements. [1995 c 369 § 42; 1986 c 266 § 97; 1967 c 152 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.75.040 Sale of nonstandard equipment as misdemeanor—Exceptions.** Any person who, without approval of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, sells or offers for sale in Washington any fire hose, fire engine or other equipment for fire protection purposes which is fitted or equipped with other than the standard thread is guilty of a misdemeanor: PROVIDED, That fire equipment for special purposes, research, programs, forest firefighting, or special features of fire protection equipment found appropriate for uniformity within a particular protection area may be specifically exempted from this requirement by order of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. [1995 c 369 § 43; 1986 c 266 § 98; 1967 c 152 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 70.76 RCW

### POLYBROMINATED DIPHENYL ETHERS—FLAME RETARDANTS

#### Sections

70.76.005	Findings.
70.76.010	Definitions.
70.76.020	Manufacture, sale, or distribution of noncombustible products containing PBDEs—Exemptions.
70.76.030	Manufacture, sale, or distribution of products containing commercial deca-bde—Departments review of commercial deca-bde alternatives—Effective date of prohibitions.
70.76.040	Fire safety committee.
70.76.050	Departments review of commercial deca-bde alternatives and effects of PBDEs in waste stream—Publication.
70.76.060	Exclusions from chapter—Transportation and storage.
70.76.070	Notification to sellers.
70.76.080	Assistance to state agencies.
70.76.090	Retailers—Liability—Existing stock.
70.76.100	Enforcement—Achieving compliance with chapter—Enforcement sequence—Recall—Penalties.
70.76.110	Rules.

**70.76.005 Findings.** Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) have been used extensively as flame retardants in a large number of common household products for the past thirty years. Studies on animals show that PBDEs can impact the developing brain, affecting behavior and learning after birth and into adulthood, making exposure to fetuses and children a particular concern. Levels of PBDEs are increasing in people, and in the environment, particularly in North America. Because people can be exposed to these chemicals through house dust and indoor air as well as through food, it is important to phase out their use in common household products, provided that effective flame retardants that are safer and technically feasible are available at a reasonable cost. [2007 c 65 § 1.]

**70.76.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Comestible" means edible.

(2) "Commercial decabromo diphenyl ether" or "commercial deca-bde" means the chemical mixture of decabromo diphenyl ether, including associated polybrominated diphenyl ether impurities not intentionally added.

(3) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(4) "Electronic enclosure" means the plastic housing that encloses the components of electronic products, including but not limited to televisions and computers.

(5) "Manufacturer" means any person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, governmental entity, organization, or joint venture that produces a product containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers or an importer or domestic distributor of a noncombustible product containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers. A manufacturer does not include a retailer who:

(a) Adds a private label brand or cobrands a product for sale; or

(b) Assembles components to create a single noncombustible product based on an individual consumer preference.

(6) "Mattress" has the same meaning as defined by the United States consumer product safety commission in 16 C.F.R. Part 1633 (2007) as it existed on July 22, 2007, and includes mattress sets, box springs, futons, crib mattresses, and youth mattresses. "Mattress" includes mattress pads.

(7) "Medical device" means an instrument, machine, implant, or diagnostic test used to help diagnose a disease or other condition or to cure, treat, or prevent disease.

(8) "Polybrominated diphenyl ethers" or "PBDEs" means chemical forms that consist of diphenyl ethers bound with bromine atoms. Polybrominated diphenyl ethers include, but are not limited to, the three primary forms of the commercial mixtures known as pentabromo diphenyl ether (penta-bde), octabromo diphenyl ether (octa-bde), and decabromo diphenyl ether (deca-bde).

(9) "Residential upholstered furniture" means residential seating products intended for indoor use in a home or other dwelling intended for residential occupancy that consists in whole or in part of resilient cushioning materials enclosed within a covering consisting of fabric or related materials, if the resilient cushioning materials are sold with the item of upholstered furniture and the upholstered furniture is constructed with a contiguous upholstered seat and back that may include arms.

(10) "Retailer" means a person who offers a product for sale at retail through any means including, but not limited to, remote offerings such as sales outlets, catalogs, or the internet, but does not include a sale that is a wholesale transaction with a distributor or a retailer. A retailer does not include a person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, governmental entity, organization, or joint venture that both manufactures and sells a product at retail.

(11) "Technically feasible" means an alternative that is available at a cost and in sufficient quantity to permit the manufacturer to produce an economically viable product.

(12) "Transportation vehicle" means a mechanized vehicle that is used to transport goods or people including, but not limited to, airplanes, automobiles, motorcycles, trucks,

buses, trains, boats, ships, streetcars, or monorail cars. [2007 c 65 § 2.]

**70.76.020 Manufacture, sale, or distribution of non-comestible products containing PBDEs—Exemptions.** After January 1, 2008, no person may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this state noncomestible products containing PBDEs. Exemptions from the prohibition in this section are limited to the following:

(1) Products containing deca-bde, except as provided in RCW 70.76.030;

(2) The sale or distribution of any used transportation vehicle manufactured before January 1, 2008, with component parts containing PBDEs;

(3) The sale or distribution of any used transportation vehicle parts or new transportation vehicle parts manufactured before January 1, 2008, that contain PBDEs;

(4) The manufacture, sale, repair, distribution, maintenance, refurbishment, or modification of equipment containing PBDEs and used primarily for military or federally funded space program applications. The exemption in this subsection (4) does not cover consumer-based goods with broad applicability;

(5) Federal aviation administration fire worthiness requirements and recommendations;

(6) The manufacture, sale, repair, distribution, maintenance, refurbishment, or modification of any new raw material or component part used in a transportation vehicle with component parts, including original spare parts, containing deca-bde;

(7) The use of commercial deca-bde in the maintenance, refurbishment, or modification of transportation equipment;

(8) The sale or distribution of any product containing PBDEs that has been previously owned, purchased, or sold in commerce, provided it was manufactured before the effective date of the prohibition;

(9) The manufacture, sale, or distribution of any new product or product component consisting of recycled or used materials containing deca-bde;

(10) The sale or purchase of any previously owned product containing PBDEs made in casual or isolated sales as defined in RCW 82.04.040 and to sales by nonprofit organizations;

(11) The manufacture, sale, or distribution of new carpet cushion made from recycled foam containing less than one-tenth of one percent penta-bde; and

(12) Medical devices. [2007 c 65 § 3.]

**70.76.030 Manufacture, sale, or distribution of products containing commercial deca-bde—Departments review of commercial deca-bde alternatives—Effective date of prohibitions.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 70.76.090, no person may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this state mattresses containing commercial deca-bde after January 1, 2008.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 70.76.090, no person may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this state residential upholstered furniture that contains commercial deca-bde, or any televi-

sion or computer that has an electronic enclosure that contains commercial deca-bde after the effective date established in subsection (3) of this section. This prohibition may not take effect until the department and the department of health identify that a safer and technically feasible alternative is available, and the fire safety committee, created in RCW 70.76.040, determines that the identified alternative meets applicable fire safety standards. The effective date of the prohibition must be established according to the following process:

(a) The department and the department of health shall review risk assessments, scientific studies, and other relevant findings regarding alternatives to the use of commercial deca-bde in residential upholstered furniture, televisions, and computers.

(b) If the department and the department of health jointly find that safer and technically feasible alternatives are available for any of these uses, the department shall convene the fire safety committee created in RCW 70.76.040 to determine whether the identified alternatives meet applicable fire safety standards.

(c) By majority vote, the fire safety committee created in RCW 70.76.040 shall make a finding whether an alternative identified under (b) of this subsection meets applicable fire safety standards. The fire safety committee shall report their finding to the state fire marshal. After reviewing the finding of the fire safety committee, the state fire marshal shall determine whether an alternative identified under (b) of this subsection meets applicable fire safety standards. The determination of the fire marshal must be based upon the finding of the fire safety committee. The state fire marshal shall report the determination to the department.

(d) The department shall seek public input on their findings, the findings of the fire safety committee, and the determination by the state fire marshal. The department shall publish these findings in the Washington State Register, and submit them in a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature. The department shall initially report these findings by December 31, 2008.

(3) The effective date of the prohibition is as follows:

(a) If the December 31, 2008, report required in subsection (2)(d) of this section finds that a safer and technically feasible alternative that meets applicable fire safety standards is available, the prohibition takes effect January 1, 2011;

(b) If the December 31, 2008, report required in subsection (2)(d) of this section does not find that a safer and technically feasible alternative that meets applicable fire safety standards is available, the prohibition does not take effect January 1, 2011. Beginning in 2009, by December 31st of each year, the department shall review and report on alternatives as described in subsection (2) of this section. The prohibition in subsection (2) of this section takes effect two years after a report submitted to the legislature required under subsection (2)(d) of this section finds that a safer and technically feasible alternative that meets applicable fire safety standards is available. [2007 c 65 § 4.]

**70.76.040 Fire safety committee.** (1) The fire safety committee is created for the exclusive purpose of finding whether an alternative identified under RCW 70.76.030(2)(b) meets applicable fire safety standards.

(2) A majority vote of the members of the fire safety committee constitutes a finding that an alternative meets applicable fire safety standards.

(3) The fire safety committee consists of the following members:

(a) A representative from the department, who shall chair the fire safety committee, and serve as an ex officio nonvoting member.

(b) Five voting members, appointed by the governor, as follows:

(i) A representative of the office of the state fire marshal;

(ii) A representative of a statewide association representing the interests of fire chiefs;

(iii) A representative of a statewide association representing the interests of fire commissioners;

(iv) A representative of a recognized statewide council, affiliated with an international association representing the interests of firefighters; and

(v) A representative of a statewide association representing the interests of volunteer firefighters. [2007 c 65 § 5.]

**70.76.050 Departments review of commercial deca-bde alternatives and effects of PBDEs in waste stream—Publication.** The department and the department of health shall review risk assessments, scientific studies, and other relevant findings regarding alternatives to the use of commercial deca-bde in products not directly addressed in this chapter. If a flame retardant that is safer and technically feasible becomes available, the department shall convene the fire safety committee created in RCW 70.76.040. The fire safety committee and the state fire marshal shall proceed as required in RCW 70.76.030(2)(c) to determine if the identified alternative meets applicable fire safety standards. The department and the department of health shall also review risk assessments, scientific studies, and other findings regarding the potential effect of PBDEs in the waste stream. By December 31st of the year in which the finding is made, the department must publish the information required by this subsection in the Washington State Register and present it in a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature. [2007 c 65 § 6.]

**70.76.060 Exclusions from chapter—Transportation and storage.** Nothing in this chapter restricts the ability of a manufacturer, importer, or distributor from transporting products containing PBDEs through the state or storing the products in the state for later distribution outside the state. [2007 c 65 § 7.]

**70.76.070 Notification to sellers.** A manufacturer of products containing PBDEs that are restricted under this chapter must notify persons that sell the manufacturer's products in this state about the provisions of this chapter no less than ninety days prior to the effective date of the restrictions. [2007 c 65 § 8.]

**70.76.080 Assistance to state agencies.** The department shall assist state agencies to give priority and preference to the purchase of equipment, supplies, and other products that do not contain PBDEs. [2007 c 65 § 9.]

**70.76.090 Retailers—Liability—Existing stock.** (1)

Retailers who unknowingly sell products prohibited under RCW 70.76.020 or 70.76.030 are not liable under this chapter.

(2) In-state retailers in possession of products on the date that restrictions on the sale of the products become effective under RCW 70.76.020 or 70.76.030 may exhaust their existing stock through sales to the public.

(3) The department must assist in-state retailers in identifying potential products containing PBDEs.

(4) If a retailer unknowingly possesses products that are prohibited for sale under RCW 70.76.020 or 70.76.030 and the manufacturer does not recall the products as required under RCW 70.76.100(2), the retailer may exhaust its existing stock through sales to the public. However, no additional prohibited stock may be sold or offered for sale. [2007 c 65 § 10.]

**70.76.100 Enforcement—Achieving compliance with chapter—Enforcement sequence—Recall—Penalties.** (1) Enforcement of this chapter must rely on notification and information exchange between the department and manufacturers. The department shall achieve compliance with this chapter using the following enforcement sequence:

(a) Before the effective date of the product prohibition in RCW 70.76.020 or 70.76.030, the department shall prepare and distribute information to in-state manufacturers and out-of-state manufacturers, to the maximum extent practicable, to assist them in identifying products prohibited for manufacture, sale, or distribution under this chapter.

(b) The department may request a certificate of compliance from a manufacturer. A certificate of compliance attests that a manufacturer's product or products meets the requirements of this chapter.

(c) The department may issue a warning letter to a manufacturer that produces, sells, or distributes prohibited products in violation of this chapter. The department shall offer information or other appropriate assistance to the manufacturer in complying with this chapter. If, after one year, compliance is not achieved, penalties may be assessed under subsection (3) of this section.

(2) A manufacturer that knowingly produces, sells, or distributes a product prohibited from manufacture, sale, or distribution in this state under this chapter shall recall the product and reimburse the retailer or any other purchaser for the product and any applicable shipping and handling for returning the products.

(3) A manufacturer of products containing PBDEs in violation of this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation in the case of a first offense. Manufacturers who are repeat violators are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars for each repeat offense. Penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state toxics control account created in RCW 70.105D.070. [2007 c 65 § 11.]

**70.76.110 Rules.** The department may adopt rules to fully implement this chapter. [2007 c 65 § 12.]

**Chapter 70.77 RCW  
STATE FIREWORKS LAW**

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*State building code: Chapter 19.27 RCW.*

**70.77.111 Intent.** The legislature declares that fireworks, when purchased and used in compliance with the laws of the state of Washington, are legal. The legislature intends that this chapter is regulatory only, and not prohibitory. [1995 c 61 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.120 Definitions—To govern chapter.** The definitions set forth in this chapter shall govern the construction of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires. [1961 c 228 § 1.]

**70.77.124 Definitions—"City."** "City" means any incorporated city or town. [1995 c 61 § 2; 1994 c 133 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.126 Definitions—"Fireworks."** "Fireworks" means any composition or device designed to produce a visible or audible effect by combustion, deflagration, or detonation, and which meets the definition of articles pyrotechnic or consumer fireworks or display fireworks. [2002 c 370 § 4; 1995 c 61 § 3; 1984 c 249 § 1; 1982 c 230 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.131 Definitions—"Display fireworks."** "Display fireworks" means large fireworks designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion, deflagration, or detonation and includes, but is not limited to, salutes containing more than 2 grains (130 mg) of explosive materials, aerial shells containing more than 40 grams of pyrotechnic compositions, and other display pieces which exceed the limits of explosive materials for classification as "consumer fireworks" and are classified as fireworks UN0333, UN0334,

or UN0335 by the United States department of transportation at 49 C.F.R. Sec. 172.101 as of June 13, 2002, and including fused setpieces containing components which exceed 50 mg of salute powder. [2002 c 370 § 5; 1995 c 61 § 4; 1984 c 249 § 2; 1982 c 230 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.136 Definitions—"Consumer fireworks."** "Consumer fireworks" means any small firework device designed to produce visible effects by combustion and which must comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations of the United States consumer product safety commission, as set forth in 16 C.F.R. Parts 1500 and 1507 and including some small devices designed to produce audible effects, such as whistling devices, ground devices containing 50 mg or less of explosive materials, and aerial devices containing 130 mg or less of explosive materials and classified as fireworks UN0336 by the United States department of transportation at 49 C.F.R. Sec. 172.101 as of June 13, 2002, and not including fused setpieces containing components which together exceed 50 mg of salute powder. [2002 c 370 § 6; 1995 c 61 § 5; 1984 c 249 § 3; 1982 c 230 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.138 Definitions—"Articles pyrotechnic."** "Articles pyrotechnic" means pyrotechnic devices for professional use similar to consumer fireworks in chemical composition and construction but not intended for consumer use which meet the weight limits for consumer fireworks but which are not labeled as such and which are classified as UN0431 or UN0432 by the United States department of transportation at 49 C.F.R. Sec. 172.101 as of June 13, 2002. [2002 c 370 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.141 Definitions—"Agricultural and wildlife fireworks."** "Agricultural and wildlife fireworks" includes fireworks devices distributed to farmers, ranchers, and growers through a wildlife management program administered by the United States department of the interior or an equivalent state or local governmental agency. [2002 c 370 § 8; 1982 c 230 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.146 Definitions—"Special effects."** "Special effects" means any combination of chemical elements or chemical compounds capable of burning independently of the oxygen of the atmosphere, and designed and intended to produce an audible, visual, mechanical, or thermal effect as an integral part of a motion picture, radio, television, theatrical, or opera production, or live entertainment. [1995 c 61 § 8; 1994 c 133 § 1; 1984 c 249 § 4; 1982 c 230 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.160 Definitions—"Public display of fireworks."** "Public display of fireworks" means an entertainment feature where the public is or could be admitted or allowed to view the display or discharge of display fireworks. [2002 c 370 § 9; 1997 c 182 § 1; 1982 c 230 § 6; 1961 c 228 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.165 Definitions—"Fire nuisance."** "Fire nuisance" means anything or any act which increases, or may cause an increase of, the hazard or menace of fire to a greater degree than customarily recognized as normal by persons in the public service of preventing, suppressing, or extinguishing fire; or which may obstruct, delay, or hinder, or may become the cause of any obstruction, delay, or a hindrance to the prevention or extinguishment of fire. [1961 c 228 § 10.]

**70.77.170 Definitions—"License."** "License" means a nontransferable formal authorization which the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, is authorized to issue under this chapter to allow a person to engage in the act specifically designated therein. [2002 c 370 § 10; 1995 c 369 § 44; 1986 c 266 § 99; 1982 c 230 § 7; 1961 c 228 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.175 Definitions—"Licensee."** "Licensee" means any person issued a fireworks license in conformance with this chapter. [2002 c 370 § 11; 1961 c 228 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.177 Definitions—"Local fire official."** "Local fire official" means the chief of a local fire department or a chief fire protection officer or such other person as may be designated by the governing body of a city or county to act as a local fire official under this chapter. [1994 c 133 § 3; 1984 c 249 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.180 Definitions—"Permit."** "Permit" means the official authorization granted by a city or county for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place within the jurisdiction of the city or county where fireworks are manufactured, constructed, produced, packaged, stored, sold, or exchanged and the official authorization granted by a city or county for a public display of fireworks. [2002 c 370 § 12; 1995 c 61 § 9; 1984 c 249 § 5; 1982 c 230 § 8; 1961 c 228 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.182 Definitions—"Permittee."** "Permittee" means any person issued a fireworks permit in conformance with this chapter. [2002 c 370 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.190 Definitions—"Person."** "Person" includes any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, concern, corporation, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, syndicate, or any other group or combination acting as a unit. [1961 c 228 § 15.]

**70.77.200 Definitions—"Importer."** "Importer" includes any person who for any purpose other than personal use:

(1) Brings fireworks into this state or causes fireworks to be brought into this state;

(2) Procures the delivery or receives shipments of any fireworks into this state; or

(3) Buys or contracts to buy fireworks for shipment into this state. [1995 c 61 § 10; 1961 c 228 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.205 Definitions—"Manufacturer."** "Manufacturer" includes any person who manufactures, makes, constructs, fabricates, or produces any fireworks article or device but does not include persons who assemble or fabricate sets or mechanical pieces in public displays of fireworks or persons who assemble consumer fireworks items or sets or packages containing consumer fireworks items. [2002 c 370 § 14; 1995 c 61 § 11; 1961 c 228 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.210 Definitions—"Wholesaler."** "Wholesaler" includes any person who sells fireworks to a retailer or any other person for resale and any person who sells display fireworks to public display licensees. [2002 c 370 § 15; 1982 c 230 § 9; 1961 c 228 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.215 Definitions—"Retailer."** "Retailer" includes any person who, at a fixed location or place of business, offers for sale, sells, or exchanges for consideration consumer fireworks to a consumer or user. [2002 c 370 § 16; 1982 c 230 § 10; 1961 c 228 § 20.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.230 Definitions—"Pyrotechnic operator."** "Pyrotechnic operator" includes any individual who by experience and training has demonstrated the required skill and ability for safely setting up and discharging display fireworks. [2002 c 370 § 17; 1982 c 230 § 11; 1961 c 228 § 23.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.236 Definitions—"New fireworks item."** (1) "New fireworks item" means any fireworks initially classified or reclassified as articles pyrotechnic, display fireworks, or consumer fireworks by the United States department of transportation after June 13, 2002, and which comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations of the United States consumer products safety commission, 16 C.F.R., Parts 1500 and 1507.

(2) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall classify any new fireworks item in the same manner as the item is classified by the United States department of transportation and the United States consumer product safety commission. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may determine, stating reasonable grounds, that the item should not be so classified. [2002 c 370 § 18; 1997 c 182 § 4; 1995 c 61 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.241 Definitions—"Permanent storage"—"Temporary storage."** (1) "Permanent storage" means storage of display fireworks at any time and/or storage of consumer fireworks at any time other than the periods allowed

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under RCW 70.77.420(2) and 70.77.425 and which shall be in compliance with the requirements of chapter 70.74 RCW.

(2) "Temporary storage" means the storage of consumer fireworks during the periods allowed under RCW 70.77.420(2) and 70.77.425. [2002 c 370 § 34.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.250 Chief of the Washington state patrol to enforce and administer—Powers and duties.** (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall enforce and administer this chapter.

(2) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall appoint such deputies and employees as may be necessary and required to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(3) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall adopt those rules relating to fireworks as are necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

(4) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall adopt those rules as are necessary to ensure statewide minimum standards for the enforcement of this chapter. Counties and cities shall comply with these state rules. Any ordinances adopted by a county or city that are more restrictive than state law shall have an effective date no sooner than one year after their adoption.

(5) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may exercise the necessary police powers to enforce the criminal provisions of this chapter. This grant of police powers does not prevent any other state agency and city, county, or local government agency having general law enforcement powers from enforcing this chapter within the jurisdiction of the agency and city, county, or local government.

(6) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall adopt rules necessary to enforce the civil penalty provisions for the violations of this chapter. A civil penalty under this subsection may not exceed one thousand dollars per day for each violation and is subject to the procedural requirements under RCW 70.77.252.

(7) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may investigate or cause to be investigated all fires resulting, or suspected of resulting, from the use of fireworks. [2002 c 370 § 19; 1997 c 182 § 5. Prior: 1995 c 369 § 45; 1995 c 61 § 12; 1986 c 266 § 100; 1984 c 249 § 7; 1982 c 230 § 12; 1961 c 228 § 27.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.252 Civil penalty—Notice—Remission, mitigation, review.** (1) The penalty provided for in RCW 70.77.250(6) shall be imposed by a notice in writing to the person against whom the civil fine is assessed and shall describe the violation with reasonable particularity. The notice shall be personally served in the manner of service of a summons in a civil action or in a manner which shows proof of receipt. Any penalty imposed by RCW 70.77.250(6) shall become due and payable twenty-eight days after receipt of notice unless application for remission or mitigation is made as provided in subsection (2) of this section or unless application for an adjudicative proceeding is filed as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) Within fourteen days after the notice is received, the person incurring the penalty may apply in writing to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, for the remission or mitigation of the penalty. Upon receipt of the application, the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may remit or mitigate the penalty upon whatever terms the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, deems proper, giving consideration to the degree of hazard associated with the violation. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may only grant a remission or mitigation that it deems to be in the best interests of carrying out the purposes of this chapter. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may ascertain the facts regarding all such applications in a manner it deems proper. When an application for remission or mitigation is made, any penalty incurred under RCW 70.77.250(6) becomes due and payable twenty-eight days after receipt of the notice setting forth the disposition of the application, unless an application for an adjudicative proceeding to contest the disposition is filed as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) Within twenty-eight days after notice is received, the person incurring the penalty may file an application for an adjudicative proceeding and may pursue subsequent review as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW and applicable rules of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

(4) Any penalty imposed by final order following an adjudicative proceeding becomes due and payable upon service of the final order.

(5) The attorney general may bring an action in the name of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, in the superior court of Thurston county or of any county in which the violator may do business to collect any penalty imposed under this chapter.

(6) All penalties imposed under this section shall be paid to the state treasury and credited to the fire services trust fund and used as follows: At least fifty percent is for a statewide public education campaign developed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, and the licensed fireworks industry emphasizing the safe and responsible use of legal fireworks; and the remainder is for statewide efforts to enforce this chapter. [2002 c 370 § 20.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.255 Acts prohibited without appropriate licenses and permits—Minimum age for license or permit—Activities permitted without license or permit.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no person, without appropriate state licenses and city or county permits as required by this chapter may:

- (a) Manufacture, import, possess, or sell any fireworks at wholesale or retail for any use;
- (b) Make a public display of fireworks;
- (c) Transport fireworks, except as a licensee or as a public carrier delivering to a licensee; or
- (d) Knowingly manufacture, import, transport, store, sell, or possess with intent to sell, as fireworks, explosives, as

defined under RCW 70.74.010, that are not fireworks, as defined under this chapter.

(2) Except as authorized by a license and permit under subsection (1)(b) of this section or as provided in RCW 70.77.311, no person may discharge display fireworks at any place.

(3) No person less than eighteen years of age may apply for or receive a license or permit under this chapter.

(4) No license or permit is required for the possession or use of consumer fireworks lawfully purchased at retail. [2002 c 370 § 21; 1997 c 182 § 6; 1995 c 61 § 13; 1994 c 133 § 4; 1984 c 249 § 10; 1982 c 230 § 14; 1961 c 228 § 28.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.260 Application for permit.** (1) Any person desiring to do any act mentioned in RCW 70.77.255(1) (a) or (c) shall apply in writing to a local fire official for a permit.

(2) Any person desiring to put on a public display of fireworks under RCW 70.77.255(1)(b) shall apply in writing to a local fire official for a permit. Application shall be made at least ten days in advance of the proposed display. [1984 c 249 § 11; 1982 c 230 § 15; 1961 c 228 § 29.]

*General license holders to file license certificate with application for permit for public display of fireworks: RCW 70.77.355.*

**70.77.265 Investigation, report on permit application.** The local fire official receiving an application for a permit under RCW 70.77.260(1) shall investigate the application and submit a report of findings and a recommendation for or against the issuance of the permit, together with reasons, to the governing body of the city or county. [1994 c 133 § 5; 1984 c 249 § 12; 1961 c 228 § 30.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.270 Governing body to grant permits—Statewide standards—Liability insurance.** (1) The governing body of a city or county, or a designee, shall grant an application for a permit under RCW 70.77.260(1) if the application meets the standards under this chapter, and the applicable ordinances of the city or county. The permit shall be granted by June 10, or no less than thirty days after receipt of an application whichever date occurs first, for sales commencing on June 28 and on December 27; or by December 10, or no less than thirty days after receipt of an application whichever date occurs first, for sales commencing only on December 27.

(2) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall prescribe uniform, statewide standards for retail fireworks stands including, but not limited to, the location of the stands, setback requirements and siting of the stands, types of buildings and construction material that may be used for the stands, use of the stands and areas around the stands, cleanup of the area around the stands, transportation of fireworks to and from the stands, and temporary storage of fireworks associated with the retail fireworks stands. All cities and counties which allow retail fireworks sales shall comply with these standards.

(3) No retail fireworks permit may be issued to any applicant unless the retail fireworks stand is covered by a liability insurance policy with coverage of not less than fifty thousand dollars and five hundred thousand dollars for bodily

injury liability for each person and occurrence, respectively, and not less than fifty thousand dollars for property damage liability for each occurrence, unless such insurance is not readily available from at least three approved insurance companies. If insurance in this amount is not offered, each fireworks permit shall be covered by a liability insurance policy in the maximum amount offered by at least three different approved insurance companies.

No wholesaler may knowingly sell or supply fireworks to any retail fireworks licensee unless the wholesaler determines that the retail fireworks licensee is covered by liability insurance in the same, or greater, amount as provided in this subsection. [2002 c 370 § 22; 1997 c 182 § 8; 1995 c 61 § 14; 1994 c 133 § 6; 1984 c 249 § 13; 1961 c 228 § 31.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.280 Public display permit—Investigation—Governing body to grant—Conditions.** The local fire official receiving an application for a permit under RCW 70.77.260(2) for a public display of fireworks shall investigate whether the character and location of the display as proposed would be hazardous to property or dangerous to any person. Based on the investigation, the official shall submit a report of findings and a recommendation for or against the issuance of the permit, together with reasons, to the governing body of the city or county. The governing body shall grant the application if it meets the requirements of this chapter and the ordinance of the city or county. [1995 c 61 § 15; 1994 c 133 § 7; 1984 c 249 § 14; 1961 c 228 § 33.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.285 Public display permit—Bond or insurance for liability.** Except as provided in RCW 70.77.355, the applicant for a permit under RCW 70.77.260(2) for a public display of fireworks shall include with the application evidence of a bond issued by an authorized surety company. The bond shall be in the amount required by RCW 70.77.295 and shall be conditioned upon the applicant's payment of all damages to persons or property resulting from or caused by such public display of fireworks, or any negligence on the part of the applicant or its agents, servants, employees, or subcontractors in the presentation of the display. Instead of a bond, the applicant may include a certificate of insurance evidencing the carrying of appropriate liability insurance in the amount required by RCW 70.77.295 for the benefit of the person named therein as assured, as evidence of ability to respond in damages. The local fire official receiving the application shall approve the bond or insurance if it meets the requirements of this section. [1995 c 61 § 16; 1984 c 249 § 15; 1982 c 230 § 16; 1961 c 228 § 34.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.290 Public display permit—Granted for exclusive purpose.** If a permit under RCW 70.77.260(2) for the public display of fireworks is granted, the sale, possession and use of fireworks for the public display is lawful for that purpose only. [1997 c 182 § 9; 1984 c 249 § 16; 1961 c 228 § 35.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.295 Public display permit—Amount of bond or insurance.** In the case of an application for a permit under RCW 70.77.260(2) for the public display of fireworks, the amount of the surety bond or certificate of insurance required under RCW 70.77.285 shall be not less than fifty thousand dollars and one million dollars for bodily injury liability for each person and event, respectively, and not less than twenty-five thousand dollars for property damage liability for each event. [1984 c 249 § 17; 1982 c 230 § 17; 1961 c 228 § 36.]

**70.77.305 Chief of the Washington state patrol to issue licenses—Registration of in-state agents.** The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, has the power to issue licenses for the manufacture, importation, sale, and use of all fireworks in this state, except as provided in RCW 70.77.311 and 70.77.395. A person may be licensed as a manufacturer, importer, or wholesaler under this chapter only if the person has a designated agent in this state who is registered with the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. [2002 c 370 § 23; 1995 c 369 § 46; 1986 c 266 § 101; 1984 c 249 § 18; 1982 c 230 § 18; 1961 c 228 § 38.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.311 Exemptions from licensing—Purchase of certain agricultural and wildlife fireworks by government agencies—Purchase of consumer fireworks by religious or private organizations.** (1) No license is required for the purchase of agricultural and wildlife fireworks by government agencies if:

(a) The agricultural and wildlife fireworks are used for wildlife control or are distributed to farmers, ranchers, or growers through a wildlife management program administered by the United States department of the interior or an equivalent state or local governmental agency;

(b) The distribution is in response to a written application describing the wildlife management problem that requires use of the devices;

(c) It is of no greater quantity than necessary to control the described problem; and

(d) It is limited to situations where other means of control are unavailable or inadequate.

(2) No license is required for religious organizations or private organizations or persons to purchase or use consumer fireworks and such audible ground devices as firecrackers, salutes, and chasers if:

(a) Purchased from a licensed manufacturer, importer, or wholesaler;

(b) For use on prescribed dates and locations;

(c) For religious or specific purposes; and

(d) A permit is obtained from the local fire official. No fee may be charged for this permit. [2002 c 370 § 24; 1995 c 61 § 17; 1984 c 249 § 19; 1982 c 230 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.315 Application for license.** Any person who desires to engage in the manufacture, importation, sale, or use of fireworks, except use as provided in RCW 70.77.255(4), 70.77.311, and 70.77.395, shall make a written application to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, on forms provided by him or her. Such

application shall be accompanied by the annual license fee as prescribed in this chapter. [2002 c 370 § 25; 1997 c 182 § 10. Prior: 1995 c 369 § 47; 1995 c 61 § 18; 1986 c 266 § 102; 1982 c 230 § 20; 1961 c 228 § 40.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**70.77.320 Application for license to be signed.** The application for a license shall be signed by the applicant. If application is made by a partnership, it shall be signed by each partner of the partnership, and if application is made by a corporation, it shall be signed by an officer of the corporation and bear the seal of the corporation. [1961 c 228 § 41.]

**70.77.325 Annual application for a license—Dates.**

(1) An application for a license shall be made annually by every person holding an existing license who wishes to continue the activity requiring the license during an additional year. The application shall be accompanied by the annual license fees as prescribed in RCW 70.77.343 and 70.77.340.

(2) A person applying for an annual license as a retailer under this chapter shall file an application no later than May 1 for annual sales commencing on June 28 and on December 27, or no later than November 1 for sales commencing only on December 27. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall grant or deny the license within fifteen days of receipt of the application.

(3) A person applying for an annual license as a manufacturer, importer, or wholesaler under this chapter shall file an application by January 31 of the current year. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall grant or deny the license within ninety days of receipt of the application. [1997 c 182 § 11; 1994 c 133 § 8; 1991 c 135 § 4; 1986 c 266 § 103; 1984 c 249 § 20; 1982 c 230 § 21; 1961 c 228 § 42.]

**Intent—Effective date—Severability—1991 c 135:** See notes following RCW 43.43.946.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**70.77.330 License to engage in particular act to be issued if not contrary to public safety or welfare—Transportation of fireworks authorized.** If the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, finds that the granting of such license is not contrary to public safety or welfare, he or she shall issue a license authorizing the applicant to engage in the particular act or acts upon the payment of the license fee specified in this chapter. Licensees may transport the class of fireworks for which they hold a valid license. [2002 c 370 § 26; 1995 c 369 § 48; 1986 c 266 § 104; 1982 c 230 § 22; 1961 c 228 § 43.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**70.77.335 License authorizes activities of sellers, authorized representatives, employees.** The authorization to engage in the particular act or acts conferred by a license to a person shall extend to sellers, authorized representatives, and other employees of such person. [2002 c 370 § 27; 1982 c 230 § 23; 1961 c 228 § 44.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**70.77.340 Annual license fees.** The original and annual license fee shall be as follows:

Manufacturer .....	\$	500.00
Importer .....		100.00
Wholesaler .....		1,000.00
Retailer (for each separate retail outlet) .....		10.00
Public display for display fireworks ...		10.00
Pyrotechnic operator for display fireworks .....		5.00

[2002 c 370 § 28; 1982 c 230 § 24; 1961 c 228 § 45.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**70.77.343 License fees—Additional.** (1) License fees, in addition to the fees in RCW 70.77.340, shall be charged as follows:

Manufacturer .....	\$	1,500.00
Importer .....		900.00
Wholesaler .....		1,000.00
Retailer (for each separate outlet) .....		30.00
Public display for display fireworks ...		40.00
Pyrotechnic operator for display fireworks .....		5.00

(2) All receipts from the license fees in this section shall be placed in the fire services trust fund and at least seventy-five percent of these receipts shall be used to fund a statewide public education campaign developed by the chief of the Washington state patrol and the licensed fireworks industry emphasizing the safe and responsible use of legal fireworks and the remaining receipts shall be used to fund statewide enforcement efforts against the sale and use of fireworks that are illegal under this chapter. [2002 c 370 § 29; 1997 c 182 § 12; 1995 c 61 § 19; 1991 c 135 § 6.]

**Intent—Effective date—Severability—1991 c 135:** See notes following RCW 43.43.946.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**70.77.345 Duration of licenses and retail fireworks sales permits.** Every license and every retail fireworks sales permit issued shall be for the period from January 1st of the year for which the application is made through January 31st of the subsequent year, or the remaining portion thereof. [1997 c 182 § 13; 1995 c 61 § 20; 1991 c 135 § 5; 1982 c 230 § 25; 1961 c 228 § 46.]

**Intent—Effective date—Severability—1991 c 135:** See notes following RCW 43.43.946.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**70.77.355 General license for public display—Surety bond or insurance—Filing of license certificate with local permit application.** (1) Any adult person may secure a general license from the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, for the public display of fireworks within the state of Washington. A general license is subject to the provisions of this chapter relative to the securing of local permits for the public display of fire-

works in any city or county, except that in lieu of filing the bond or certificate of public liability insurance with the appropriate local official under RCW 70.77.260 as required in RCW 70.77.285, the same bond or certificate shall be filed with the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. The bond or certificate of insurance for a general license in addition shall provide that: (a) The insurer will not cancel the insured's coverage without fifteen days prior written notice to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection; (b) the duly licensed pyrotechnic operator required by law to supervise and discharge the public display, acting either as an employee of the insured or as an independent contractor and the state of Washington, its officers, agents, employees, and servants are included as additional insureds, but only insofar as any operations under contract are concerned; and (c) the state is not responsible for any premium or assessments on the policy.

(2) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may issue such general licenses. The holder of a general license shall file a certificate from the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, evidencing the license with any application for a local permit for the public display of fireworks under RCW 70.77.260. [1997 c 182 § 14; 1994 c 133 § 9; 1986 c 266 § 105; 1984 c 249 § 21; 1982 c 230 § 26; 1961 c 228 § 48.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.360 Denial of license for material misrepresentation or if contrary to public safety or welfare.** If the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, finds that an application for any license under this chapter contains a material misrepresentation or that the granting of any license would be contrary to the public safety or welfare, the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may deny the application for the license. [1995 c 369 § 49; 1986 c 266 § 106; 1984 c 249 § 22; 1982 c 230 § 27; 1961 c 228 § 49.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.365 Denial of license for failure to meet qualifications or conditions.** A written report by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, or a local fire official, or any of their authorized representatives, disclosing that the applicant for a license, or the premises for which a license is to apply, do not meet the qualifications or conditions for a license constitutes grounds for the denial by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, of any application for a license. [1995 c 369 § 50; 1986 c 266 § 107; 1984 c 249 § 23; 1982 c 230 § 28; 1961 c 228 § 50.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.370 Hearing on denial of license.** Any applicant who has been denied a license for reasons other than making application after the date set forth in RCW 70.77.325 is entitled to a hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act. [1994 c 133 § 10; 1989 c 175 § 129; 1982 c 230 § 29; 1961 c 228 § 51.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.375 Revocation of license.** The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, upon reasonable opportunity to be heard, may revoke any license issued pursuant to this chapter, if he or she finds that:

(1) The licensee has violated any provisions of this chapter or any rule made by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, under and with the authority of this chapter;

(2) The licensee has created or caused a fire nuisance;

(3) Any licensee has failed or refused to file any required reports; or

(4) Any fact or condition exists which, if it had existed at the time of the original application for such license, reasonably would have warranted the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, in refusing originally to issue such license. [1997 c 182 § 16; 1995 c 369 § 51; 1995 c 61 § 21; 1986 c 266 § 108; 1982 c 230 § 30; 1961 c 228 § 52.]

**Reviser's note:** RCW 70.77.375 was amended twice during the 1995 legislative session, each without reference to the other. This section was subsequently amended by 1997 c 182 § 16, combining the text of the 1995 amendments, but not reenacting those sections. Any subsequent amendments to this section should include the 1997 and both 1995 histories in a reenactment.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.381 Wholesalers and retailers—Liability insurance requirements.** (1) Every wholesaler shall carry liability insurance for each wholesale and retail fireworks outlet it operates in the amount of not less than fifty thousand dollars and five hundred thousand dollars for bodily injury liability for each person and occurrence, respectively, and not less than fifty thousand dollars for property damage liability for each occurrence, unless such insurance is not available from at least three approved insurance companies. If insurance in this amount is not offered, each wholesale and retail outlet shall be covered by a liability insurance policy in the maximum amount offered by at least three different approved insurance companies.

(2) No wholesaler may knowingly sell or supply fireworks to any retail licensee unless the wholesaler determines that the retail licensee carries liability insurance in the same, or greater, amount as provided in subsection (1) of this section. [2002 c 370 § 30; 1995 c 61 § 27.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.386 Retailers—Purchase from licensed wholesalers.** Retail fireworks licensees shall purchase all fireworks from wholesalers possessing a valid wholesale license issued by the state of Washington. [1995 c 61 § 28.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.395 Dates and times consumer fireworks may be sold or discharged—Local governments may limit, prohibit sale or discharge of fireworks.** (1) It is legal to sell and purchase consumer fireworks within this state from twelve o'clock noon to eleven o'clock p.m. on the twenty-eighth of June, from nine o'clock a.m. to eleven o'clock p.m. on each day from the twenty-ninth of June through the fourth of July, from nine o'clock a.m. to nine o'clock p.m. on the fifth of July, from twelve o'clock noon to eleven o'clock p.m.

on each day from the twenty-seventh of December through the thirty-first of December of each year, and as provided in RCW 70.77.311.

(2) Consumer fireworks may be used or discharged each day between the hours of twelve o'clock noon and eleven o'clock p.m. on the twenty-eighth of June and between the hours of nine o'clock a.m. and eleven o'clock p.m. on the twenty-ninth of June to the third of July, and on July 4th between the hours of nine o'clock a.m. and twelve o'clock midnight, and between the hours of nine o'clock a.m. and eleven o'clock p.m. on July 5th, and from six o'clock p.m. on December 31st until one o'clock a.m. on January 1st of the subsequent year, and as provided in RCW 70.77.311.

(3) A city or county may enact an ordinance within sixty days of June 13, 2002, to limit or prohibit the sale, purchase, possession, or use of consumer fireworks on December 27, 2002, through December 31, 2002, and thereafter as provided in RCW 70.77.250(4). [2002 c 370 § 31; 1995 c 61 § 22; 1984 c 249 § 24; 1982 c 230 § 31; 1961 c 228 § 56.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.401 Sale of certain fireworks prohibited.** No fireworks may be sold or offered for sale to the public as consumer fireworks which are classified as sky rockets, or missile-type rockets, firecrackers, salutes, or chasers as defined by the United States department of transportation and the federal consumer products safety commission except as provided in RCW 70.77.311. [2002 c 370 § 32; 1995 c 61 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.405 Authorized sales of toy caps, tricks, and novelties.** Toy paper caps containing not more than twenty-five hundredths grain of explosive compound for each cap and trick or novelty devices not classified as consumer fireworks may be sold at all times unless prohibited by local ordinance. [2002 c 370 § 33; 1982 c 230 § 32; 1961 c 228 § 58.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.410 Public displays not to be hazardous.** All public displays of fireworks shall be of such a character and so located, discharged, or fired as not to be hazardous or dangerous to persons or property. [1961 c 228 § 59.]

**70.77.415 Supervision of public displays.** Every public display of fireworks shall be handled or supervised by a pyrotechnic operator licensed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, under RCW 70.77.255. [1995 c 369 § 52; 1986 c 266 § 109; 1984 c 249 § 25; 1982 c 230 § 33; 1961 c 228 § 60.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.420 Permanent storage permit required—Application—Investigation—Grant or denial—Conditions.** (1) It is unlawful for any person to store permanently fireworks of any class without a permit for such permanent storage from the city or county in which the storage is to be made. A person proposing to store permanently fireworks shall apply in writing to a city or county at least ten days prior to the date of the proposed permanent storage. The city or county receiving the application for a permanent storage per-

mit shall investigate whether the character and location of the permanent storage as proposed meets the requirements of the zoning, building, and fire codes or constitutes a hazard to property or is dangerous to any person. Based on the investigation, the city or county may grant or deny the application. The city or county may place reasonable conditions on any permit granted.

(2) For the purposes of this section the temporary storing or keeping of consumer fireworks when in conjunction with a valid retail sales license and permit shall comply with RCW 70.77.425 and the standards adopted under RCW 70.77.270(2) and not this section. [2002 c 370 § 35; 1997 c 182 § 18; 1984 c 249 § 26; 1982 c 230 § 34; 1961 c 228 § 61.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.425 Approved permanent storage facilities required.** It is unlawful for any person to store permanently stocks of fireworks remaining unsold after the lawful period of sale as provided in the person's permit except in such places of permanent storage as the city or county issuing the permit approves. Unsold stocks of consumer fireworks remaining after the authorized retail sales period from nine o'clock a.m. on June 28th to twelve o'clock noon on July 5th shall be returned on or before July 31st of the same year, or remaining after the authorized retail sales period from twelve o'clock noon on December 27th to eleven o'clock p.m. on December 31st shall be returned on or before January 10th of the subsequent year, to the approved permanent storage facilities of a licensed fireworks wholesaler or to a magazine or permanent storage place approved by a local fire official. [2002 c 370 § 36; 1984 c 249 § 27; 1982 c 230 § 35; 1961 c 228 § 62.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.430 Sale of stock after revocation or expiration of license.** Notwithstanding RCW 70.77.255, following the revocation or expiration of a license, a licensee in lawful possession of a lawfully acquired stock of fireworks may sell such fireworks, but only under supervision of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. Any sale under this section shall be solely to persons who are authorized to buy, possess, sell, or use such fireworks. [1995 c 369 § 53; 1986 c 266 § 110; 1984 c 249 § 28; 1982 c 230 § 36; 1961 c 228 § 63.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.435 Seizure of fireworks.** Any fireworks which are illegally sold, offered for sale, used, discharged, possessed, or transported in violation of the provisions of this chapter or the rules or regulations of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, are subject to seizure by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, or his or her deputy, or by state agencies or local governments having general law enforcement authority. [2002 c 370 § 37; 1997 c 182 § 20; 1995 c 61 § 23; 1994 c 133 § 11; 1986 c 266 § 111; 1982 c 230 § 37; 1961 c 228 § 64.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.440 Seizure of fireworks—Proceedings for forfeiture—Disposal of confiscated fireworks.** (1) In the event of seizure under RCW 70.77.435, proceedings for forfeiture shall be deemed commenced by the seizure. The chief of the Washington state patrol or a designee, through the director of fire protection or the agency conducting the seizure, under whose authority the seizure was made shall cause notice to be served within fifteen days following the seizure on the owner of the fireworks seized and the person in charge thereof and any person having any known right or interest therein, of the seizure and intended forfeiture of the seized property. The notice may be served by any method authorized by law or court rule including but not limited to service by certified mail with return receipt requested. Service by mail shall be deemed complete upon mailing within the fifteen-day period following the seizure.

(2) If no person notifies the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or the agency conducting the seizure, in writing of the person's claim of lawful ownership or right to lawful possession of seized fireworks within thirty days of the seizure, the seized fireworks shall be deemed forfeited.

(3) If any person notifies the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or the agency conducting the seizure, in writing of the person's claim of lawful ownership or possession of the fireworks within thirty days of the seizure, the person or persons shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard as to the claim or right. The hearing shall be before an administrative law judge appointed under chapter 34.12 RCW, except that any person asserting a claim or right may remove the matter to a court of competent jurisdiction if the aggregate value of the seized fireworks is more than five hundred dollars. The hearing before an administrative law judge and any appeal therefrom shall be under Title 34 RCW. In a court hearing between two or more claimants to the article or articles involved, the prevailing party shall be entitled to a judgment for costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. The burden of producing evidence shall be upon the person claiming to have the lawful right to possession of the seized fireworks. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or the agency conducting the seizure, shall promptly return the fireworks to the claimant upon a determination by the administrative law judge or court that the claimant is lawfully entitled to possession of the fireworks.

(4) When fireworks are forfeited under this chapter the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or the agency conducting the seizure, may:

(a) Dispose of the fireworks by summary destruction at any time subsequent to thirty days from such seizure or ten days from the final termination of proceedings under this section, whichever is later; or

(b) Sell the forfeited fireworks and chemicals used to make fireworks, that are legal for use and possession under this chapter, to wholesalers or manufacturers, authorized to possess and use such fireworks or chemicals under a license issued by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. Sale shall be by public auction after publishing a notice of the date, place, and time of the auction in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the auction is to be held, at least three days before the

date of the auction. The proceeds of the sale of the seized fireworks under this section may be retained by the agency conducting the seizure and used to offset the costs of seizure and/or storage costs of the seized fireworks. The remaining proceeds, if any, shall be deposited in the fire services trust fund and shall be used as follows: At least fifty percent is for a statewide public education campaign developed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, and the licensed fireworks industry emphasizing the safe and responsible use of legal fireworks; and the remainder is for statewide efforts to enforce this chapter. [2002 c 370 § 38; 1997 c 182 § 21; 1995 c 61 § 24; 1994 c 133 § 12; 1986 c 266 § 112; 1984 c 249 § 29; 1961 c 228 § 65.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.450 Examination, inspection of books and premises.** The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may make an examination of the books and records of any licensee, or other person relative to fireworks, and may visit and inspect the premises of any licensee he or she may deem at any time necessary for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter. The licensee, owner, lessee, manager, or operator of any such building or premises shall permit the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, his or her deputies or salaried assistants, the local fire official, and their authorized representatives to enter and inspect the premises at the time and for the purpose stated in this section. [2012 c 117 § 395; 1997 c 182 § 22; 1994 c 133 § 13; 1986 c 266 § 113; 1961 c 228 § 67.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.455 Licensees to maintain and make available complete records—Exemption from public records act.**

(1) All licensees shall maintain and make available to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, full and complete records showing all production, imports, exports, purchases, and sales of fireworks items by class.

(2) All records obtained and all reports produced, as required by this chapter, are not subject to disclosure through the public records act under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2005 c 274 § 337; 1997 c 182 § 23. Prior: 1995 c 369 § 54; 1995 c 61 § 25; 1986 c 266 § 114; 1982 c 230 § 38; 1961 c 228 § 68.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.460 Reports, payments deemed made when filed or paid or date mailed.**

When reports on fireworks transactions or the payments of license fees or penalties are required to be made on or by specified dates, they shall be deemed to have been made at the time they are filed with or paid to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, or, if sent by mail, on the date shown by the United States postmark on the envelope containing the report or payment. [1995 c 369 § 55; 1986 c 266 § 115; 1961 c 228 § 69.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.480 Prohibited transfers of fireworks.** The transfer of fireworks ownership whether by sale at wholesale or retail, by gift or other means of conveyance of title, or by

delivery of any fireworks to any person in the state who does not possess and present to the carrier for inspection at the time of delivery a valid license, where such license is required to purchase, possess, transport, or use fireworks, is prohibited. [1982 c 230 § 39; 1961 c 228 § 73.]

**70.77.485 Unlawful possession of fireworks—Penalties.** It is unlawful to possess any class or kind of fireworks in violation of this chapter. A violation of this section is:

- (1) A misdemeanor if involving less than one pound of fireworks, exclusive of external packaging; or
- (2) A gross misdemeanor if involving one pound or more of fireworks, exclusive of external packaging.

For the purposes of this section, "external packaging" means any materials that are not an integral part of the operative unit of fireworks. [1984 c 249 § 30; 1961 c 228 § 74.]

**70.77.488 Unlawful discharge or use of fireworks—Penalty.** It is unlawful for any person to discharge or use fireworks in a reckless manner which creates a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury to another person or damage to the property of another. A violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor. [1984 c 249 § 37.]

**70.77.495 Forestry permit to set off fireworks in forest, brush, fallow, etc.** It is unlawful for any person to set off fireworks of any kind in forest, fallows, grass, or brush covered land, either on his or her own land or the property of another, between April 15th and December 1st of any year, unless it is done under a written permit from the Washington state department of natural resources or its duly authorized agent, and in strict accordance with the terms of the permit and any other applicable law. [2012 c 117 § 396; 2002 c 370 § 39; 1988 c 128 § 11; 1961 c 228 § 76.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.510 Unlawful sales or transfers of display fireworks—Penalty.** It is unlawful for any person knowingly to sell, transfer, or agree to sell or transfer any display fireworks to any person who is not a fireworks licensee as provided for by this chapter. A violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor. [2002 c 370 § 40; 1984 c 249 § 31; 1982 c 230 § 40; 1961 c 228 § 79.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.515 Unlawful sales or transfers of consumer fireworks—Penalty.** (1) It is unlawful for any person to offer for sale, sell, or exchange for consideration, any consumer fireworks to a consumer or user other than at a fixed place of business of a retailer for which a license and permit have been issued.

(2) No licensee may sell any fireworks to any person under the age of sixteen.

(3) A violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor. [2002 c 370 § 41; 1984 c 249 § 32; 1982 c 230 § 41; 1961 c 228 § 80.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.517 Unlawful transportation of fireworks—Penalty.** It is unlawful for any person, except in the course of continuous interstate transportation through any state, to

transport fireworks from this state into any other state, or deliver them for transportation into any other state, or attempt so to do, knowing that such fireworks are to be delivered, possessed, stored, transshipped, distributed, sold, or otherwise dealt with in a manner or for a use prohibited by the laws of such other state specifically prohibiting or regulating the use of fireworks. A violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor.

This section does not apply to a common or contract carrier or to international or domestic water carriers engaged in interstate commerce or to the transportation of fireworks into a state for the use of United States agencies in the carrying out or the furtherance of their operations.

In the enforcement of this section, the definitions of fireworks contained in the laws of the respective states shall be applied.

As used in this section, the term "state" includes the several states, territories, and possessions of the United States, and the District of Columbia. [2002 c 370 § 42; 1984 c 249 § 34.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.520 Unlawful to permit fire nuisance where fireworks kept—Penalty.** It is unlawful for any person to allow any combustibles to accumulate in any premises in which fireworks are stored or sold or to permit a fire nuisance to exist in such a premises. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor. [2002 c 370 § 43; 1984 c 249 § 33; 1961 c 228 § 81.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.525 Manufacture or sale of fireworks for out-of-state shipment.** This chapter does not prohibit any manufacturer, wholesaler, dealer, or jobber, having a license and a permit secured under the provisions of this chapter, from manufacturing or selling any kind of fireworks for direct shipment out of this state. [1982 c 230 § 42; 1961 c 228 § 82.]

**70.77.530 Nonprohibited acts—Signal purposes, forest protection.** This chapter does not prohibit the use of torpedoes, flares, or fusees by motor vehicles, railroads, or other transportation agencies for signal purposes or illumination or for use in forest protection activities. [1961 c 228 § 83.]

**70.77.535 Articles pyrotechnic, special effects for entertainment media.** The assembling, compounding, use, and display of articles pyrotechnic or special effects in the production of motion pictures, radio or television productions, or live entertainment shall be under the direction and control of a pyrotechnic operator licensed by the state of Washington and who possesses a valid permit from the city or county. [2002 c 370 § 44; 1994 c 133 § 14; 1984 c 249 § 35; 1982 c 230 § 43; 1961 c 228 § 84.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.540 Penalty.** Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter or any rules issued thereunder is guilty of a misdemeanor. [1984 c 249 § 36; 1961 c 228 § 85.]

**70.77.545 Violation a separate, continuing offense.** A person is guilty of a separate offense for each day during which he or she commits, continues, or permits a violation of any provision of, or any order, rule, or regulation made pursuant to this chapter. [2012 c 117 § 397; 1961 c 228 § 86.]

**70.77.547 Civil enforcement not precluded.** The inclusion in this chapter of criminal penalties does not preclude enforcement of this chapter through civil means. [1994 c 133 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.548 Attorney general may institute civil proceedings—Venue.** Civil proceedings to enforce this chapter may be brought in the superior court of Thurston county or the county in which the violation occurred by the attorney general or the attorney of the city or county in which the violation occurred on his or her own motion or at the request of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. [2002 c 370 § 48.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.549 Civil penalty—Costs.** In addition to criminal penalties, a person who violates this chapter is also liable for a civil penalty and for the costs incurred with enforcing this chapter and bringing the civil action, including court costs and reasonable investigative and attorneys' fees. [2002 c 370 § 49.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.550 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the state fireworks law. [1961 c 228 § 87.]

**70.77.555 Local permit and license fees—Limits.** (1) A city or county may provide by ordinance for a fee in an amount sufficient to cover all legitimate costs for all needed permits, licenses, and authorizations from application to and through processing, issuance, and inspection, but in no case to exceed a total of one hundred dollars for any one retail sales permit for any one selling season in a year, whether June 28th through July 5th or December 27th through December 31st, or a total of two hundred dollars for both selling seasons.

(2) A city or county may provide by ordinance for a fee in an amount sufficient to cover all legitimate costs for all display permits, licenses, and authorizations from application to and through processing, issuance, and inspection, not to exceed actual costs and in no case more than a total of five thousand dollars for any one display permit. [2002 c 370 § 45; 1995 c 61 § 26; 1982 c 230 § 44; 1961 c 228 § 88.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.575 Chief of the Washington state patrol to provide list of consumer fireworks that may be sold to the public.** (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall adopt by rule a list of the consumer fireworks that may be sold to the public in this state pursuant to this chapter. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall file the list by October 1st of each year with the code reviser for publica-

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tion, unless the previously published list has remained current.

(2) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall provide the list adopted under subsection (1) of this section by November 1st of each year to all manufacturers, wholesalers, and importers licensed under this chapter, unless the previously distributed list has remained current. [2002 c 370 § 46; 1995 c 369 § 57; 1986 c 266 § 117; 1984 c 249 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.580 Retailers to post list of consumer fireworks.** Retailers required to be licensed under this chapter shall post prominently at each retail location a list of the consumer fireworks that may be sold to the public in this state pursuant to this chapter. The posted list shall be in a form approved by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall make the list available. [2002 c 370 § 47; 1995 c 369 § 58; 1986 c 266 § 118; 1984 c 249 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.77.900 Effective date—1961 c 228.** This act shall take effect on January 1, 1962. [1961 c 228 § 90.]

## Chapter 70.79 RCW

### BOILERS AND UNFIRED PRESSURE VESSELS

#### Sections

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70.79.361 Board determinations—Appeals.  
*Excessive steam in boilers, penalty: RCW 70.54.080.*  
*State building code: Chapter 19.27 RCW.*

**70.79.010 Board of boiler rules—Members—Terms—Meetings.** There is hereby created within this state a board of boiler rules, which shall hereafter be referred to as the board, consisting of five members who shall be appointed to the board by the governor, one for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, one for a term of three years, and two for a term of four years. At the expiration of their respective terms of office, they, or their successors identifiable with the same interests respectively as hereinafter provided, shall be appointed for terms of four years each. The governor may at any time remove any member of the board for inefficiency or neglect of duty in office. Upon the death or incapacity of any member the governor shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the vacated term with a representative of the same interests with which his or her predecessor was identified. Of these five appointed members, one shall be representative of owners and users of boilers and unfired pressure vessels within the state, one shall be representative of the boiler or unfired pressure vessel manufacturers within the state, one shall be a representative of a boiler insurance company licensed to do business within the state, one shall be a mechanical engineer on the faculty of a recognized engineering college or a graduate mechanical engineer having equivalent experience, and one shall be representative of the boilermakers, stationary operating engineers, or pressure vessel operators. The board shall elect one of its members to serve as chair and, at the call of the chair, the board shall meet at least four times each year at the state capitol or other place designated by the board. [1999 c 183 § 1; 1951 c 32 § 1.]

**70.79.020 Compensation and travel expenses.** The members of the board shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.240 and shall receive travel expenses incurred while in the performance of their duties as members of the board, in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [1984 c 287 § 105; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 159; 1951 c 32 § 2.]

**Legislative findings—Severability—Effective date—1984 c 287:** See notes following RCW 43.03.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.79.030 Duties of board.** The board shall formulate definitions and rules for the safe and proper construction, installation, repair, use, and operation of boilers and for the safe and proper construction, installation, and repair of unfired pressure vessels in this state. The definitions and rules so formulated shall be based upon, and, at all times, follow the nationally or internationally accepted engineering standards, formulae, and practices established and pertaining to boiler and unfired pressure vessel construction and safety, and the board may by resolution adopt existing published codifications thereof, and when so adopted the same shall be deemed incorporated into, and to constitute a part or the whole of the definitions and rules of the board. Amendments and interpretations to the code shall be enforceable immediately upon being adopted, to the end that the definitions and rules shall at all times follow nationally or internationally

accepted engineering standards. However, all rules adopted by the board shall be adopted in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW, as now or hereafter amended. [1999 c 183 § 2; 1972 ex.s. c 86 § 1; 1951 c 32 § 3.]

**70.79.040 Rules and regulations—Scope.** The board shall promulgate rules and regulations for the safe and proper installation, repair, use and operation of boilers, and for the safe and proper installation and repair of unfired pressure vessels which were in use or installed ready for use in this state prior to the date upon which the first rules and regulations under this chapter pertaining to existing installations became effective, or during the twelve months period immediately thereafter. [1951 c 32 § 4.]

**70.79.050 Rules and regulations—Effect.** (1) The rules and regulations formulated by the board shall have the force and effect of law, except that the rules applying to the construction of new boilers and unfired pressure vessels shall not be construed to prevent the installation thereof until twelve months after their approval by the director of the department of labor and industries.

(2) Subsequent amendments to the rules and regulations adopted by the board shall be permissive immediately and shall become mandatory twelve months after such approval. [1951 c 32 § 5.]

**70.79.060 Construction, installation must conform to rules—Inspection certificate.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no power boiler, low pressure boiler, or unfired pressure vessel which does not conform to the rules and regulations formulated by the board governing new construction and installation shall be installed and operated in this state after twelve months from the date upon which the first rules and regulations under this chapter pertaining to new construction and installation shall have become effective, unless the boiler or unfired pressure vessel is of special design or construction, and is not covered by the rules and regulations, nor is in any way inconsistent with such rules and regulations, in which case an inspection certificate may at its discretion be granted by the board.

(2) An inspection certificate may also be granted for boilers and pressure vessels manufactured before 1951 which do not comply with the code requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers adopted under this chapter, if the boiler or pressure vessel is operated exclusively for the purposes of public exhibition, and the board finds, upon inspection, that operation of the boiler or pressure vessel for such purposes is not unsafe. [2009 c 90 § 1; 1984 c 93 § 1; 1951 c 32 § 6.]

**70.79.070 Existing installations—Conformance required—Miniature hobby boilers.** (1) All boilers and unfired pressure vessels which were in use, or installed ready for use in this state prior to the date upon which the first rules and regulations under this chapter pertaining to existing installations became effective, or during the twelve months period immediately thereafter, shall be made to conform to the rules and regulations of the board governing existing installations, and the formulae prescribed therein shall be

used in determining the maximum allowable working pressure for such boilers and unfired pressure vessels.

(2) This chapter shall not be construed as in any way preventing the use or sale of boilers or unfired vessels as referred to in subsection (1) of this section, provided they have been made to conform to the rules and regulations of the board governing existing installations, and provided, further, they have not been found upon inspection to be in an unsafe condition.

(3) An inspection certificate may also be granted for miniature hobby boilers that do not comply with the code requirements of the American society of mechanical engineers adopted under this chapter and do not exceed any of the following limits:

- (a) Sixteen inches inside diameter of the shell;
- (b) Twenty square feet of total heating surface;
- (c) Five cubic feet of gross volume of vessel; and

(d) One hundred fifty p.s.i.g. maximum allowable working pressure, and if the boiler is to be operated exclusively not for commercial or industrial use and the department of labor and industries finds, upon inspection, that operation of the boiler for such purposes is not unsafe. [2009 c 90 § 2; 1995 c 41 § 1; 1993 c 193 § 1; 1951 c 32 § 7.]

**70.79.080 Exemptions from chapter.** This chapter shall not apply to the following boilers, unfired pressure vessels and domestic hot water tanks:

(1) Boilers and unfired pressure vessels under federal regulation or operated by any railroad subject to the provisions of the interstate commerce act;

(2) Unfired pressure vessels meeting the requirements of the interstate commerce commission for shipment of liquids or gases under pressure;

(3) Air tanks located on vehicles operating under the rules of other state authorities and used for carrying passengers, or freight;

(4) Air tanks installed on the right-of-way of railroads and used directly in the operation of trains;

(5) Unfired pressure vessels having a volume of five cubic feet or less when not located in places of public assembly;

(6) Unfired pressure vessels designed for a pressure not exceeding fifteen pounds per square inch gauge;

(7) Tanks used in connection with heating water for domestic and/or residential purposes;

(8) Boilers and unfired pressure vessels in cities having ordinances which are enforced and which have requirements equal to or higher than those provided for under this chapter, covering the installation, operation, maintenance and inspection of boilers and unfired pressure vessels;

(9) Tanks containing water with no air cushion and no direct source of energy that operate at ambient temperature;

(10) Electric boilers:

(a) Having a tank volume of not more than one and one-half cubic feet;

(b) Having a maximum allowable working pressure of one hundred pounds per square inch or less, with a pressure relief system to prevent excess pressure; and

(c) If constructed after June 10, 1994, constructed to American society of mechanical engineers code, or approved or otherwise certified by a nationally recognized or recog-

nized foreign testing laboratory or construction code, including but not limited to Underwriters Laboratories, Edison Testing Laboratory, or Instituto Superiore Per La Prevenzione E La Sicurezza Del Lavoro;

(11) Electrical switchgear and control apparatus that have no external source of energy to maintain pressure and are located in restricted access areas under the control of an electric utility;

(12) Regardless of location, unfired pressure vessels less than one and one-half cubic feet (11.25 gallons) in volume or less than six inches in diameter with no limitation on the length of the vessel or pressure;

(13) Domestic hot water heaters less than one and one-half cubic feet (11.25 gallons) in volume with a safety valve setting of one hundred fifty pounds per square inch gauge or less. [2009 c 90 § 3; 2005 c 22 § 1; 1999 c 183 § 3; 1996 c 72 § 1; 1994 c 64 § 2; 1986 c 97 § 1; 1951 c 32 § 8.]

**Finding—Intent—1994 c 64:** See note following RCW 70.79.095.

**70.79.090 Exemptions from certain provisions.** The following boilers and unfired pressure vessels shall be exempt from the requirements of RCW 70.79.220 and 70.79.240 through 70.79.330:

(1) Boilers or unfired pressure vessels located on farms and used solely for agricultural purposes;

(2) Unfired pressure vessels that are part of fertilizer applicator rigs designed and used exclusively for fertilization in the conduct of agricultural operations;

(3) Steam boilers used exclusively for heating purposes carrying a pressure of not more than fifteen pounds per square inch gauge and which are located in private residences or in apartment houses of less than six families;

(4) Hot water heating boilers carrying a pressure of not more than thirty pounds per square inch and which are located in private residences or in apartment houses of less than six families;

(5) Approved pressure vessels (hot water heaters, hot water storage tanks, hot water supply boilers, and hot water heating boilers listed by a nationally recognized testing agency), with approved safety devices including a pressure relief valve, with a nominal water containing capacity of one hundred twenty gallons or less having a heat input of two hundred thousand b.t.u.'s per hour or less, at pressure of one hundred sixty pounds per square inch or less, and at temperatures of two hundred ten degrees Fahrenheit or less: **PROVIDED, HOWEVER,** That such pressure vessels are not installed in schools, child care centers, public and private hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, churches, public buildings owned or leased and maintained by the state or any political subdivision thereof, and assembly halls;

(6) Unfired pressure vessels containing only water under pressure for domestic supply purposes, including those containing air, the compression of which serves only as a cushion or airlift pumping systems, when located in private residences or in apartment houses of less than six families, or in public water systems as defined in RCW 70.119.020;

(7) Unfired pressure vessels containing liquefied petroleum gases. [2012 c 10 § 49; 2009 c 90 § 4; 2005 c 22 § 2; 1999 c 183 § 4; 1988 c 254 § 20; 1983 c 3 § 174; 1972 ex.s. c 86 § 2; 1951 c 32 § 9.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**70.79.095 Espresso machines—Local regulation prohibited.** A county, city, or other political subdivision of the state may not enforce any law specifically regulating the manufacture, installation, operation, maintenance, or inspection of any electric boiler exempt from this chapter by RCW 70.79.080(10). [1994 c 64 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—1994 c 64:** "The legislature finds that small low-pressure boilers are found in devices such as espresso coffee machines and cleaning equipment common throughout Washington state. Such systems present little threat to public health and safety. Government regulation of such systems could impose a substantial burden on many small businesses and provide minimal public benefit. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to exempt these boilers from regulation under chapter 70.79 RCW and similar laws adopted by local governments." [1994 c 64 § 1.]

**70.79.100 Chief inspector—Qualifications—Appointment, removal.** (1) Within sixty days after the effective date of this chapter, and at any time thereafter that the office of the chief inspector may become vacant, the director of the department of labor and industries shall appoint a chief inspector who shall have had at the time of such appointment not less than ten years practical experience in the construction, maintenance, repair, or operation of high pressure boilers and unfired pressure vessels, as a mechanical engineer, steam engineer, boilermaker, or boiler inspector, and who shall have passed the same kind of examination as that prescribed for deputy or special inspectors in RCW 70.79.170 to be chief inspector until his or her successor shall have been appointed and qualified. Such chief inspector may be removed for cause after due investigation by the board and its recommendation to the director of the department of labor and industries. [2012 c 117 § 398; 1951 c 32 § 10.]

**70.79.110 Chief inspector—Duties in general.** The chief inspector, if authorized by the director of the department of labor and industries is hereby charged, directed and empowered:

- (1) To cause the prosecution of all violators of the provisions of this chapter;
- (2) To issue, or to suspend, or revoke for cause, inspection certificates as provided for in RCW 70.79.290;
- (3) To take action necessary for the enforcement of the laws of the state governing the use of boilers and unfired pressure vessels and of the rules and regulations of the board;
- (4) To keep a complete record of the type, dimensions, maximum allowable working pressure, age, condition, location, and date of the last recorded internal inspection of all boilers and unfired pressure vessels to which this chapter applies;
- (5) To publish and distribute, among manufacturers and others requesting them, copies of the rules and regulations adopted by the board. [1951 c 32 § 11.]

**70.79.120 Deputy inspectors—Qualifications—Employment.** The director shall employ deputy inspectors who shall have had at time of appointment not less than five years practical experience in the construction, maintenance, repair, or operation of high pressure boilers and unfired pressure vessels as a mechanical engineer, steam engineer, boilermaker, or boiler inspector, and who shall have passed the examination provided for in RCW 70.79.170. [1994 c 164 § 27; 1951 c 32 § 12.]

**70.79.130 Special inspectors—Qualifications—Commission.** In addition to the deputy boiler inspectors authorized by RCW 70.79.120, the chief inspector shall, upon the request of any company authorized to insure against loss from explosion of boilers and unfired pressure vessels in this state, or upon the request of any company operating boilers or unfired pressure vessels in this state, issue to any inspectors of said company commissions as special inspectors, provided that each such inspector before receiving his or her commission shall satisfactorily pass the examination provided for in RCW 70.79.170, or, in lieu of such examination, shall hold a certificate of competency as an inspector of boilers and unfired pressure vessels for a state that has a standard of examination substantially equal to that of this state or a certificate as an inspector of boilers and unfired pressure vessels from the national board of boiler and pressure vessel inspectors. A commission as a special inspector for a company operating boilers or unfired pressure vessels in this state shall be issued only if, in addition to meeting the requirements stated herein, the inspector is continuously employed by the company for the purpose of making inspections of boilers or unfired pressure vessels used, or to be used, by such company. [1999 c 183 § 5; 1951 c 32 § 13.]

**70.79.140 Special inspectors—Compensation—Continuance of commission.** Special inspectors shall receive no salary from, nor shall any of their expenses be paid by the state, and the continuance of a special inspector's commission shall be conditioned upon his or her continuing in the employ of a boiler insurance company duly authorized as aforesaid or upon continuing in the employ of a company operating boilers or unfired pressure vessels in this state and upon his or her maintenance of the standards imposed by this chapter. [1999 c 183 § 6; 1951 c 32 § 14.]

**70.79.150 Special inspectors—Inspections—Exempts from inspection fees.** Special inspectors shall inspect all boilers and unfired pressure vessels insured or operated by their respective companies and, when so inspected, the owners and users of such insured boilers and unfired pressure vessels shall be exempt from the payment to the state of the inspection fees as provided for in RCW 70.79.330. [1999 c 183 § 7; 1951 c 32 § 15.]

**70.79.160 Report of inspection by special inspector—Filing.** Each company employing special inspectors shall, within thirty days following each internal or external boiler or unfired pressure vessel inspection made by such inspectors, file a report of such inspection with the chief inspector upon appropriate forms. [2005 c 22 § 3; 1999 c 183 § 8; 1951 c 32 § 16.]

**70.79.170 Examinations for inspector's appointment or commission—Reexamination.** Examinations for deputy or special inspectors shall be in writing and shall be held by the chief and a member of the board, or by at least two national board commissioned inspectors. Such examinations shall be confined to questions the answers to which will aid in determining the fitness and competency of the applicant for the intended service. In case an applicant for an inspector's appointment or commission fails to pass the examination, he

or she may appeal to the board for another examination which shall be given by the chief within ninety days. The record of an applicant's examination shall be accessible to said applicant and his or her employer. [2012 c 117 § 399; 2005 c 22 § 7; 1951 c 32 § 18.]

**70.79.180 Suspension, revocation of inspector's commission—Grounds—Reinstatement.** A commission may be suspended or revoked after due investigation and recommendation by the board to the director of the department of labor and industries for the incompetence or untrustworthiness of the holder thereof, or for willful falsification of any matter or statement contained in his or her application or in a report of any inspection. A person whose commission has been suspended or revoked, except for untrustworthiness, shall be entitled to apply to the board for reinstatement or, in the case of a revocation, for a new examination and commission after ninety days from such revocation. [2012 c 117 § 400; 1951 c 32 § 19.]

**70.79.190 Suspension, revocation of commission—Appeal.** A person whose commission has been suspended or revoked shall be entitled to an appeal as provided in RCW 70.79.361 and to be present in person and/or represented by counsel on the hearing of the appeal. [2005 c 22 § 5; 1951 c 32 § 20.]

**70.79.200 Lost or destroyed certificate or commission.** If a certificate or commission is lost or destroyed, a new certificate or commission shall be issued in its place without another examination. [1951 c 32 § 21.]

**70.79.220 Inspections—Who shall make.** The inspections herein required shall be made by the chief inspector, by a deputy inspector, or by a special inspector provided for in this chapter. [1951 c 32 § 25.]

**70.79.230 Access to premises by inspectors.** The chief inspector, or any deputy or special inspector, shall have free access, during reasonable hours, to any premises in the state where a boiler or unfired pressure vessel is being constructed, or is being installed or operated, for the purpose of ascertaining whether such boiler or unfired pressure vessel is constructed, installed and operated in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. [1951 c 32 § 17.]

**70.79.240 Inspection of boilers, unfired pressure vessels—Scope—Frequency.** Each boiler and unfired pressure vessel used or proposed to be used within this state, except boilers or unfired pressure vessels exempt in RCW 70.79.080 and 70.79.090, shall be thoroughly inspected as to their construction, installation, condition and operation, as follows:

(1) Power boilers shall be inspected annually both internally and externally while not under pressure, except that the board may provide for longer periods between inspections where the contents, history, or operation of the power boiler or the material of which it is constructed warrant special consideration. Power boilers shall also be inspected annually externally while under pressure if possible;

(2) Low pressure heating boilers shall be inspected both internally and externally biennially where construction will

permit, except that the board may, in its discretion, provide for longer periods between internal inspections;

(3) Unfired pressure vessels subject to internal corrosion shall be inspected both internally and externally biennially where construction will permit, except that the board may, in its discretion, provide for longer periods between internal inspections;

(4) Unfired pressure vessels not subject to internal corrosion shall be inspected externally at intervals set by the board, but internal inspections shall not be required of unfired pressure vessels, the contents of which are known to be noncorrosive to the material of which the shell, head, or fittings are constructed, either from the chemical composition of the contents or from evidence that the contents are adequately treated with a corrosion inhibitor, provided that such vessels are constructed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the board or in accordance with standards substantially equivalent to the rules and regulations of the board, in effect at the time of manufacture. [2009 c 90 § 5; 1993 c 391 § 1; 1951 c 32 § 22.]

**70.79.250 Inspection—Frequency—Grace period.** In the case of power boilers a grace period of not more than two months longer than the period established by the board under RCW 70.79.240(1) may elapse between internal inspections of a boiler while not under pressure or between external inspections of a boiler while under pressure; in the case of low pressure heating boilers not more than twenty-six months shall elapse between inspections, and in the case of unfired pressure vessels not more than two months longer than the period between inspections prescribed by the board shall elapse between internal inspections. [1993 c 391 § 2; 1951 c 32 § 23.]

**70.79.260 Inspection—Frequency—Modification by rules.** The rules and regulations formulated by the board applying to the inspection of unfired pressure vessels may be modified by the board to reduce or extend the interval between required inspections where the contents of the vessel or the material of which it is constructed warrant special consideration. [1951 c 32 § 24.]

**70.79.270 Hydrostatic test.** If at any time a hydrostatic test shall be deemed necessary to determine the safety of a boiler or unfired pressure vessel, [the] same shall be made, at the discretion of the inspector, by the owner or user thereof. [1951 c 32 § 26.]

**70.79.280 Inspection during construction.** All boilers and all unfired pressure vessels to be installed in this state after the twelve-month period from the date upon which the rules of the board shall become effective shall be inspected during construction as required by the applicable rules of the board by an inspector authorized to inspect boilers and unfired pressure vessels in this state, or, if constructed outside of the state, by an inspector holding a certificate from the national board of boiler and pressure vessel inspectors, or a certificate of competency as an inspector of boilers and unfired pressure vessels for a state that has a standard of examination substantially equal to that of this state as provided in RCW 70.79.170. [1999 c 183 § 9; 1951 c 32 § 27.]

**70.79.290 Inspection certificate—Contents—Posting—Fee.** If, upon inspection, a boiler or pressure vessel is found to comply with the rules and regulations of the board, and upon the appropriate fee payment made directly to the chief inspector, as required by RCW 70.79.160 or 70.79.330, the chief inspector shall issue to the owner or user of such a boiler or pressure vessel an inspection certificate bearing the date of inspection and specifying the maximum pressure under which the boiler or pressure vessel may be operated. Such inspection certificate shall be valid for not more than fourteen months from its date in the case of power boilers and twenty-six months in the case of low pressure heating boilers, and for not more than two months longer than the authorized inspection period in the case of pressure vessels. Certificates shall be posted under glass in the room containing the boiler or pressure vessel inspected. If the boiler or pressure vessel is not located within a building, the certificate shall be posted in a location convenient to the boiler or pressure vessel inspected or, in the case of a portable boiler or pressure vessel, the certificate shall be kept in a protective container to be fastened to the boiler or pressure vessel or in a tool box accompanying the boiler or pressure vessel. [1977 ex.s. c 175 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 21 § 1; 1951 c 32 § 28.]

**70.79.300 Inspection certificate invalid on termination of insurance.** No inspection certificate issued for an insured boiler or unfired pressure vessel inspected by a special inspector shall be valid after the boiler or unfired pressure vessel, for which it was issued, shall cease to be insured by a company duly authorized by this state to carry such insurance. [1951 c 32 § 29.]

**70.79.310 Inspection certificate—Suspension—Reinstatement.** The chief inspector, or his or her authorized representative, may at any time suspend an inspection certificate when, in his or her opinion, the boiler or unfired pressure vessel for which it was issued cannot be operated without menace to the public safety, or when the boiler or unfired pressure vessel is found not to comply with the rules herein provided. A special inspector shall have corresponding powers with respect to inspection certificates for boilers or unfired pressure vessels insured or operated by the company employing him or her. Such suspension of an inspection certificate shall continue in effect until such boiler or unfired pressure vessel shall have been made to conform to the rules of the board, and until said inspection certificate shall have been reinstated. [1999 c 183 § 10; 1951 c 32 § 30.]

**70.79.320 Operating without inspection certificate prohibited—Penalty.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, or corporation to operate under pressure in this state a boiler or unfired pressure vessel, to which this chapter applies, without a valid inspection certificate as provided for in this chapter.

(2) The department may assess a penalty against a person violating a provision of this chapter. The penalty shall be not more than five hundred dollars. Each day that the violation continues is a separate violation and is subject to a separate penalty.

(3) The department may not assess a penalty until it adopts rules describing the method it will use to calculate penalties for various violations.

(4) The department shall notify the violator of its action, and the reasons for its action, in writing. The department shall send the notice using a method by which the mailing can be tracked or the delivery can be confirmed to the violator that a hearing may be requested under RCW 70.79.361. The hearing shall not stay the effect of the penalty. [2011 c 301 § 21; 2005 c 22 § 6; 1986 c 97 § 2; 1951 c 32 § 31.]

**70.79.330 Inspection fees—Expenses—Schedules—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** The owner or user of a boiler or pressure vessel required by this chapter to be inspected by the chief inspector, or his or her deputy inspector, shall pay directly to the chief inspector, upon completion of inspection, fees and expenses in accordance with a schedule adopted by the board and approved by the director of the department of labor and industries in accordance with the requirements of the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the collection of fees under this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2012 c 117 § 401; 2008 c 181 § 205; 1977 ex.s. c 175 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 21 § 2; 1963 c 217 § 1; 1951 c 32 § 32.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**70.79.350 Inspection fees—Receipts for—Pressure systems safety fund.** The chief inspector shall give an official receipt for all fees required by chapter 70.79 RCW and shall transfer all sums so received to the treasurer of the state of Washington as ex officio custodian thereof and the treasurer shall place all sums in a special fund hereby created and designated as the "pressure systems safety fund". Funds shall be paid out upon vouchers duly and regularly issued therefor and approved by the director of the department of labor and industries. The treasurer, as ex officio custodian of the fund, shall keep an accurate record of any payments into the fund, and of all disbursements therefrom. The fund shall be used exclusively to defray only the expenses of administering chapter 70.79 RCW by the chief inspector as authorized by law and the expenses incident to the maintenance of the office. The fund shall be charged with its pro rata share of the cost of administering the fund which is to be determined by the director of financial management and by the director of the department of labor and industries.

During the 2003-2005 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the pressure systems safety fund to the state general fund such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance of the fund. [2003 1st sp.s. c 25 § 931; 1979 c 151 § 171; 1977 ex.s. c 175 § 3; 1951 c 32 § 34.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.79.361 Board determinations—Appeals.** (1) No person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity may install or maintain any standards that violate this chapter. In

cases where the interpretation and application of the installation or maintenance standards prescribed in this chapter is in dispute, the board shall determine the methods of installation or maintenance to be used in the particular case submitted for its decision. To appeal the board's decision, a person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity shall, in writing, notify the chief boiler inspector. The notice shall specify the ruling or interpretation desired and the contention of the person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity as to the proper interpretation or application on the question on which a decision is desired.

(2) Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity wishing to appeal a penalty issued under this chapter may appeal to the board. The appeal shall be filed within twenty days after service of the notice of the penalty to the assessed party by filing a written notice of appeal with the chief boiler inspector. The hearing and review procedures shall be conducted by the board in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. [2005 c 22 § 4.]

### Chapter 70.82 RCW CEREBRAL PALSY PROGRAM

#### Sections

70.82.010	Purpose and aim of program.
70.82.021	Cerebral palsy fund—Moneys transferred to general fund.
70.82.022	Cerebral palsy fund—Appropriations to be paid from general fund.
70.82.023	Cerebral palsy fund—Abolished.
70.82.024	Cerebral palsy fund—Warrants to be paid from general fund.
70.82.030	Eligibility.
70.82.040	Diagnosis.
70.82.050	Powers, duties, functions, unallocated funds, transferred.

**70.82.010 Purpose and aim of program.** It is hereby declared to be of vital concern to the state of Washington that all persons who are bona fide residents of the state of Washington and who are afflicted with cerebral palsy in any degree be provided with facilities and a program of service for medical care, education, treatment and training to enable them to become normal individuals. In order to effectively accomplish such purpose the department of social and health services, hereinafter called the department, is authorized and instructed and it shall be its duty to establish and administer facilities and a program of service for the discovery, care, education, hospitalization, treatment and training of educable persons afflicted with cerebral palsy, and to provide in connection therewith nursing, medical, surgical and corrective care, together with academic, occupational and related training. Such program shall extend to developing, extending and improving service for the discovery of such persons and for diagnostication and hospitalization and shall include cooperation with other agencies of the state charged with the administration of laws providing for any type of service or aid to handicapped persons, and with the United States government through any appropriate agency or instrumentality in developing, extending and improving such service, program and facilities. Such facilities shall include field clinics, diagnosis and observation centers, boarding schools, special classes in day schools, research facilities and such other facilities as shall be required to render appropriate aid to such persons. Existing facilities, buildings, hospitals and equipment belonging to or operated by the state of Washington shall be

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made available for these purposes when use therefor does not conflict with the primary use of such existing facilities. Existing buildings, facilities and equipment belonging to private persons, firms or corporations or to the United States government may be acquired or leased. [1974 ex.s. c 91 § 2; 1947 c 240 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5547-1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.82.021 Cerebral palsy fund—Moneys transferred to general fund.** All moneys in the state treasury to the credit of the state cerebral palsy fund on the first day of May, 1955, and all moneys thereafter paid into the state treasury for or to the credit of the state cerebral palsy fund, shall be and are hereby transferred to and placed in the general fund. [1955 c 326 § 1.]

**70.82.022 Cerebral palsy fund—Appropriations to be paid from general fund.** From and after the first day of April, 1955, all appropriations made by the thirty-fourth legislature from the state cerebral palsy fund shall be paid out of moneys in the general fund. [1955 c 326 § 2.]

**70.82.023 Cerebral palsy fund—Abolished.** From and after the first day of May, 1955, the state cerebral palsy fund is abolished. [1955 c 326 § 3.]

**70.82.024 Cerebral palsy fund—Warrants to be paid from general fund.** From and after the first day of May, 1955, all warrants drawn on the state cerebral palsy fund and not presented for payment shall be paid from the general fund, and it shall be the duty of the state treasurer and he or she is hereby directed to pay such warrants when presented from the general fund. [2012 c 117 § 402; 1955 c 326 § 4.]

**70.82.030 Eligibility.** Any resident of this state who is educable but so severely handicapped as the result of cerebral palsy that he or she is unable to take advantage of the regular system of free education of this state may be admitted to or be eligible for any service and facilities provided hereunder, provided such resident has lived in this state continuously for more than one year before his or her application for such admission or eligibility. [2012 c 117 § 403; 1947 c 240 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5547-2.]

**70.82.040 Diagnosis.** Persons shall be admitted to or be eligible for the services and facilities provided herein only after diagnosis according to procedures and regulations established and approved for this purpose by the department of social and health services. [1974 ex.s. c 91 § 3; 1947 c 240 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5547-3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.82.050 Powers, duties, functions, unallocated funds, transferred.** All powers, duties and functions of the superintendent of public instruction or the state board of education relating to the Cerebral Palsy Center as referred to in chapter 39, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess. shall be transferred to the department of social and health services as created in chapter 43.20A RCW, and all unallocated funds within any account to the credit of the superintendent of public instruction or the state board of education for purposes of such Cere-

bral Palsy Center shall be transferred effective July 1, 1974 to the credit of the department of social and health services, which department shall hereafter expend such funds for such Cerebral Palsy Center purposes as contemplated in the appropriations therefor. All employees of the Cerebral Palsy Center on July 1, 1974 who are classified employees under chapter 41.06 RCW, the state civil service law, shall be assigned and transferred to the department of social and health services to perform their usual duties upon the same terms as formerly, without any loss of rights, subject to any action that may be appropriate thereafter in accordance with the laws and rules governing the state civil service law. [1974 ex.s. c 91 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### Chapter 70.83 RCW

## PHENYLKETONURIA AND OTHER PREVENTABLE HERITABLE DISORDERS

### Sections

70.83.010	Declaration of policy and purpose.
70.83.020	Screening tests of newborn infants.
70.83.023	Specialty clinics—Defined disorders—Fee for infant screening and sickle cell disease.
70.83.030	Report of positive test to department of health.
70.83.040	Services and facilities of state agencies made available to families and physicians.
70.83.050	Rules and regulations to be adopted by state board of health.
70.83.070	Screening tests of newborn infants—Suspicion of abnormality—Notice to department.
70.83.080	Screening tests of newborn infants—Compliance with deadlines established in RCW 70.83.020—Annual report.
70.83.090	Critical congenital heart disease screening.

**Reviser's note:** Powers and duties of the department of social and health services and the secretary of social and health services transferred to the department of health and the secretary of health. See RCW 43.70.060.

**70.83.010 Declaration of policy and purpose.** It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state of Washington to make every effort to detect as early as feasible and to prevent where possible phenylketonuria and other preventable heritable disorders leading to developmental disabilities or physical defects. [1977 ex.s. c 80 § 40; 1967 c 82 § 1.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

**70.83.020 Screening tests of newborn infants.** (1) It shall be the duty of the department of health to require screening tests of all newborn infants born in any setting. Each hospital or health care provider attending a birth outside of a hospital shall collect and submit a sample blood specimen for all newborns no more than forty-eight hours following birth. The department of health shall conduct screening tests of samples for the detection of phenylketonuria and other heritable or metabolic disorders leading to intellectual disabilities or physical defects as defined by the state board of health: PROVIDED, That no such tests shall be given to any newborn infant whose parents or guardian object thereto on the grounds that such tests conflict with their religious tenets and practices.

(2) The sample required in subsection (1) of this section must be received by the department [of health] within seventy-two hours of the collection of the sample, excluding any day that the Washington state public health laboratory is

closed. [2014 c 18 § 1; 2010 c 94 § 18; 1991 c 3 § 348; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 27 § 1; 1967 c 82 § 2.]

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

**70.83.023 Specialty clinics—Defined disorders—Fee for infant screening and sickle cell disease.** The department has the authority to collect a fee of eight dollars and forty cents from the parents or other responsible party of each infant screened for congenital disorders as defined by the state board of health under RCW 70.83.020 to fund specialty clinics that provide treatment services for those with the defined disorders. The fee may also be used to support organizations conducting community outreach, education, and adult support related to sickle cell disease. The fee may be collected through the facility where a screening specimen is obtained. [2010 1st sp.s. c 17 § 1; 2007 c 259 § 8.]

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

**70.83.030 Report of positive test to department of health.** Laboratories, attending physicians, hospital administrators, or other persons performing or requesting the performance of tests for phenylketonuria shall report to the department of health all positive tests. The state board of health by rule shall, when it deems appropriate, require that positive tests for other heritable and metabolic disorders covered by this chapter be reported to the state department of health by such persons or agencies requesting or performing such tests. [1991 c 3 § 349; 1979 c 141 § 113; 1967 c 82 § 3.]

**70.83.040 Services and facilities of state agencies made available to families and physicians.** When notified of positive screening tests, the state department of health shall offer the use of its services and facilities, designed to prevent intellectual disabilities or physical defects in such children, to the attending physician, or the parents of the newborn child if no attending physician can be identified.

The services and facilities of the department, and other state and local agencies cooperating with the department in carrying out programs of detection and prevention of intellectual disabilities and physical defects shall be made available to the family and physician to the extent required in order to carry out the intent of this chapter and within the availability of funds. [2010 c 94 § 19; 2007 c 259 § 7; 2005 c 518 § 938; 1999 c 76 § 1; 1991 c 3 § 350; 1979 c 141 § 114; 1967 c 82 § 4.]

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.83.050 Rules and regulations to be adopted by state board of health.** The state board of health shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out the intent of this chapter. [1967 c 82 § 5.]

**70.83.070 Screening tests of newborn infants—Suspicion of abnormality—Notice to department. (Expires January 1, 2020.)** In each instance in which the department of health notifies the infant's attending health care provider that the infant's screening test indicates a suspicion of abnormal-

ity, which may include an inadequate collection of a sample blood specimen, that requires further diagnostic evaluation, the attending health care provider shall notify the department of health of the date upon which the screening test results were disclosed by the attending health care provider to the parents or guardian of the infant. [2014 c 18 § 2.]

**Expiration date—2014 c 18:** "Sections 2 and 3 of this act expire January 1, 2020." [2014 c 18 § 4.]

**70.83.080 Screening tests of newborn infants—Compliance with deadlines established in RCW 70.83.020—Annual report. (Expires January 1, 2020.)** The department of health shall compile an annual report for public distribution regarding the compliance rate of hospitals at meeting the deadlines established under RCW 70.83.020 for newborn screenings. The report must include information related to the performance of each individual hospital. The annual report must also include information about the extent to which health care providers are promptly informing parents and guardians about infant screening tests that indicate a suspicion of abnormality that requires further diagnostic evaluation. The report must be made available in a format that does not disclose any identifying information related to any infant, parent, or guardian, or health care provider. The report must be posted in an accessible location on the department of health's web site. [2014 c 18 § 3.]

**Expiration date—2014 c 18:** See note following RCW 70.83.070.

**70.83.090 Critical congenital heart disease screening.**

(1) Prior to discharge of an infant born in a hospital, the hospital shall:

(a) Perform critical congenital heart disease screening using pulse oximetry according to recommended American academy of pediatrics guidelines;

(b) Record the results of the critical congenital heart disease screening test in the newborn's medical record; and

(c) If the screening test indicates a suspicion of abnormality, refer the newborn for appropriate care and report the test results to the newborn's attending physician and parent, parents, or guardian.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a health care provider attending a birth outside of a hospital shall, no sooner than twenty-four hours after the birth of an infant born outside of a hospital, but no later than forty-eight hours after the birth:

(i) Perform critical congenital heart disease screening using pulse oximetry according to recommended American academy of pediatrics guidelines;

(ii) Record the results of the critical congenital heart disease screening test in the newborn's medical record; and

(iii) If the screening test indicates a suspicion of abnormality, refer the newborn for appropriate care and report the test results to the newborn's attending physician and parent, parents, or guardian.

(b) If the health care provider does not perform the test required in (a) of this subsection because he or she does not possess the proper equipment, the health care provider shall notify the parent, parents, or guardian in writing that the health care provider was unable to perform the test and that the infant should be tested by another health care provider no

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sooner than twenty-four hours after the birth, but no later than forty-eight hours after the birth.

(3) No test may be given to a newborn infant under this section whose parent, parents, or guardian object thereto on the grounds that such tests conflict with their religious tenets and practices.

(4) The state board of health may adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section.

(5) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(a) "Critical congenital heart disease" means an abnormality in the structure or function of the heart that exists at birth, causes severe, life-threatening symptoms, and requires medical intervention within the first year of life.

(b) "Newborn" means an infant born in any setting in the state of Washington. [2015 c 37 § 2.]

**Findings—2015 c 37:** "The legislature finds the following:

(1) Critical congenital heart disease is an abnormality in the structure or function of the heart that exists at birth, may cause life-threatening symptoms, and requires early medical intervention. Congenital heart disease is the most common cause of death in the first year of life. Outwardly healthy babies may be discharged from hospitals before signs of disease are detected.

(2) Pulse oximetry is a low-cost, noninvasive test that is effective at detecting congenital heart defects that otherwise would go undetected.

(3) Critical congenital heart disease was added to the national recommended uniform screening panel in 2011, and the majority of states have established a statewide screening for the disease.

(4) Requiring all hospitals and health care providers attending births to screen newborns for critical congenital heart disease has the potential to save newborn lives with early detection and treatment." [2015 c 37 § 1.]

**Chapter 70.83C RCW**

**ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE TREATMENT ASSOCIATED WITH PREGNANCY—FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME**

Sections

- 70.83C.005 Intent.
- 70.83C.010 Definitions.
- 70.83C.020 Prevention strategies.

**70.83C.005 Intent.** The legislature recognizes that the use of alcohol and other drugs during pregnancy can cause medical, psychological, and social problems for women and infants. The legislature further recognizes that communities are increasingly concerned about this problem and the associated costs to the mothers, infants, and society as a whole. The legislature recognizes that the department of health and other agencies are focusing on primary prevention activities to reduce the use of alcohol or drugs during pregnancy but few efforts have focused on secondary prevention efforts aimed at intervening in the lives of women already involved in the use of alcohol or other drugs during pregnancy. The legislature recognizes that the best way to prevent problems for chemically dependent pregnant women and their resulting children is to engage the women in alcohol or drug treatment. The legislature acknowledges that treatment professionals find pretreatment services to clients to be important in engaging women in alcohol or drug treatment. The legislature further recognizes that pretreatment services should be provided at locations where chemically dependent women are likely to be found, including public health clinics and domestic violence or homeless shelters. Therefore the legislature intends to pre-

vent the detrimental effects of alcohol or other drug use to women and their resulting infants by promoting the establishment of local programs to help facilitate a woman's entry into alcohol or other drug treatment. These programs shall provide secondary prevention services and provision of opportunities for immediate treatment so that women who seek help are welcomed rather than ostracized. [1993 c 422 § 3.]

**Finding—1993 c 422:** See note following RCW 70.83C.010.

**70.83C.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Alcoholism" means a disease, characterized by a dependency on alcoholic beverages, loss of control over the amount and circumstances of alcohol use, symptoms of tolerance, physiological or psychological withdrawal, or both, if use is reduced or discontinued, and impairment of health or disruption of social or economic functioning.

(2) "Approved treatment program" means a discrete program of chemical dependency treatment provided by a treatment program certified by the department of social and health services as meeting standards adopted under this chapter.

(3) "Assessment" means an interview with an individual to determine if he or she is chemically dependent and in need of referral to an approved treatment program.

(4) "Chemically dependent individual" means someone suffering from alcoholism or drug addiction, or dependence on alcohol or one or more other psychoactive chemicals.

(5) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(6) "Domestic violence" is a categorization of offenses, as defined in RCW 10.99.020, committed by one family or household member against another.

(7) "Domestic violence program" means a shelter or other program which provides services to victims of domestic violence.

(8) "Drug addiction" means a disease characterized by a dependency on psychoactive chemicals, loss of control over the amount and circumstances of use, symptoms of tolerance, physiological or psychological withdrawal, or both, if use is reduced or discontinued, and impairment of health or disruptions of social or economic functioning.

(9) "Family or household members" means a family or household member as defined in RCW 10.99.020.

(10) "Pretreatment" means the period of time prior to an individual's enrollment in alcohol or drug treatment.

(11) "Pretreatment services" means activities taking place prior to treatment that include identification of individuals using alcohol or drugs, education, assessment of their use, evaluation of need for treatment, referral to an approved treatment program, and advocacy on a client's behalf with social service agencies or others to ensure and coordinate a client's entry into treatment.

(12) "Primary prevention" means providing information about the effects of alcohol or drug use to individuals so they will avoid using these substances.

(13) "Secondary prevention" means identifying and obtaining an assessment on individuals using alcohol or other drugs for referral to treatment when indicated.

(14) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social and health services.

(15) "Treatment" means the broad range of emergency detoxification, residential, and outpatient services and care, including diagnostic evaluation, chemical dependency education and counseling, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and social service care, vocational rehabilitation, and career counseling, that may be extended to chemically dependent individuals and their families.

(16) "Treatment program" means an organization, institution, or corporation, public or private, engaged in the care, treatment, or rehabilitation of chemically dependent individuals. [1993 c 422 § 4.]

**Finding—1993 c 422:** "The United States surgeon general warns that women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects. The legislature finds that these defects include fetal alcohol syndrome, a birth defect that causes permanent antisocial behavior in the sufferer, disrupts the functions of his or her family, and, at an alarmingly increasing rate, extracts a safety and fiscal toll on society." [1993 c 422 § 1.]

**70.83C.020 Prevention strategies.** The secretary shall develop and promote statewide secondary prevention strategies designed to increase the use of alcohol and drug treatment services by women of childbearing age, before, during, and immediately after pregnancy. These efforts are conducted through the division of alcohol and substance abuse. The secretary shall:

(1) Promote development of three pilot demonstration projects in the state to be called pretreatment projects for women of childbearing age.

(2) Ensure that two of the projects are located in public health department clinics that provide maternity services and one is located with a domestic violence program.

(3) Hire three certified chemical dependency counselors to work as substance abuse educators in each of the three demonstration projects. The counselors may rotate between more than one clinic or domestic violence program. The chemical dependency counselor for the domestic violence program shall also be trained in domestic violence issues.

(4) Ensure that the duties and activities of the certified chemical dependency counselors include, at a minimum, the following:

(a) Identifying substance-using pregnant women in the health clinics and domestic violence programs;

(b) Educating the women and agency staff on the effects of alcohol or drugs on health, pregnancy, and unborn children;

(c) Determining the extent of the women's substance use;

(d) Evaluating the women's need for treatment;

(e) Making referrals for chemical dependency treatment if indicated;

(f) Facilitating the women's entry into treatment; and

(g) Advocating on the client's behalf with other social service agencies or others to ensure and coordinate clients into treatment.

(5) Ensure that administrative costs of the department are limited to ten percent of the funds appropriated for the project. [1993 c 422 § 5.]

**Finding—1993 c 422:** See note following RCW 70.83C.010.

## Chapter 70.83E RCW

## PRENATAL NEWBORN SCREENING FOR EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL DRUGS

## Sections

- 70.83E.010 Declaration—Policy.  
 70.83E.020 Screening criteria, training protocols—Development of.  
 70.83E.030 Department of health—Duties.

**70.83E.010 Declaration—Policy.** The policy of the state of Washington is to make every effort to detect as early as feasible and to prevent where possible preventable disorders resulting from parental use of alcohol and drugs. [1998 c 93 § 1.]

**70.83E.020 Screening criteria, training protocols—Development of.** The department of health, in consultation with appropriate medical professionals, shall develop screening criteria for use in identifying pregnant or lactating women addicted to drugs or alcohol who are at risk of producing a drug-affected baby. The department shall also develop training protocols for medical professionals related to the identification and screening of women at risk of producing a drug-affected baby. [1998 c 93 § 2.]

**70.83E.030 Department of health—Duties.** The department of health shall investigate the feasibility of medical protocols for laboratory testing or other screening of newborn infants for exposure to alcohol or drugs. The department of health shall consider how to improve the current system with respect to testing, considering such variables as whether such testing is available, its cost, which entity is currently responsible for ordering testing, and whether testing should be mandatory or targeted. [1998 c 93 § 3.]

## Chapter 70.84 RCW

## BLIND, HANDICAPPED, AND DISABLED PERSONS—"WHITE CANE LAW"

## Sections

- 70.84.010 Declaration—Policy.  
 70.84.020 "Dog guide" defined.  
 70.84.021 "Service animal" defined.  
 70.84.040 Precautions for drivers of motor vehicles approaching a wheelchair user or pedestrian who is using a white cane, dog guide, or service animal.  
 70.84.050 Handicapped pedestrians not carrying white cane or using dog guide—Rights and privileges.  
 70.84.060 Unauthorized use of white cane, dog guide, or service animal.  
 70.84.070 Penalty for violations.  
 70.84.080 Employment of blind or other handicapped persons in public service.  
 70.84.900 Short title.

*Dog guide or service animal, interfering with: RCW 9.91.170.*

**70.84.010 Declaration—Policy.** The legislature declares:

(1) It is the policy of this state to encourage and enable the blind, the visually handicapped, the hearing impaired, and the otherwise physically disabled to participate fully in the social and economic life of the state, and to engage in remunerative employment.

(2) As citizens, the blind, the visually handicapped, the hearing impaired, and the otherwise physically disabled have the same rights as the able-bodied to the full and free use of

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the streets, highways, walkways, public buildings, public facilities, and other public places.

(3) The blind, the visually handicapped, the hearing impaired, and the otherwise physically disabled are entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges on common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains, motor buses, streetcars, boats, and all other public conveyances, as well as in hotels, lodging places, places of public resort, accommodation, assemblage or amusement, and all other places to which the general public is invited, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons. [1980 c 109 § 1; 1969 c 141 § 1.]

**70.84.020 "Dog guide" defined.** For the purpose of this chapter, the term "dog guide" means a dog that is trained for the purpose of guiding blind persons or a dog trained for the purpose of assisting hearing impaired persons. [1997 c 271 § 18; 1980 c 109 § 2; 1969 c 141 § 2.]

**70.84.021 "Service animal" defined.** For the purpose of this chapter, "service animal" means an animal that is trained for the purposes of assisting or accommodating a disabled person's sensory, mental, or physical disability. [1997 c 271 § 19; 1985 c 90 § 1.]

**70.84.040 Precautions for drivers of motor vehicles approaching a wheelchair user or pedestrian who is using a white cane, dog guide, or service animal.** The driver of a vehicle approaching a totally or partially blind pedestrian who is carrying a cane predominantly white in color (with or without a red tip), a totally or partially blind or hearing impaired pedestrian using a dog guide, a person with physical disabilities using a service animal, or a person with a disability using a wheelchair or a power wheelchair as defined in RCW 46.04.415 shall take all necessary precautions to avoid injury to such pedestrian or wheelchair user. Any driver who fails to take such precaution shall be liable in damages for any injury caused such pedestrian or wheelchair user. It shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to drive into or upon any crosswalk while there is on such crosswalk such pedestrian or wheelchair user crossing or attempting to cross the roadway, if such pedestrian or wheelchair user is using a white cane, using a dog guide, using a service animal, or using a wheelchair or a power wheelchair as defined in RCW 46.04.415. The failure of any such pedestrian or wheelchair user so to signal shall not deprive him or her of the right-of-way accorded him or her by other laws. [2010 c 184 § 1; 1997 c 271 § 20; 1985 c 90 § 3; 1980 c 109 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 77 § 1; 1969 c 141 § 4.]

**Effective date—2010 c 184:** "This act takes effect August 1, 2010." [2010 c 184 § 2.]

**70.84.050 Handicapped pedestrians not carrying white cane or using dog guide—Rights and privileges.** A totally or partially blind pedestrian not carrying a white cane or a totally or partially blind or hearing impaired pedestrian not using a dog guide in any of the places, accommodations, or conveyances listed in RCW 70.84.010, shall have all of the rights and privileges conferred by law on other persons. [1997 c 271 § 21; 1980 c 109 § 5; 1969 c 141 § 5.]

**70.84.060 Unauthorized use of white cane, dog guide, or service animal.** It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian who is not totally or partially blind to use a white cane or any pedestrian who is not totally or partially blind or is not hearing impaired to use a dog guide or any pedestrian who is not otherwise physically disabled to use a service animal in any of the places, accommodations, or conveyances listed in RCW 70.84.010 for the purpose of securing the rights and privileges accorded by the chapter to totally or partially blind, hearing impaired, or otherwise physically disabled people. [1997 c 271 § 22; 1985 c 90 § 4; 1980 c 109 § 6; 1969 c 141 § 6.]

**70.84.070 Penalty for violations.** Any person or persons, firm or corporation, or the agent of any person or persons, firm or corporation, who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public facilities enumerated in RCW 70.84.010, or otherwise interferes with the rights of a totally or partially blind, hearing impaired, or otherwise physically disabled person as set forth in RCW 70.84.010 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1985 c 90 § 5; 1980 c 109 § 7; 1969 c 141 § 7.]

**70.84.080 Employment of blind or other handicapped persons in public service.** In accordance with the policy set forth in RCW 70.84.010, the blind, the visually handicapped, the hearing impaired, and the otherwise physically disabled shall be employed in the state service, in the service of the political subdivisions of the state, in the public schools, and in all other employment supported in whole or in part by public funds on the same terms and conditions as the able-bodied, unless it is shown that the particular disability prevents the performance of the work involved. [1980 c 109 § 8; 1969 c 141 § 9.]

**70.84.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "White Cane Law." [1969 c 141 § 11.]

### Chapter 70.85 RCW

#### EMERGENCY PARTY LINE TELEPHONE CALLS— LIMITING TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION IN HOSTAGE SITUATIONS

##### Sections

70.85.010	Definitions.
70.85.020	Refusal to yield line—Penalty.
70.85.030	Request for line on pretext of emergency—Penalty.
70.85.040	Telephone directories—Notice.
70.85.100	Authority to isolate telephones in barricade or hostage situation—Definitions.
70.85.110	Telephone companies to provide contacting information.
70.85.120	Liability of telephone company.
70.85.130	Applicability.

*Call to operator without charge or coin insertion be provided: RCW 80.36.225.*

*Fraud in operating coin-box telephone: RCW 9.26A.120.*

*Telecommunications companies: Chapter 80.36 RCW.*

**70.85.010 Definitions.** "Party line" means a subscribers' line telephone circuit, consisting of two or more main telephone stations connected therewith, each station with a distinctive ring or telephone number.

"Emergency" means a situation in which property or human life are in jeopardy and the prompt summoning of aid is essential. [1953 c 25 § 1.]

**70.85.020 Refusal to yield line—Penalty.** Any person who shall wilfully refuse to yield or surrender the use of a party line to another person for the purpose of permitting such other person to report a fire or summon police, medical or other aid in case of emergency, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. [1953 c 25 § 2.]

**70.85.030 Request for line on pretext of emergency—Penalty.** Any person who shall ask for or request the use of a party line on pretext that an emergency exists, knowing that no emergency in fact exists, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. [1953 c 25 § 3.]

**70.85.040 Telephone directories—Notice.** After September 9, 1953, every telephone directory thereafter distributed to the members of the general public shall contain a notice which explains this chapter, such notice to be printed in type which is no smaller than any other type on the same page and to be preceded by the word "warning": PROVIDED, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to those directories distributed solely for business advertising purposes, commonly known as classified directories. [1953 c 25 § 4.]

**70.85.100 Authority to isolate telephones in barricade or hostage situation—Definitions.** (1) The supervising law enforcement official having jurisdiction in a geographical area who reasonably believes that a person is barricaded, or one or more persons are holding another person or persons hostage within that area may order a telephone company employee designated pursuant to RCW 70.85.110 to arrange to cut, reroute, or divert telephone lines for the purpose of preventing telephone communications between the barricaded person or hostage holder and any person other than a peace officer or a person authorized by the peace officer.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) A "hostage holder" is one who commits or attempts to commit any of the offenses described in RCW 9A.40.020, 9A.40.030, or 9A.40.040; and

(b) A "barricaded person" is one who establishes a perimeter around an area from which others are excluded and either:

(i) Is committing or is immediately fleeing from the commission of a violent felony; or

(ii) Is threatening or has immediately prior threatened a violent felony or suicide; or

(iii) Is creating or has created the likelihood of serious harm within the meaning of chapter 71.05 RCW relating to mental illness. [1985 c 260 § 1; 1979 c 28 § 1.]

**70.85.110 Telephone companies to provide contacting information.** The telephone company providing service within the geographical jurisdiction of a law enforcement unit shall inform law enforcement agencies of the address and telephone number of its security office or other designated office to provide all required assistance to law enforce-

ment officials to carry out the purpose of RCW 70.85.100 through 70.85.130. The designation shall be in writing and shall provide the telephone number or numbers through which the security representative or other telephone company official can be reached at any time. This information shall be served upon all law enforcement units having jurisdiction in a geographical area. Any change in address or telephone number or identity of the telephone company office to be contacted to provide required assistance shall be served upon all law enforcement units in the affected geographical area. [1979 c 28 § 2.]

**70.85.120 Liability of telephone company.** Good faith reliance on an order given under RCW 70.85.100 through 70.85.130 by a supervising law enforcement official shall constitute a complete defense to any civil or criminal action arising out of such ordered cutting, rerouting or diverting of telephone lines. [1979 c 28 § 3.]

**70.85.130 Applicability.** RCW 70.85.100 through 70.85.120 will govern notwithstanding the provisions of any other section of this chapter and notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 9.73 RCW. [1979 c 28 § 4.]

**Chapter 70.86 RCW**

**EARTHQUAKE STANDARDS FOR CONSTRUCTION**

Sections

- 70.86.010 Definitions.
- 70.86.020 Buildings to resist earthquake intensities.
- 70.86.030 Standards for design and construction.
- 70.86.040 Penalty.

**70.86.010 Definitions.** The word "person" includes any individual, corporation, or group of two or more individuals acting together for a common purpose, whether acting in an individual, representative, or official capacity. [1955 c 278 § 1.]

**70.86.020 Buildings to resist earthquake intensities.** Hospitals, schools, except one story, portable, frame school buildings, buildings designed or constructed as places of assembly accommodating more than three hundred persons; and all structures owned by the state, county, special districts, or any municipal corporation within the state of Washington shall hereafter be designed and constructed to resist probable earthquake intensities at the location thereof in accordance with RCW 70.86.030, unless other standards of design and construction for earthquake resistance are prescribed by enactments of the legislative authority of counties, special districts, and/or municipal corporations in which the structure is constructed. [1955 c 278 § 2.]

**70.86.030 Standards for design and construction.** Structural frames, exterior walls, and all appendages of the buildings described in RCW 70.86.020, whose collapse will endanger life and property shall be designed and constructed to withstand horizontal forces from any direction of not less than the following fractions of the weight of the structure and its parts acting at the centers of gravity:

Western Washington 0.05. [1955 c 278 § 3.]

**70.86.040 Penalty.** Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor: PROVIDED, That any person causing such a building to be built shall be entitled to rely on the certificate of a licensed professional engineer and/or registered architect that the standards of design set forth above have been met. [1955 c 278 § 4.]

**Chapter 70.87 RCW**

**ELEVATORS, LIFTING DEVICES, AND MOVING WALKS**

Sections

- 70.87.010 Definitions.
- 70.87.020 Conveyances to be safe and in conformity with law.
- 70.87.030 Rules—Waivers during state of emergency.
- 70.87.034 Additional powers of department.
- 70.87.036 Powers of attorney general.
- 70.87.040 Privately and publicly owned conveyances are subject to chapter.
- 70.87.050 Conveyances in buildings occupied by state, county, or political subdivision.
- 70.87.060 Responsibility for operation and maintenance of equipment and for periodic tests.
- 70.87.070 Serial numbers.
- 70.87.080 Permits—When required—Application for—Posting.
- 70.87.090 Operating permits—Limited permits—Duration—Posting.
- 70.87.100 Conveyance work to be performed by elevator contractors—Acceptance tests—Inspections.
- 70.87.110 Exceptions authorized.
- 70.87.120 Inspectors—Inspections and reinspections—Suspension or revocation of permit—Order to discontinue use—Penalties—Investigation by department—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
- 70.87.125 Suspension or revocation of license or permit—Grounds—Notice—Stay of suspension or revocation—Removal of suspension or reinstatement of license or permit.
- 70.87.140 Operation without permit enjoined.
- 70.87.145 Order to discontinue operation—Notice—Conditions—Contents of order—Recision of order—Violation—Penalty—Random inspections.
- 70.87.170 Review of department action in accordance with administrative procedure act.
- 70.87.180 Violations.
- 70.87.185 Penalty for violation of chapter—Rules—Notice.
- 70.87.190 Accidents—Report and investigation—Cessation of use—Removal of damaged parts.
- 70.87.200 Exemptions.
- 70.87.205 Resolution of disputes by arbitration—Appointment of arbitrators—Procedure—Decision—Enforcement.
- 70.87.210 Disposition of revenue.
- 70.87.220 Elevator safety advisory committee.
- 70.87.230 Conveyance work—Who may perform—Possession of license and identification.
- 70.87.240 Elevator contractor license, elevator mechanic license—Qualifications—Reciprocity.
- 70.87.245 Material lift mechanic license.
- 70.87.250 Licenses—Renewals—Fees—Temporary licenses—Continuing education—Records.
- 70.87.260 Liability not limited or assumed by state.
- 70.87.270 Exemptions from licensure.
- 70.87.280 License categories—Rules.
- 70.87.290 Rules—Effective date.
- 70.87.305 Private residence conveyances—Licensing requirements—Rules.
- 70.87.310 Whistleblower—Identity to remain confidential.

*State building code: Chapter 19.27 RCW.*

**70.87.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Advisory committee" means the elevator advisory committee as described in this chapter.

(2) "Alteration" means any change to equipment, including its parts, components, and/or subsystems, other than maintenance, repair, or replacement.

(3) "Automobile parking elevator" means an elevator: (a) Located in either a stationary or horizontally moving hoistway; (b) used exclusively for parking automobiles where, during the parking process, each automobile is moved either under its own power or by means of a power-driven transfer device onto and off the elevator directly into parking spaces or cubicles in line with the elevator; and (c) in which persons are not normally stationed on any level except the receiving level.

(4) "Belt manlift" means a power driven endless belt provided with steps or platforms and a hand hold for the transportation of personnel from floor to floor.

(5) "Casket lift" means a lift that (a) is installed at a mortuary, (b) is designed exclusively for carrying of caskets, (c) moves in guides in a basically vertical direction, and (d) serves two or more floors or landings.

(6) "Conveyance" means an elevator, escalator, dumbwaiter, belt manlift, automobile parking elevator, moving walk, and other elevating devices, as defined in this section.

(7) "Conveyance work" means the alteration, construction, dismantling, erection, installation, maintenance, relocation, and wiring of a conveyance.

(8) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

(9) "Director" means the director of the department or his or her representative.

(10) "Dumbwaiter" means a hoisting and lowering mechanism equipped with a car (a) that moves in guides in a substantially vertical direction, (b) the floor area of which does not exceed nine square feet, (c) the inside height of which does not exceed four feet, (d) the capacity of which does not exceed five hundred pounds, and (e) that is used exclusively for carrying materials.

(11) "Elevator" means a hoisting or lowering machine equipped with a car or platform that moves in guides and serves two or more floors or landings of a building or structure;

(a) "Passenger elevator" means an elevator (i) on which passengers are permitted to ride and (ii) that may be used to carry freight or materials when the load carried does not exceed the capacity of the elevator;

(b) "Freight elevator" means an elevator (i) used primarily for carrying freight and (ii) on which only the operator, the persons necessary for loading and unloading, and other employees approved by the department are permitted to ride;

(c) "Sidewalk elevator" means a freight elevator that: (i) Operates between a sidewalk or other area outside the building and floor levels inside the building below the outside area, (ii) does not have a landing opening into the building at its upper limit of travel, and (iii) is not used to carry automobiles;

(d) "Hand elevator" means an elevator utilizing manual energy to move the car;

(e) "Inclined elevator" means an elevator that travels at an angle of inclination of seventy degrees or less from the horizontal;

(f) "Multideck elevator" means an elevator having two or more compartments located one immediately above the other;

(g) "Observation elevator" means an elevator designed to permit exterior viewing by passengers while the car is traveling;

(h) "Power elevator" means an elevator utilizing energy other than gravitational or manual to move the car;

(i) "Electric elevator" means an elevator where the energy is applied by means of an electric driving machine;

(j) "Hydraulic elevator" means an elevator where the energy is applied by means of a liquid under pressure in a cylinder equipped with a plunger or piston;

(k) "Direct-plunger hydraulic elevator" means a hydraulic elevator having a plunger or cylinder directly attached to the car frame or platform;

(l) "Electro-hydraulic elevator" means a direct-plunger elevator where liquid is pumped under pressure directly into the cylinder by a pump driven by an electric motor;

(m) "Maintained-pressure hydraulic elevator" means a direct-plunger elevator where liquid under pressure is available at all times for transfer into the cylinder;

(n) "Roped hydraulic elevator" means a hydraulic elevator having its plunger or piston connected to the car with wire ropes or indirectly coupled to the car by means of wire ropes and sheaves;

(o) "Rack and pinion elevator" means a power elevator, with or without a counterweight, that is supported, raised, and lowered by a motor or motors that drive a pinion or pinions on a stationary rack mounted in the hoistway;

(p) "Screw column elevator" means a power elevator having an uncounterweighted car that is supported, raised, and lowered by means of a screw thread;

(q) "Rooftop elevator" means a power passenger or freight elevator that operates between a landing at roof level and one landing below and opens onto the exterior roof level of a building through a horizontal opening;

(r) "Special purpose personnel elevator" means an elevator that is limited in size, capacity, and speed, and permanently installed in structures such as grain elevators, radio antenna, bridge towers, underground facilities, dams, power plants, and similar structures to provide vertical transportation of authorized personnel and their tools and equipment only;

(s) "Workmen's construction elevator" means an elevator that is not part of the permanent structure of a building and is used to raise and lower workers and other persons connected with, or related to, the building project;

(t) "Boat launching elevator" means a conveyance that serves a boat launching structure and a beach or water surface and is used for the carrying or handling of boats in which people ride;

(u) "Limited-use/limited-application elevator" means a power passenger elevator where the use and application is limited by size, capacity, speed, and rise, intended principally to provide vertical transportation for people with physical disabilities.

(12) "Elevator contractor" means any person, firm, or company that possesses an elevator contractor license in accordance with this chapter and who is engaged in the business of performing conveyance work covered by this chapter.

(13) "Elevator contractor license" means a license that is issued to an elevator contractor who has met the qualification requirements established in RCW 70.87.240.

(14) "Elevator helper/apprentice" means a person who works under the general direction of a licensed elevator mechanic. A license is not required to be an elevator helper/apprentice.

(15) "Elevator mechanic" means any person who possesses an elevator mechanic license in accordance with this chapter and who is engaged in performing conveyance work covered by this chapter.

(16) "Elevator mechanic license" means a license that is issued to a person who has met the qualification requirements established in RCW 70.87.240.

(17) "Employee" means any person employed by an elevator contractor.

(18) "Escalator" means a power-driven, inclined, continuous stairway used for raising and lowering passengers.

(19) "Existing installations" means an installation defined as an "installation, existing" in this chapter or in rules adopted under this chapter.

(20) "Inspector" means an elevator inspector of the department or an elevator inspector of a municipality having in effect an elevator ordinance pursuant to RCW 70.87.200.

(21) "License" means a written license, duly issued by the department, authorizing a person, firm, or company to carry on the business of performing conveyance work or to perform conveyance work covered by this chapter.

(22) "Licensee" means the elevator mechanic or elevator contractor.

(23) "Maintenance" means a process of routine examination, lubrication, cleaning, servicing, and adjustment of parts, components, and/or subsystems for the purpose of ensuring performance in accordance with this chapter. "Maintenance" includes repair and replacement, but not alteration.

(24) "Material hoist" means a hoist that is not a part of a permanent structure used to raise or lower materials during construction, alteration, or demolition. It is not applicable to the temporary use of permanently installed personnel elevators as material hoists.

(25) "Material lift" means a lift that (a) is permanently installed, (b) is comprised of a car or platform that moves in guides, (c) serves two or more floors or landings, (d) travels in a vertical or inclined position, (e) is an isolated, self-contained lift, (f) is not part of a conveying system, and (g) is installed in a commercial or industrial area not accessible to the general public or intended to be operated by the general public.

(26) "Moving walk" means a passenger-carrying device (a) on which passengers stand or walk and (b) on which the passenger-carrying surface remains parallel to its direction of motion.

(27) "One-man capacity manlift" means a single passenger, hand-powered counterweighted device, or electric-powered device, that travels vertically in guides and serves two or more landings.

(28) "Owner" means any person having title to or control of a conveyance, as guardian, trustee, lessee, or otherwise.

(29) "Permit" means a permit issued by the department: (a) To perform conveyance work, other than maintenance; or (b) to operate a conveyance.

(30) "Person" means this state, a political subdivision, any public or private corporation, any firm, or any other entity as well as an individual.

(31) "Personnel hoist" means a hoist that is not a part of a permanent structure, is installed inside or outside buildings during construction, alteration, or demolition, and used to raise or lower workers and other persons connected with, or related to, the building project. The hoist may also be used for transportation of materials.

(32) "Platform" means a rigid surface that is maintained in a horizontal position at all times when in use, and upon which passengers stand or a load is carried.

(33) "Private residence conveyance" means a conveyance installed in or on the premises of a single-family dwelling and operated for transporting persons or property from one elevation to another.

(34) "Public agency" means a county, incorporated city or town, municipal corporation, state agency, institution of higher education, political subdivision, or other public agency and includes any department, bureau, office, board, commission or institution of such public entities.

(35) "Repair" means the reconditioning or renewal of parts, components, and/or subsystems necessary to keep equipment in compliance with this chapter.

(36) "Replacement" means the substitution of a device, component, and/or subsystem in its entirety with a unit that is basically the same as the original for the purpose of ensuring performance in accordance with this chapter.

(37) "Single-occupancy farm conveyance" means a hand-powered counterweighted single-occupancy conveyance that travels vertically in a grain elevator and is located on a farm that does not accept commercial grain.

(38) "Stairway chair lift" means a lift that travels in a basically inclined direction and is designed for use by individuals with disabilities.

(39) "Wheelchair lift" means a lift that travels in a vertical or inclined direction and is designed for use by individuals with disabilities.

(40) "Whistleblower" means any employee who in good faith reports practices or opposes practices that may violate the provisions of this chapter or the rules promulgated hereunder, or of the safety, installation, repair, or maintenance policies of his or her employer. The term also means (a) an employee who is believed to have reported such practices but who, in fact, has not reported such practices or (b) an employee who has assisted in the reporting of practices or has provided testimony or information in connection with the reporting of practices.

(41) "Workplace reprisal or retaliatory action" includes actions such as discharge or in any manner discrimination against any employee who has reported or filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this chapter, or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding or because of the exercise by such employee on behalf of himself or herself or others of any right or responsibility afforded by this chapter. [2012 c 54 § 2. Prior: 2009 c 128 § 1; 2003 c 143 § 9; 2002 c 98 § 1; 1998 c 137 § 1; 1997 c 216 § 1; 1983 c 123 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 52 § 9; 1969 ex.s. c 108 § 1; 1963 c 26 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.020 Conveyances to be safe and in conformity with law.** (1) The purpose of this chapter is to provide for safety of life and limb, to promote safety awareness, and to ensure the safe design, mechanical and electrical operation, and inspection of conveyances, and performance of conveyance work, and all such operation, inspection, and conveyance work subject to the provisions of this chapter shall be reasonably safe to persons and property and in conformity with the provisions of this chapter and the applicable statutes of the state of Washington, and all orders, and rules of the department. The use of unsafe and defective conveyances imposes a substantial probability of serious and preventable injury to employees and the public exposed to unsafe conditions. The prevention of these injuries and protection of employees and the public from unsafe conditions is in the best interest of the people of this state. It is the policy of the legislature that employees should be protected from workplace reprisal or retaliatory action for the opposition to or reporting in good faith of practices that may violate the provisions of this chapter and the rules promulgated hereunder, or of the safety, installation, repair, or maintenance policies of their employers. Personnel performing work covered by this chapter must, by documented training or experience or both, be familiar with the operation and safety functions of the components and equipment. Training and experience must include, but not be limited to, recognizing the safety hazards and performing the procedures to which the personnel performing conveyance work covered by this chapter are assigned in conformance with the requirements of this chapter. This chapter establishes the minimum standards for personnel performing conveyance work.

(2) This chapter is not intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, code effectiveness, durability, and safety to those required by this chapter, provided that there is technical documentation to demonstrate the equivalency of the system, method, or device, as prescribed in this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

(3) In any suit for damages allegedly caused by a failure or malfunction of the conveyance, conformity with the rules of the department is prima facie evidence that the conveyance work, operation, and inspection is reasonably safe to persons and property. [2012 c 54 § 1; 2003 c 143 § 10; 2002 c 98 § 2; 1983 c 123 § 2; 1963 c 26 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.030 Rules—Waivers during state of emergency.** The department shall adopt rules governing the mechanical and electrical operation, acceptance tests, conveyance work, operation, and inspection that are necessary and appropriate and shall also adopt minimum standards governing existing installations. In the execution of this rule-making power and before the adoption of rules, the department shall consider the rules for safe conveyance work, operation, and inspection, including the American National Standards Institute Safety Code for Personnel and Material Hoists, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Safety Code for Elevators, Dumbwaiters, and Escalators, and any amendatory or supplemental provisions thereto. The department by rule shall establish a schedule of fees to pay the costs incurred by the department for the work related to

administration and enforcement of this chapter. Nothing in this chapter limits the authority of the department to prescribe or enforce general or special safety orders as provided by law.

The department may consult with: Engineering authorities and organizations concerned with standard safety codes; rules and regulations governing conveyance work, operation, and inspection; and the qualifications that are adequate, reasonable, and necessary for the elevator mechanic, contractor, and inspector.

During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the collection of fees under this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 206; 2003 c 143 § 11; 2002 c 98 § 3; 1998 c 137 § 2; 1994 c 164 § 28; 1983 c 123 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 52 § 10; 1971 c 66 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 22 § 1; 1963 c 26 § 3.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.034 Additional powers of department.** The department also has the following powers:

(1) The department may adopt any rules necessary or helpful for the department to implement and enforce this chapter.

(2) The director may issue subpoenas for the production of persons, papers, or information in all proceedings and investigations within the scope of this chapter. If a person refuses to obey a subpoena, the director, through the attorney general, may ask the superior court to order the person to obey the subpoena.

(3) The director may take the oral or written testimony of any person. The director has the power to administer oaths.

(4) The director may make specific decisions, cease and desist orders, other orders, and rulings, including demands and findings. [1983 c 123 § 19.]

**70.87.036 Powers of attorney general.** On request of the department, the attorney general may:

(1) File suit to collect a penalty assessed by the department;

(2) Seek a civil injunction, show cause order, or contempt order against the person who repeatedly violates a provision of this chapter;

(3) Seek an ex parte inspection warrant if the person refuses to allow the department to inspect a conveyance;

(4) File suit asking the court to enforce a cease and desist order or a subpoena issued by the director under this chapter; and

(5) Take any other legal action appropriate and necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

All suits shall be brought in the district or superior court of the district or county in which the defendant resides or transacts business. In any suit or other legal action, the department may ask the court to award costs and attorney's fees. If the department prevails, the court shall award the appropriate costs and attorney's fees. [1983 c 123 § 20.]

**70.87.040 Privately and publicly owned conveyances are subject to chapter.** All privately owned and publicly owned conveyances are subject to the provisions of this chapter except as specifically excluded by this chapter. [1983 c 123 § 4; 1963 c 26 § 4.]

**70.87.050 Conveyances in buildings occupied by state, county, or political subdivision.** The conveyance work on, and the operation and inspection of any conveyance located in, or used in connection with, any building owned by the state, a county, or a political subdivision, other than those located within and owned by a city having an elevator code, shall be under the jurisdiction of the department. [2003 c 143 § 12; 2002 c 98 § 4; 1983 c 123 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 108 § 2; 1963 c 26 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.060 Responsibility for operation and maintenance of equipment and for periodic tests.** (1) The person, elevator contractor, or public agency performing conveyance work is responsible for operation and maintenance of the conveyance until the department has issued an operating permit for the conveyance, except during the period when a limited operating permit in accordance with RCW 70.87.090(2) is in effect, and is also responsible for all tests of a new, relocated, or altered conveyance until the department has issued an operating permit for the conveyance.

(2) The owner or his or her duly appointed agent shall be responsible for the safe operation and proper maintenance of the conveyance after the department has issued the operating permit and also during the period of effectiveness of any limited operating permit in accordance with RCW 70.87.090(2). The owner shall be responsible for all periodic tests required by the department. [2003 c 143 § 13; 1983 c 123 § 6; 1963 c 26 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.070 Serial numbers.** All new and existing conveyances shall have a serial number painted on or attached as directed by the department. This serial number shall be assigned by the department and shown on all required permits. [1983 c 123 § 7; 1963 c 26 § 7.]

**70.87.080 Permits—When required—Application for—Posting.** (1) A permit shall be obtained from the department before performing work, other than maintenance, on a conveyance under the jurisdiction of the department.

(2) The installer of the conveyance shall submit an application for the permit in duplicate, in a form that the department may prescribe.

(3) The permit issued by the department shall be kept posted conspicuously at the site of installation.

(4) A permit is not required for maintenance.

(5) After the effective date of rules adopted under this chapter establishing licensing requirements, the department may issue a permit for conveyance work only to an elevator contractor unless the permit is for conveyance work on private residence conveyances. After July 1, 2004, the department may not issue a permit for conveyance work on private residence conveyances to a person other than an elevator contractor. [2003 c 143 § 14; 1983 c 123 § 8; 1963 c 26 § 8.]

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Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.090 Operating permits—Limited permits—Duration—Posting.** (1) An operating permit is required for each conveyance operated in the state of Washington except during its erection by the person or firm responsible for its installation. A permit issued by the department shall be kept conspicuously posted near the conveyance.

(2) The department may permit the temporary use of a conveyance during its installation or alteration, under the authority of a limited permit issued by the department for each class of service. Limited permits shall be issued for a period not to exceed thirty days and may be renewed at the discretion of the department. This limited-use permit is to provide transportation for construction personnel, tools, and materials only. Where a limited permit is issued, a notice bearing the information that the equipment has not been finally approved shall be conspicuously posted. [1998 c 137 § 3; 1983 c 123 § 9; 1963 c 26 § 9.]

**70.87.100 Conveyance work to be performed by elevator contractors—Acceptance tests—Inspections.** (1) All conveyance installations, relocations, or alterations must be performed by an elevator contractor employing an elevator mechanic.

(2) The elevator contractor employing an elevator mechanic performing such conveyance work shall notify the department before completion of the work, and shall subject the new, moved, or altered portions of the conveyance to the acceptance tests.

(3) All new, altered, or relocated conveyances for which a permit has been issued, shall be inspected for compliance with the requirements of this chapter by an authorized representative of the department. The authorized representative shall also witness the test specified. [2003 c 143 § 15; 2002 c 98 § 5; 1983 c 123 § 11; 1963 c 26 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.110 Exceptions authorized.** The requirements of this chapter are intended to apply to all conveyances except as modified or waived by the department. They are intended to be modified or waived whenever any requirements are shown to be impracticable, such as involving expense not justified by the protection secured. However, the department shall not allow the modification or waiver unless equivalent or safer construction is secured in other ways. An exception applies only to the installation covered by the application for waiver. [1983 c 123 § 12; 1963 c 26 § 11.]

**70.87.120 Inspectors—Inspections and reinspections—Suspension or revocation of permit—Order to discontinue use—Penalties—Investigation by department—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** (1) The department shall appoint and employ inspectors, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, under the provisions of the rules adopted by the Washington personnel resources board in accordance with chapter 41.06 RCW.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the department shall cause all conveyances to be inspected and tested at least once each year. Inspectors have the right during

reasonable hours to enter into and upon any building or premises in the discharge of their official duties, for the purpose of making any inspection or testing any conveyance contained thereon or therein. Inspections and tests shall conform with the rules adopted by the department. The department shall inspect all installations before it issues any initial permit for operation. Permits shall not be issued until the fees required by this chapter have been paid.

(b)(i) Private residence conveyances operated exclusively for single-family use shall be inspected and tested only when required under RCW 70.87.100 or as necessary for the purposes of subsection (4) of this section and shall be exempt from RCW 70.87.090 unless an annual inspection and operating permit are requested by the owner.

(ii) The department may perform additional inspections of a private residence conveyance at the request of the owner of the conveyance. Fees for these inspections shall be in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted for operating permits pursuant to RCW 70.87.030. An inspection requested under this subsection (2)(b)(ii) shall not be performed until the required fees have been paid.

(3) If inspection shows a conveyance to be in an unsafe condition, the department shall issue an inspection report in writing requiring the repairs or alterations to be made to the conveyance that are necessary to render it safe and may also suspend or revoke a permit pursuant to RCW 70.87.125 or order the operation of a conveyance discontinued pursuant to RCW 70.87.145.

(a) A penalty may be assessed under RCW 70.87.185 for failure to correct a violation within ninety days after the owner is notified in writing of inspection results.

(b) The owner may be assessed a penalty under RCW 70.87.185 for failure to submit official notification in writing to the department that all corrections have been completed.

(4) The department may investigate accidents and alleged or apparent violations of this chapter.

(5) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the collection of fees under this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 207; 1998 c 137 § 4; 1997 c 216 § 2; 1993 c 281 § 61; 1983 c 123 § 13; 1970 ex.s. c 22 § 2; 1963 c 26 § 12.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.125 Suspension or revocation of license or permit—Grounds—Notice—Stay of suspension or revocation—Removal of suspension or reinstatement of license or permit.** (1) A license issued under this chapter may be suspended, revoked, or subject to civil penalty by the department upon verification that any one or more of the following reasons exist:

(a) Any false statement as to a material matter in the application;

(b) Fraud, misrepresentation, or bribery in securing a license;

(c) Failure to notify the department and the owner or lessee of a conveyance or related mechanisms of any condition not in compliance with this chapter;

(d) A violation of any provisions of this chapter; and

(e) If the elevator contractor does not employ an individual designated as the primary point of contact with the department and who has successfully completed the elevator contractor examination. In the case of a separation of employment, termination of this relationship or designation, or death of the designated individual, the elevator contractor must, within ninety days, designate a new individual who has successfully completed the elevator contractor examination.

(2) The department may suspend or revoke a permit if:

(a) The permit was obtained through fraud or by error if, in the absence of error, the department would not have issued the permit;

(b) The conveyance for which the permit was issued has not been worked on in accordance with this chapter; or

(c) The conveyance has become unsafe.

(3) The department shall suspend any license issued under this chapter promptly after receiving notice from the department of social and health services that the holder of the license has been certified pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 as a person who is not in compliance with a support order. If the person has continued to meet all other license requirements during the suspension, reissuance of the license shall be automatic upon the department's receipt of a release issued by the department of social and health services stating that the person is in compliance with the order.

(4) The department shall notify in writing the owner, licensee, or person performing conveyance work, of its action and the reason for the action. The department shall send the notice using a method by which the mailing can be tracked or the delivery can be confirmed to the last known address of the owner or person. The notice shall inform the owner or person that a hearing may be requested pursuant to RCW 70.87.170.

(5)(a) If the department has suspended or revoked a permit or license because of fraud or error, and a hearing is requested, the suspension or revocation shall be stayed until the hearing is concluded and a decision is issued.

(b) If the department has revoked or suspended a license because the licensee performing the work covered by this chapter is working in a manner that does not effectively prevent injuries or deaths or protect employees and the public from unsafe conditions as is required by this chapter, the suspension or revocation is effective immediately and shall not be stayed by a request for a hearing.

(c) If the department has revoked or suspended a permit because the conveyance is unsafe or the conveyance work is not permitted and performed in accordance with this chapter, the suspension or revocation is effective immediately and shall not be stayed by a request for a hearing.

(6) The department must remove a suspension or reinstate a revoked license if the licensee pays all the assessed civil penalties and is able to demonstrate to the department that the licensee has met all the qualifications established by this chapter.

(7) The department shall remove a suspension or reinstate a revoked permit if a conveyance is repaired or modified to bring it into compliance with this chapter. [2011 c 301 § 22; 2003 c 143 § 16; 2002 c 98 § 6; 1983 c 123 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.140 Operation without permit enjoined.**

Whenever any conveyance is being operated without a permit required by this chapter, the attorney general or the prosecuting attorney of the county may apply to the superior court of the county in which the conveyance is located for a temporary restraining order or a temporary or permanent injunction restraining the operation of the conveyance until the department issues a permit for the conveyance. No bond may be required from the department in such proceedings. [1983 c 123 § 14; 1963 c 26 § 14.]

**70.87.145 Order to discontinue operation—Notice—Conditions—Contents of order—Rescission of order—Violation—Penalty—Random inspections.** (1) An authorized representative of the department may order the owner or person operating a conveyance to discontinue the operation of a conveyance, and may place a notice that states that the conveyance may not be operated on a conspicuous place in the conveyance, if:

(a) The conveyance work has not been permitted and performed in accordance with this chapter; or

(b) The conveyance has otherwise become unsafe.

The order is effective immediately, and shall not be stayed by a request for a hearing.

(2) The department shall prescribe a form for the order to discontinue operation. The order shall specify why the conveyance violates this chapter or is otherwise unsafe, and shall inform the owner or operator that he or she may request a hearing pursuant to RCW 70.87.170. A request for a hearing does not stay the effect of the order.

(3) The department shall rescind the order to discontinue operation if the conveyance is fixed or modified to bring it into compliance with this chapter.

(4) An owner or a person that knowingly operates or allows the operation of a conveyance in contravention of an order to discontinue operation, or removes a notice not to operate, is:

(a) Guilty of a misdemeanor; and

(b) Subject to a civil penalty under RCW 70.87.185.

(5) The department may conduct random on-site inspections and tests on existing installations, witnessing periodic inspections and testing in order to ensure satisfactory conveyance work by persons, firms, or companies performing conveyance work, and assist in development of public awareness programs. [2003 c 143 § 17; 2002 c 98 § 7; 1983 c 123 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.170 Review of department action in accordance with administrative procedure act.** (1) Any person aggrieved by an order or action of the department denying, suspending, revoking, or refusing to renew a permit or license; assessing a penalty for a violation of this chapter; or ordering the operation of a conveyance to be discontinued, may request a hearing within fifteen days after notice of the department's order or action is received. The date the hearing was requested shall be the date the request for hearing was postmarked.

(2) The party requesting the hearing must accompany the request with a certified or cashier's check for two hundred

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dollars payable to the department, except that if a penalty assessment is the issue for the hearing, the check amount shall be ten percent of the penalty amount or two hundred dollars, whichever is less, but in no event less than one hundred dollars. The department shall refund the amount of the check if the party requesting the hearing prevails at the hearing; otherwise, the department shall retain the amount of the check.

(3) If the department does not receive a timely request for hearing, the department's order or action is final and may not be appealed.

(4) If the aggrieved party requests a hearing, the department shall ask an administrative law judge to preside over the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. [2014 c 190 § 5; 2003 c 143 § 18; 2002 c 98 § 8; 1983 c 123 § 16; 1963 c 26 § 17.]

**Effective date—2014 c 190:** See note following RCW 19.28.131.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.180 Violations.** (1) The performance of conveyance work, other than maintenance, or the operation of a conveyance without a permit by any person owning or having the custody, management, or operation thereof, except as provided in RCW 70.87.080 and 70.87.090, is a misdemeanor. Each day of violation is a separate offense. A prosecution may not be maintained if a person has requested the issuance or renewal of a permit but the department has not acted.

(2) The performance of conveyance work, other than the maintenance of conveyances as specified in RCW 70.87.270, without a license by any person is a misdemeanor. Each day of violation is a separate offense. A prosecution may not be maintained if a person has requested the issuance or renewal of a license but the department has not acted. [2003 c 143 § 19; 2002 c 98 § 9; 1983 c 123 § 17; 1963 c 26 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.185 Penalty for violation of chapter—Rules—Notice.** (1) The department may assess a penalty against a person violating a provision of this chapter. The penalty shall be not more than five hundred dollars. Each day that the violation continues is a separate violation and is subject to a separate penalty.

(2) The department may not assess a penalty until it adopts rules describing the method it will use to calculate penalties for various violations.

(3) The department shall notify the violator of its action, and the reasons for its action, in writing. The department shall send the notice using a method by which the mailing can be tracked or the delivery can be confirmed to the violator's last known address. The notice shall inform the violator that a hearing may be requested under RCW 70.87.170. The hearing shall not stay the effect of the penalty. [2011 c 301 § 23; 1983 c 123 § 18.]

**70.87.190 Accidents—Report and investigation—Cessation of use—Removal of damaged parts.** The owner or the owner's duly authorized agent shall promptly notify the department of each accident to a person requiring the service of a physician or resulting in a disability exceeding one day, and shall afford the department every facility for investigating and inspecting the accident. The department shall without

delay, after being notified, make an inspection and shall place on file a full and complete report of the accident. The report shall give in detail all material facts and information available and the cause or causes, so far as they can be determined. The report shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable hours. When an accident involves the failure or destruction of any part of the construction or the operating mechanism of a conveyance, the use of the conveyance is forbidden until it has been made safe; it has been reinspected and any repairs, changes, or alterations have been approved by the department; and a permit has been issued by the department. The removal of any part of the damaged construction or operating mechanism from the premises is forbidden until the department grants permission to do so. [1983 c 123 § 21; 1963 c 26 § 19.]

**70.87.200 Exemptions.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply where:

(a) A conveyance is permanently removed from service or made effectively inoperative;

(b) Lifts, hoists for persons, or material hoists are erected temporarily for use during construction work only and are of such a design that they must be operated by a worker stationed at the hoisting machine; or

(c) A single-occupancy farm conveyance is used exclusively by a farm operator and the farm operator's family members.

(2) Except as limited by RCW 70.87.050, municipalities having in effect an elevator code prior to June 13, 1963, may continue to assume jurisdiction over conveyance work and may inspect, issue permits, collect fees, and prescribe minimum requirements for conveyance work and operation if the requirements are equal to the requirements of this chapter and to all rules pertaining to conveyances adopted and administered by the department. Upon the failure of a municipality having jurisdiction over conveyances to carry out the provisions of this chapter with regard to a conveyance, the department may assume jurisdiction over the conveyance. If a municipality elects not to maintain jurisdiction over certain conveyances located therein, it may enter into a written agreement with the department transferring exclusive jurisdiction of the conveyances to the department. The city may not reassume jurisdiction after it enters into such an agreement with the department. [2009 c 549 § 1025; 2009 c 128 § 2; 2003 c 143 § 20; 1983 c 123 § 22; 1969 ex.s. c 108 § 4; 1963 c 26 § 20.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 128 § 2 and by 2009 c 549 § 1025, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.205 Resolution of disputes by arbitration—Appointment of arbitrators—Procedure—Decision—Enforcement.** (1) Disputes arising under RCW 70.87.200(2) shall be resolved by arbitration. The request shall be sent using a method by which the mailing can be tracked or the delivery can be confirmed.

(2) The department shall appoint one arbitrator; the municipality shall appoint one arbitrator; and the arbitrators chosen by the department and the municipality shall appoint

the third arbitrator. If the two arbitrators cannot agree on the third arbitrator, the presiding judge of the Thurston county superior court, or his or her designee, shall appoint the third arbitrator.

(3) The arbitration shall be held pursuant to the procedures in chapter 7.04A RCW, except that RCW 7.04A.280(1)(f) shall not apply. The decision of the arbitrators is final and binding on the parties. Neither party may appeal a decision to any court.

(4) A party may petition the Thurston county superior court to enforce a decision of the arbitrators. [2011 c 301 § 24; 2005 c 433 § 49; 1983 c 123 § 23.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.210 Disposition of revenue.** All moneys received or collected under the terms of this chapter shall be deposited in the general fund. [1963 c 26 § 21.]

**70.87.220 Elevator safety advisory committee.** (1) The department may adopt the rules necessary to establish and administer the elevator safety advisory committee. The purpose of the advisory committee is to advise the department on the adoption of rules that apply to conveyances; methods of enforcing and administering this chapter; and matters of concern to the conveyance industry and to the individual installers, owners, and users of conveyances.

(2) The advisory committee shall consist of seven persons. The director of the department or his or her designee with the advice of the chief elevator inspector shall appoint the committee members as follows:

(a) One representative of licensed elevator contractors;

(b) One representative of elevator mechanics licensed to perform all types of conveyance work;

(c) One representative of owner-employed mechanics exempt from licensing requirements under RCW 70.87.270;

(d) One registered architect or professional engineer representative;

(e) One building owner or manager representative;

(f) One registered general commercial contractor representative; and

(g) One ad hoc member representing a municipality maintaining jurisdiction of conveyances in accordance with RCW 70.87.210 [70.87.200].

(3) The committee members shall serve terms of four years.

(4) The committee shall meet on the third Tuesday of February, May, August, and November of each year, and at other times at the discretion of the chief elevator inspector. The committee members shall serve without per diem or travel expenses.

(5) The chief elevator inspector shall be the secretary for the advisory committee. [2003 c 143 § 7; 2002 c 98 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.230 Conveyance work—Who may perform—Possession of license and identification.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 70.87.270, a person may not perform conveyance work within the state unless he or she is an elevator mechanic who is regularly employed by and is working: (a) For an owner exempt from licensing requirements under RCW 70.87.270 and performing maintenance; (b) for a pub-

lic agency performing maintenance; or (c) under the direct supervision of an elevator contractor. A person, firm, public agency, or company is not required to be an elevator contractor for removing or dismantling conveyances that are destroyed as a result of a complete demolition of a secured building or structure or where the building is demolished back to the basic support structure whereby no access is permitted therein to endanger the safety and welfare of a person.

(2) When performing conveyance work, an elevator mechanic must have his or her license and photo identification in his or her possession. The elevator mechanic must produce his or her license and identification upon request of an authorized representative of the department. The department may establish by rule a requirement that the mechanic also wear and visibly display his or her license. [2009 c 36 § 10; 2003 c 143 § 1; 2002 c 98 § 10.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 36:** See note following RCW 18.106.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.240 Elevator contractor license, elevator mechanic license—Qualifications—Reciprocity.** (1) Any person, firm, public agency, or company wishing to engage in the business of performing conveyance work within the state must apply for an elevator contractor license with the department on a form provided by the department and be a registered general or specialty contractor under chapter 18.27 RCW.

(2) Except as provided by RCW 70.87.270, any person wishing to perform conveyance work within the state must apply for an elevator mechanic license with the department on a form provided by the department.

(3) An elevator contractor license may not be granted to any person or firm who does not possess the following qualifications:

(a) Five years' experience performing conveyance work, as verified by current and previous elevator contractors licensed to do business; or

(b) Satisfactory completion of a written examination administered by the department on this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, RCW 70.87.305, and 70.87.245, an elevator mechanic license may not be granted to any person who does not possess the following qualifications:

(a) An acceptable combination of documented experience and education credits: Not less than three years' experience performing conveyance work, as verified by current and previous employers licensed to do business in this state or public agency employers; and

(b) Satisfactory completion of a written examination administered by the department on this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

(5) Any person who furnishes the department with acceptable proof that he or she has performed conveyance work in the category for which a license is sought shall upon making application for a license and paying the license fee receive a license without an examination. The person must have:

(a) Worked without direct and immediate supervision for a general or specialty contractor registered under chapter 18.27 RCW and engaged in the business of performing con-

veyance work in this state. This employment may not be less than each and all of the three years immediately before March 1, 2004. The person must apply within ninety days after the effective date of rules adopted under this chapter establishing licensing requirements;

(b) Worked without direct and immediate supervision for an owner exempt from licensing requirements under RCW 70.87.270 or a public agency as an individual responsible for maintenance of conveyances owned by the owner exempt from licensing requirements under RCW 70.87.270 or the public agency. This employment may not be less than each and all of the three years immediately before March 1, 2004. The person must apply within ninety days after the effective date of rules adopted under this chapter establishing licensing requirements;

(c) Obtained a certificate of completion and successfully passed the mechanic examination of a nationally recognized training program for the elevator industry such as the national elevator industry educational program or its equivalent; or

(d) Obtained a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship program for an elevator mechanic, having standards substantially equal to those of this chapter, and registered with the Washington state apprenticeship and training council.

(6) A license must be issued to an individual holding a valid license from a state having entered into a reciprocal agreement with the department and having standards substantially equal to those of this chapter, upon application and without examination. [2004 c 66 § 2; 2003 c 143 § 2; 2002 c 98 § 12.]

**Findings—2004 c 66:** See note following RCW 70.87.305.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.245 Material lift mechanic license.** A material lift mechanic license to perform conveyance work on material lifts subject to WAC 296-96-05010 may be granted to any person who possesses the following qualifications:

(1) The person: (a) Must be employed by an elevator contractor that complies with subsections (2) and (3) of this section; (b) must have successfully completed the training described in subsection (2) of this section; and (c) after successfully completing such training, must have passed a written examination administered by the department that is designed to demonstrate competency with regard to conveyance work on material lifts;

(2) The employer must provide the persons specified in subsection (1) of this section adequate training, including any training provided by the manufacturer, ensuring worker safety and adherence to the published operating specifications of the conveyance manufacturer; and

(3) The employer must maintain: (a) A conveyance work log identifying the equipment, describing the conveyance work performed, and identifying the person who performed the conveyance work; (b) a training log describing the course of study applicable to each conveyance and identifying each employee who has successfully completed the training described in subsection (2) of this section and when such training was completed; and (c) a record evidencing that the employer has notified the conveyance owner in writing that the conveyance is not designed to, is not intended to, and should not be used to convey workers. [2003 c 143 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.250 Licenses—Renewals—Fees—Temporary licenses—Continuing education—Records.** (1) Upon approval of an application, the department may issue a license that is biennially renewable. Each license may include a photograph of the licensee. The fee for the license and for any renewal shall be set by the department in rule.

(2) The department may issue temporary elevator mechanic licenses. These temporary elevator mechanic licenses will be issued to those certified as qualified and competent by licensed elevator contractors. The company shall furnish proof of competency as the department may require. Each license may include a photograph of the licensee. Each license must recite that it is valid for a period of thirty days from the date of issuance and for such particular conveyance or geographical areas as the department may designate, and otherwise entitles the licensee to the rights and privileges of an elevator mechanic license issued in this chapter. A temporary elevator mechanic license may be renewed by the department and a fee as established in rule must be charged for any temporary elevator mechanic license or renewal.

(3) The renewal of all licenses granted under this section is conditioned upon the submission of a certificate of completion of a course designed to ensure the continuing education of licensees on new and existing rules of the department. The course must consist of not less than eight hours of instruction that must be attended and completed within one year immediately preceding any license renewal.

(4) The courses must be taught by instructors through continuing education providers that may include, but are not limited to, association seminars and labor training programs. The department must approve the continuing education providers. All instructors must be approved by the department and are exempt from the requirements of subsection (3) of this section with regard to his or her application for license renewal, provided that such applicant was qualified as an instructor at any time during the one year immediately preceding the scheduled date for such renewal.

(5) A licensee who is unable to complete the continuing education course required under this section before the expiration of his or her license due to a temporary disability may apply for a waiver from the department. This will be on a form provided by the department and signed under the pains and penalties of perjury and accompanied by a certified statement from a competent physician attesting to the temporary disability. Upon the termination of the temporary disability, the licensee must submit to the department a certified statement from the same physician, if practicable, attesting to the termination of the temporary disability. At which time a waiver sticker, valid for ninety days, must be issued to the licensee and affixed to his or her license.

(6) Approved training providers must keep uniform records, for a period of ten years, of attendance of licensees and these records must be available for inspection by the department at its request. Approved training providers are responsible for the security of all attendance records and certificates of completion. However, falsifying or knowingly allowing another to falsify attendance records or certificates of completion constitutes grounds for suspension or revocation of the approval required under this section. [2009 c 36 § 11; 2003 c 143 § 21; 2002 c 98 § 13.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 36:** See note following RCW 18.106.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.260 Liability not limited or assumed by state.** This chapter cannot be construed to relieve or lessen the responsibility or liability of any person, firm, or corporation owning, operating, controlling, testing, inspecting, or performing conveyance work on any conveyance or other related mechanisms covered by this chapter for damages to person or property caused by any defect therein, nor does the state assume any such liability or responsibility therefore or any liability to any person for whatever reason whatsoever by the adoption of this chapter or any acts or omissions arising hereunder. [2003 c 143 § 22; 2002 c 98 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.270 Exemptions from licensure.** (1) The licensing requirements of this chapter do not apply to the maintenance of conveyances specified in (a) of this subsection if a person specified in (b) of this subsection performs the maintenance and the owner complies with the requirements specified in (c) and (d) of this subsection.

(a) The conveyance: (i) Must be a conveyance other than a passenger elevator to which the general public has access; and (ii) must be located in a facility in which agricultural products are stored, food products are processed, goods are manufactured, energy is generated, or similar industrial or agricultural processes are performed.

(b) The person performing the maintenance: (i) Must be regularly employed by the owner; (ii) must have completed the training described in (c) of this subsection; and (iii) must have attained journey level status in an electrical or mechanical trade, but only if the employer has or uses an established journey level program to train its electrical or mechanical trade employees and the employees perform maintenance in the course of their regular employment.

(c) The owner must provide the persons specified in (b) of this subsection adequate training to ensure worker safety and adherence to the published operating specifications of the conveyance manufacturer, the applicable provisions of this chapter, and any rules adopted under this chapter.

(d) The owner also must maintain both a maintenance log and a training log. The maintenance log must describe maintenance work performed on the conveyance and identify the person who performed the work. The training log must describe the course of study provided to the persons specified in (b) of this subsection, including whether it is general or conveyance specific, and when the persons completed the course of study.

(2) It is a violation of chapter 49.17 RCW for an owner or an employer: (a) To allow a conveyance exempt from the licensing requirements of this chapter under subsection (1) of this section to be maintained by a person other than a person specified in subsection (1)(b) of this section or a licensee; or (b) to fail to maintain the logs required under subsection (1)(d) of this section. [2003 c 143 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.280 License categories—Rules.** In order to effectively administer and implement the elevator mechanic licensing of this chapter, the department may establish elevator mechanic license categories in rule. [2003 c 143 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.290 Rules—Effective date.** The department of labor and industries may not adopt rules to implement chapter 98, Laws of 2002, and to implement chapter 143, Laws of 2003 that take effect before March 1, 2004. [2003 c 143 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.87.305 Private residence conveyances—Licensing requirements—Rules.** (1) The department shall, by rule, establish licensing requirements for conveyance work performed on private residence conveyances. These rules shall include an exemption from licensing for maintenance work on private residence conveyances performed by an owner or at the direction of the owner, provided the owner resides in the residence at which the conveyance is located and the conveyance is not accessible to the general public. However, maintenance work performed on private residence conveyances located in or at adult family homes licensed under chapter 70.128 RCW, assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW, or similarly licensed caregiving facilities must comply with the licensing requirements of this chapter.

(2) The rules adopted under this section take effect July 1, 2004. [2012 c 10 § 50; 2004 c 66 § 3.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Findings—2004 c 66:** "The legislature finds that individuals performing conveyance work on private residence conveyances must be licensed by the department of labor and industries. However, the licensing requirements for this type of work need not be to the same level as those established for conveyance work in circumstances where the general public has access to the conveyances. The legislature further finds that the department of labor and industries should be given the authority to develop the licensing requirements for this type of work using the normal rule-making process established under chapter 34.05 RCW. Lastly, the legislature finds that private residence conveyance maintenance work that is performed by an owner or at the direction of the owner is exempt from licensing if the owner resides in the residence at which the conveyance is located and the conveyance is not accessible to the general public." [2004 c 66 § 1.]

**70.87.310 Whistleblower—Identity to remain confidential.** (1) An employee who is a whistleblower and who as a result of being a whistleblower has been subjected to workplace reprisal or retaliatory action has the remedies provided under chapter 49.60 RCW.

(2) The identity of a whistleblower who reports, in good faith, to the department or to a political subdivision that regulates conveyances, practices that may violate the provisions of this chapter or the rules promulgated hereunder must remain confidential. The provisions of RCW 4.24.500 through 4.24.520, providing certain protections to persons who communicate to government agencies, apply to such reports. [2012 c 54 § 3.]

## Chapter 70.90 RCW

### WATER RECREATION FACILITIES

#### Sections

70.90.101	Legislative findings.
70.90.110	Definitions.
70.90.120	Adoption of rules governing safety, sanitation, and water quality—Exceptions.
70.90.125	Regulation by local boards of health.
70.90.140	Enforcement.
70.90.150	Fees.

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70.90.160	Modification or construction of facility—Permit required—Submission of plans.
70.90.170	Operating permit—Renewal.
70.90.180	State and local health jurisdictions—Chapter not basis for liability.
70.90.190	Reporting of injury, disease, or death.
70.90.200	Civil penalties.
70.90.205	Criminal penalties.
70.90.210	Adjudicative proceeding—Notice.
70.90.230	Insurance required.
70.90.240	Sale of spas, pools, and tubs—Operating instructions and health caution required.
70.90.250	Application of chapter.

**70.90.101 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that water recreation facilities are an important source of recreation for the citizens of this state. To promote the public health, safety, and welfare, the legislature finds it necessary to continue to regulate these facilities. [1987 c 222 § 1.]

**70.90.110 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Water recreation facility" means any artificial basin or other structure containing water used or intended to be used for recreation, bathing, relaxation, or swimming, where body contact with the water occurs or is intended to occur and includes auxiliary buildings and appurtenances. The term includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Conventional swimming pools, wading pools, and spray pools;

(b) Recreational water contact facilities as defined in this chapter;

(c) Spa pools and tubs using hot water, cold water, mineral water, air induction, or hydrojets; and

(d) Any area designated for swimming in natural waters with artificial boundaries within the waters.

(2) "Recreational water contact facility" means an artificial water associated facility with design and operational features that provide patron recreational activity which is different from that associated with a conventional swimming pool and purposefully involves immersion of the body partially or totally in the water, and that includes but is not limited to, water slides, wave pools, and water lagoons.

(3) "Local health officer" means the health officer of the city, county, or city-county department or district or a representative authorized by the local health officer.

(4) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

(5) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, club, government entity, or organization of any kind.

(6) "Department" means the department of health.

(7) "Board" means the state board of health. [1991 c 3 § 352; 1987 c 222 § 2; 1986 c 236 § 2.]

**70.90.120 Adoption of rules governing safety, sanitation, and water quality—Exceptions.** (1) The board shall adopt rules under the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, governing safety, sanitation, and water quality for water recreation facilities. The rules shall include but not be limited to requirements for design; operation; injury and illness reporting; biological and chemical contamination standards; water quality monitoring; inspection; permit application and issuance; and enforcement procedures. However,

a water recreation facility intended for the exclusive use of residents of any apartment house complex or of a group of rental housing units of less than fifteen living units, or of a mobile home park, or of a condominium complex or any group or association of less than fifteen home owners shall not be subject to preconstruction design review, routine inspection, or permit or fee requirements; and water treatment of hydroelectric reservoirs or natural streams, creeks, lakes, or irrigation canals shall not be required.

(2) In adopting rules under subsection (1) of this section regarding the operation or design of a recreational water contact facility, the board shall review and consider any recommendations made by the recreational water contact facility advisory committee. [1987 c 222 § 5; 1986 c 236 § 3.]

**70.90.125 Regulation by local boards of health.** Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit any local board of health from establishing and enforcing any provisions governing safety, sanitation, and water quality for any water recreation facility, regardless of ownership or use, in addition to those rules established by the state board of health under this chapter. [1987 c 222 § 6.]

**70.90.140 Enforcement.** The secretary shall enforce the rules adopted under this chapter. The secretary may develop joint plans of responsibility with any local health jurisdiction to administer this chapter. [1986 c 236 § 5.]

**70.90.150 Fees.** (1) Local health officers may establish and collect fees sufficient to cover their costs incurred in carrying out their duties under this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

(2) The department may establish and collect fees sufficient to cover its costs incurred in carrying out its duties under this chapter. The fees shall be deposited in the state general fund.

(3) A person shall not be required to submit fees at both the state and local levels. [1986 c 236 § 6.]

**70.90.160 Modification or construction of facility—Permit required—Submission of plans.** A permit is required for any modification to or construction of any recreational water contact facility after June 11, 1986, and for any other water recreation facility after July 26, 1987. Water recreation facilities existing on July 26, 1987, which do not comply with the design and construction requirements established by the state board of health under this chapter may continue to operate without modification to or replacement of the existing physical plant, provided the water quality, sanitation, and lifesaving equipment are in compliance with the requirements established under this chapter. However, if any modifications are made to the physical plant of an existing water recreation facility the modifications shall comply with the requirements established under this chapter. The plans and specifications for the modification or construction shall be submitted to the applicable local authority or the department as applicable, but a person shall not be required to submit plans at both the state and local levels or apply for both a state and local permit. The plans shall be reviewed and may be approved or rejected or modifications or conditions imposed consistent with this chapter as the public health or safety may

require, and a permit shall be issued or denied within thirty days of submittal. [1987 c 222 § 7; 1986 c 236 § 7.]

**70.90.170 Operating permit—Renewal.** An operating permit from the department or local health officer, as applicable, is required for each water recreation facility operated in this state. The permit shall be renewed annually. The permit shall be conspicuously displayed at the water recreation facility. [1987 c 222 § 8; 1986 c 236 § 8.]

**70.90.180 State and local health jurisdictions—Chapter not basis for liability.** Nothing in this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter creates or forms the basis for any liability: (1) On the part of the state and local health jurisdictions, or their officers, employees, or agents, for any injury or damage resulting from the failure of the owner or operator of water recreation facilities to comply with this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter; or (2) by reason or in consequence of any act or omission in connection with the implementation or enforcement of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter on the part of the state and local health jurisdictions, or by their officers, employees, or agents.

All actions of local health officers and the secretary shall be deemed an exercise of the state's police power. [1987 c 222 § 9; 1986 c 236 § 9.]

**70.90.190 Reporting of injury, disease, or death.** Any person operating a water recreation facility shall report to the local health officer or the department any serious injury, communicable disease, or death occurring at or caused by the water recreation facility. [1987 c 222 § 10; 1986 c 236 § 10.]

**70.90.200 Civil penalties.** County, city, or town legislative authorities and the secretary, as applicable, may establish civil penalties for a violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter not to exceed five hundred dollars. Each day upon which a violation occurs constitutes a separate violation. A person violating this chapter may be enjoined from continuing the violation. [1986 c 236 § 11.]

**70.90.205 Criminal penalties.** The violation of any provisions of this chapter and any rules adopted under this chapter shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars. [1987 c 222 § 11.]

**70.90.210 Adjudicative proceeding—Notice.** (1) Any person aggrieved by an order of the department or by the imposition of a civil fine by the department has the right to an adjudicative proceeding. RCW 43.70.095 governs department notice of a civil fine and a person's right to an adjudicative proceeding.

(2) Any person aggrieved by an order of a local health officer or by the imposition of a civil fine by the officer has the right to appeal. The hearing is governed by the local health jurisdiction's administrative appeals process. Notice shall be provided by the local health jurisdiction consistent with its due process requirements. [1991 c 3 § 354; 1989 c 175 § 130; 1986 c 236 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.90.230 Insurance required.** (1) A recreational water contact facility shall not be operated within the state unless the owner or operator has purchased insurance in an amount not less than one hundred thousand dollars against liability for bodily injury to or death of one or more persons in any one accident arising out of the use of the recreational water contact facility.

(2) The board may require a recreational water contact facility to purchase insurance in addition to the amount required in subsection (1) of this section. [1986 c 236 § 14.]

**70.90.240 Sale of spas, pools, and tubs—Operating instructions and health caution required.** Every seller of spas, pools and tubs under RCW 70.90.110(1) (a) and (c) shall furnish to the purchaser a complete set of operating instructions which shall include detailed instructions on the safe use of the spa, pool, or tub and for the proper treatment of water to reduce health risks to the purchaser. Included in the instructions shall be information about the health effects of hot water and a specific caution and explanation of the health effects of hot water on pregnant women. [1987 c 222 § 4.]

**70.90.250 Application of chapter.** This chapter applies to all water recreation facilities regardless of whether ownership is public or private and regardless of whether the intended use is commercial or private, except that this chapter shall not apply to:

- (1) Any water recreation facility for the sole use of residents and invited guests at a single-family dwelling;
- (2) Therapeutic water facilities operated exclusively for physical therapy; and
- (3) Steam baths and saunas. [1987 c 222 § 3.]

## Chapter 70.92 RCW PROVISIONS IN BUILDINGS FOR AGED AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS

### Sections

70.92.100	Legislative intent.
70.92.110	Buildings and structures to which standards and specifications apply—Exemptions.
70.92.120	Handicap symbol—Display—Signs showing location of entrance for handicapped.
70.92.130	Definitions.
70.92.140	Minimum standards for facilities—Adoption—Facilities to be included.
70.92.150	Standards adopted by other states to be considered—Majority vote.
70.92.160	Waiver from compliance with standards.
70.92.170	Personal wireless service facilities—Rules.

*Making buildings and facilities accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities: RCW 19.27.031(5).*

**70.92.100 Legislative intent.** It is the intent of the legislature that, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, plans and specifications for the erection of buildings through the use of public or private funds shall make special provisions for elderly or physically disabled persons. [1975 1st ex.s. c 110 § 1.]

**70.92.110 Buildings and structures to which standards and specifications apply—Exemptions.** The standards and specifications adopted under this chapter shall, as

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provided in this section, apply to buildings, structures, or portions thereof used primarily for group A-1 through group U-1 occupancies, except for group R-3 occupancies, as defined in the Uniform Building Code, 1994 edition, published by the International Conference of Building Officials. All such buildings, structures, or portions thereof, which are constructed, substantially remodeled, or substantially rehabilitated after July 1, 1976, shall conform to the standards and specifications adopted under this chapter: PROVIDED, That the following buildings, structures, or portions thereof shall be exempt from this chapter:

(1) Buildings, structures, or portions thereof for which construction contracts have been awarded prior to July 1, 1976;

(2) Any building, structure, or portion thereof in respect to which the administrative authority deems, after considering all circumstances applying thereto, that full compliance is impracticable: PROVIDED, That, such a determination shall be made no later than at the time of issuance of the building permit for the construction, remodeling, or rehabilitation: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the board of appeals provided for in chapter 1 of the Uniform Building Code shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide appeals from any decision by the administrative authority regarding a waiver or failure to grant a waiver from compliance with the standards adopted pursuant to RCW 70.92.100 through 70.92.160. The provisions of the Uniform Building Code regarding the appeals process shall govern the appeals herein;

(3) Any building or structure used solely for dwelling purposes and which contains not more than two dwelling units;

(4) Any building or structure not used primarily for group A-1 through group U-1 occupancies, except for group R-3 occupancies, as set forth in the Uniform Building Code, 1994 edition, published by the International Conference of Building Officials; or

(5) Apartment houses with ten or fewer units. [1995 c 343 § 3; 1989 c 14 § 9; 1975 1st ex.s. c 110 § 2.]

**70.92.120 Handicap symbol—Display—Signs showing location of entrance for handicapped.** All buildings built in accordance with the standards and specifications provided for in this chapter, and containing facilities that are in compliance therewith, shall display the following symbol which is known as the International Symbol of Access.



Such symbol shall be white on a blue background and shall indicate the location of facilities designed for the physically disabled or elderly. When a building contains an entrance other than the main entrance which is ramped or level for use by physically disabled or elderly persons, a sign with the symbol showing its location shall be posted at or near the main entrance which shall be visible from the adjacent public sidewalk or way. [1995 c 343 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 110 § 3.]

**70.92.130 Definitions.** As used in this chapter the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Administrative authority" means the building department of each county, city, or town of this state;

(2) "Substantially remodeled or substantially rehabilitated" means any alteration or restoration of a building or structure within any twelve-month period, the cost of which exceeds sixty percent of the value of the particular building or structure;

(3) "Council" means the state building code council. [1995 c 343 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 110 § 4.]

**70.92.140 Minimum standards for facilities—Adoption—Facilities to be included.** The \*state building code advisory council shall adopt minimum standards by rule and regulation for the provision of facilities in buildings and structures to accommodate the elderly, as well as physically disabled persons, which shall include but not be limited to standards for:

- (1) Ramps;
- (2) Doors and doorways;
- (3) Stairs;
- (4) Floors;
- (5) Entrances;
- (6) Toilet rooms and paraphernalia therein;
- (7) Water fountains;
- (8) Public telephones;
- (9) Elevators;
- (10) Switches and levers for the control of light, ventilation, windows, mirrors, etc.;
- (11) Plaques identifying such facilities;
- (12) Turnstiles and revolving doors;
- (13) Kitchen facilities, where appropriate;
- (14) Grading of approaches to entrances;
- (15) Parking facilities;
- (16) Seating facilities, where appropriate, in buildings where people normally assemble. [1975 1st ex.s. c 110 § 5.]

\*Reviser's note: The "state building code advisory council" was redesignated the "state building code council" by 1985 c 360 § 11. See RCW 19.27.070.

**70.92.150 Standards adopted by other states to be considered—Majority vote.** The council in adopting these minimum standards shall consider minimum standards adopted by both law and rule and regulation in other states and the government of the United States: PROVIDED, That no standards adopted by the council pursuant to RCW 70.92.100 through 70.92.160 shall take effect until July 1, 1976. The council shall adopt such standards by majority

vote pursuant to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. [1995 c 343 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 110 § 6.]

**70.92.160 Waiver from compliance with standards.** The administrative authority of any jurisdiction may grant a waiver from compliance with any standard adopted hereunder for a particular building or structure if it determines that compliance with the particular standard is impractical: PROVIDED, That such a determination shall be made no later than at the time of issuance of the building permit for the construction, remodeling, or rehabilitation: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the board of appeals provided for in chapter 1 of the Uniform Building Code shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide appeals from any decision by the administrative authority regarding a waiver or failure to grant a waiver from compliance with the standards adopted pursuant to RCW 70.92.100 through 70.92.160. The provisions of the Uniform Building Code regarding the appeals process shall govern the appeals herein. [1995 c 343 § 7; 1975 1st ex.s. c 110 § 7.]

**70.92.170 Personal wireless service facilities—Rules.** (1) The state building code council shall amend its rules under chapter 70.92 RCW, to the extent practicable while still maintaining the certification of those regulations under the federal Americans with disabilities act, to exempt personal wireless services equipment shelters, or the room or enclosure housing equipment for personal wireless service facilities, that meet the following conditions: (a) The shelter is not staffed; and (b) to conduct maintenance activities, employees who visit the shelter must be able to climb.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "personal wireless service facilities" means facilities for the provision of personal wireless services. [1996 c 323 § 5.]

**Findings—1996 c 323:** See note following RCW 43.70.600.

## Chapter 70.93 RCW WASTE REDUCTION, RECYCLING, AND MODEL LITTER CONTROL ACT

### Sections

70.93.010	Legislative findings.
70.93.020	Declaration of purpose.
70.93.030	Definitions.
70.93.040	Administrative procedure act—Application to chapter.
70.93.050	Enforcement of chapter.
70.93.060	Littering prohibited—Penalties—Litter cleanup restitution payment.
70.93.070	Collection of fines and forfeitures.
70.93.080	Notice to public—Contents of chapter—Required.
70.93.090	Litter receptacles—Use of anti-litter symbol—Distribution—Placement—Violations—Penalties.
70.93.093	Official gatherings and sports facilities—Recycling.
70.93.095	Marinas and airports—Recycling.
70.93.097	Transported waste must be covered or secured.
70.93.110	Removal of litter—Responsibility.
70.93.180	Waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account—Distribution.
70.93.200	Department of ecology—Administration of anti-litter and recycling programs.
70.93.210	Waste reduction, anti-litter, and recycling campaign—Industrial cooperation requested.
70.93.220	Litter collection programs—Department of ecology—Coordinating agency—Use of funds—Reporting by agencies.
70.93.230	Violations of chapter—Penalties.
70.93.250	Funding to local governments—Reports.
70.93.910	Alternative to Initiative 40—Placement on ballot—Force and effect of chapter.

**Reviser's note:** Throughout chapter 70.93 RCW, the term "this 1971 amendatory act" has been changed to "this chapter"; "this 1971 amendatory act" [1971 ex.s. c 307] consists of this chapter, the 1971 amendment to RCW 46.61.655 and the repeal of RCW 9.61.120, 9.66.060, 9.66.070, and 46.61.650.

*Local adopt-a-highway programs:* RCW 47.40.105.

*Solid waste management, recovery and recycling:* Chapter 70.95 RCW.

*State parks:* RCW 79A.05.045.

**70.93.010 Legislative findings.** (1) The legislature finds:

(a) Washington state is experiencing rapid population growth and its citizens are increasingly mobile;

(b) There is a fundamental need for a healthful, clean, and beautiful environment;

(c) The proliferation and accumulation of litter discarded throughout this state impairs this need and constitutes a public health hazard;

(d) There is a need to conserve energy and natural resources, and the effective litter control and recovery and recycling of litter materials will serve to accomplish such conservation;

(e) In addition to effective litter control, there must be effective programs to accomplish waste reduction, the state's highest waste management priority; and

(f) There must also be effective systems to accomplish all components of recycling, including collection and processing.

(2) Recognizing the multifaceted nature of the state's solid waste management problems, the legislation enacted in 1971 and entitled the "Model Litter Control and Recycling Act" is hereby renamed the "waste reduction, recycling, and model litter control act." [1998 c 257 § 1; 1992 c 175 § 1; 1979 c 94 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.93.020 Declaration of purpose.** (1) The purpose of this chapter is to accomplish litter control, increase waste reduction, and stimulate all components of recycling and composting throughout this state by delegating to the department of ecology the authority to:

(a) Conduct a permanent and continuous program to control and remove litter from this state to the maximum practical extent possible;

(b) Recover and recycle waste materials related to litter and littering;

(c) Foster public and private recycling of recyclable materials and composting of compostable materials;

(d) Increase public awareness of the need for waste reduction, recycling, litter control, and composting;

(e) Coordinate the litter collection efforts by other agencies identified in this chapter; and

(f) Coordinate and expend funds collected under chapter 82.19 RCW with priority given to products identified under RCW 82.19.020 and solely for the purposes of waste reduction, recycling, composting, and litter collection and control programs.

(2) It is further the intent and purpose of this chapter to: (a) Create jobs for employment of youth in litter cleanup and related activities; (b) stimulate and encourage recycling; and (c) encourage proper and appropriate composting. This program shall include the compatible goal of recovery of recy-

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clable materials to conserve energy and natural resources wherever practicable. Every other department of state government and all local governmental units and agencies of this state shall cooperate with the department of ecology in the administration and enforcement of this chapter. The intent of this chapter is to add to and to coordinate existing recycling and litter control and removal efforts and not terminate or supplant such efforts. [2015 c 15 § 1; 1998 c 257 § 2; 1992 c 175 § 2; 1991 c 319 § 101; 1979 c 94 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 41 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 2.]

*Solid waste disposal, recovery and recycling:* Chapter 70.95 RCW.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.93.030 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Conveyance" means a boat, airplane, or vehicle.

(2) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(3) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology.

(4) "Disposable package or container" means all packages or containers defined as such by rules adopted by the department of ecology.

(5) "Junk vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 46.55.010.

(6) "Litter" means all waste material including but not limited to disposable packages or containers thrown or deposited as herein prohibited and solid waste that is illegally dumped, but not including the wastes of the primary processes of mining, logging, sawmilling, farming, or manufacturing. "Litter" includes the material described in subsection (11) of this section as "potentially dangerous litter."

(7) "Litter bag" means a bag, sack, or other container made of any material which is large enough to serve as a receptacle for litter inside the vehicle or watercraft of any person. It is not necessarily limited to the state approved litter bag but must be similar in size and capacity.

(8) "Litter receptacle" means those containers adopted by the department of ecology and which may be standardized as to size, shape, capacity, and color and which shall bear the state anti-litter symbol, as well as any other receptacles suitable for the depositing of litter.

(9) "Official gathering" means an event where authorization to hold the event is approved, recognized, or issued by a government, public body, or authority, including but not limited to fairs, musical concerts, athletic games, festivals, tournaments, or any other formal or ceremonial event, during which beverages are sold by a vendor or vendors in single-use aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans.

(10) "Person" means any political subdivision, government agency, municipality, industry, public or private corporation, copartnership, association, firm, individual, or other entity whatsoever.

(11) "Potentially dangerous litter" means litter that is likely to injure a person or cause damage to a vehicle or other property. "Potentially dangerous litter" means:

(a) Cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco products that are capable of starting a fire;

(b) Glass;

(c) A container or other product made predominantly or entirely of glass;

(d) A hypodermic needle or other medical instrument designed to cut or pierce;

(e) Raw human waste, including soiled baby diapers, regardless of whether or not the waste is in a container of any sort; and

(f) Nails or tacks.

(12) "Public place" means any area that is used or held out for use by the public whether owned or operated by public or private interests.

(13) "Recycling" means transforming or remanufacturing waste materials into a finished product for use other than landfill disposal or incineration.

(14) "Recycling center" means a central collection point for recyclable materials.

(15) "Sports facility" means an outdoor recreational sports facility, including but not limited to athletic fields and ballparks, at which beverages are sold by a vendor or vendors in single-use aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans.

(16) "To litter" means a single or cumulative act of disposing of litter.

(17) "Vehicle" includes every device capable of being moved upon a public highway and in, upon, or by which any persons or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, excepting devices moved by human or animal power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

(18) "Waste reduction" means reducing the amount or toxicity of waste generated or reusing materials.

(19) "Watercraft" means any boat, ship, vessel, barge, or other floating craft. [2007 c 244 § 1; 2003 c 337 § 2; 2000 c 154 § 1; 1998 c 257 § 3; 1991 c 319 § 102; 1979 c 94 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 3.]

**Findings—2003 c 337:** See note following RCW 70.93.060.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.93.040 Administrative procedure act—Application to chapter.** In addition to his or her other powers and duties, the director shall have the power to propose and to adopt pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions, purposes, and intent of this chapter. [2012 c 117 § 404; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 4.]

**70.93.050 Enforcement of chapter.** The director shall designate trained employees of the department to be vested with police powers to enforce and administer the provisions of this chapter and all rules adopted thereunder. The director shall also have authority to contract with other state and local governmental agencies having law enforcement capabilities for services and personnel reasonably necessary to carry out the enforcement provisions of this chapter. In addition, state patrol officers, fish and wildlife officers, fire wardens, deputy fire wardens and forest rangers, sheriffs and marshals and their deputies, and police officers, and those employees of the department of ecology and the parks and recreation commission vested with police powers all shall enforce the provisions of this chapter and all rules adopted thereunder and are hereby empowered to issue citations to and/or arrest without warrant, persons violating any provision of this chapter or any of the rules adopted hereunder. All of the foregoing enforcement officers may serve and execute all warrants, citations, and other process issued by the courts in enforcing the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted hereunder. In

addition, mailing by registered mail of such warrant, citation, or other process to his or her last known place of residence shall be deemed as personal service upon the person charged. [2001 c 253 § 8; 1980 c 78 § 132; 1979 c 94 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 5.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**70.93.060 Littering prohibited—Penalties—Litter cleanup restitution payment.** (1) It is a violation of this section to abandon a junk vehicle upon any property. In addition, no person shall throw, drop, deposit, discard, or otherwise dispose of litter upon any public property in the state or upon private property in this state not owned by him or her or in the waters of this state whether from a vehicle or otherwise including but not limited to any public highway, public park, beach, campground, forestland, recreational area, trailer park, highway, road, street, or alley except:

(a) When the property is designated by the state or its agencies or political subdivisions for the disposal of garbage and refuse, and the person is authorized to use such property for that purpose;

(b) Into a litter receptacle in a manner that will prevent litter from being carried away or deposited by the elements upon any part of the private or public property or waters.

(2)(a) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, it is a class 3 civil infraction as provided in RCW 7.80.120 for a person to litter in an amount less than or equal to one cubic foot.

(b) It is a misdemeanor for a person to litter in an amount greater than one cubic foot but less than one cubic yard. The person shall also pay a litter cleanup restitution payment equal to twice the actual cost of cleanup, or fifty dollars per cubic foot of litter, whichever is greater. The court shall distribute one-half of the restitution payment to the landowner and one-half of the restitution payment to the law enforcement agency investigating the incident. The court may, in addition to or in lieu of part or all of the cleanup restitution payment, order the person to pick up and remove litter from the property, with prior permission of the legal owner or, in the case of public property, of the agency managing the property. The court may suspend or modify the litter cleanup restitution payment for a first-time offender under this section, if the person cleans up and properly disposes of the litter.

(c) It is a gross misdemeanor for a person to litter in an amount of one cubic yard or more. The person shall also pay a litter cleanup restitution payment equal to twice the actual cost of cleanup, or one hundred dollars per cubic foot of litter, whichever is greater. The court shall distribute one-half of the restitution payment to the landowner and one-half of the restitution payment to the law enforcement agency investigating the incident. The court may, in addition to or in lieu of part or all of the cleanup restitution payment, order the person to pick up and remove litter from the property, with prior permission of the legal owner or, in the case of public property, of the agency managing the property. The court may suspend or modify the litter cleanup restitution payment for a first-time offender under this section, if the person cleans up and properly disposes of the litter.

(d) If a junk vehicle is abandoned in violation of this section, RCW 46.55.230 governs the vehicle's removal, disposal, and sale, and the penalties that may be imposed against the person who abandoned the vehicle.

(3) If the violation occurs in a state park, the court shall, in addition to any other penalties assessed, order the person to perform twenty-four hours of community restitution in the state park where the violation occurred if the state park has stated an intent to participate as provided in RCW 79A.05.050.

(4) It is a class 1 civil infraction as provided in RCW 7.80.120 for a person to discard, in violation of this section, potentially dangerous litter in any amount. [2003 c 337 § 3; 2002 c 175 § 45; 2001 c 139 § 1; 2000 c 154 § 2; 1997 c 159 § 1; 1996 c 263 § 1; 1993 c 292 § 1; 1983 c 277 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 39 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 6.]

**Findings—2003 c 337:** "(1) The legislature finds that the littering of potentially dangerous products poses a greater danger to the public safety than other classes of litter. Broken glass, human waste, and other dangerous materials along roadways, within parking lots, and on pedestrian, bicycle, and recreation trails elevates the risk to public safety, such as vehicle tire punctures, and the risk to the community volunteers who spend their time gathering and properly disposing of the litter left behind by others. As such, the legislature finds that a higher penalty should be imposed on those who improperly dispose of potentially dangerous products, such as is imposed on those who improperly dispose of tobacco products.

(2) The legislature further finds that litter is a nuisance, and, in order to alleviate such a nuisance, counties must be provided statutory authority to declare what shall be a nuisance, to abate a nuisance, and to impose and collect fines upon parties who may create, cause, or commit a nuisance." [2003 c 337 § 1.]

*Lighted material, etc.—Receptacles in conveyances:* RCW 76.04.455.

*Throwing materials on highway prohibited—Removal:* RCW 46.61.645.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.93.070 Collection of fines and forfeitures.** The director may prescribe the procedures for the collection of penalties, costs, and other charges allowed by chapter 7.80 RCW for violations of this chapter. [1996 c 263 § 2; 1993 c 292 § 2; 1983 c 277 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 7.]

**70.93.080 Notice to public—Contents of chapter—Required.** Pertinent portions of this chapter shall be posted along the public highways of this state and in all campgrounds and trailer parks, at all entrances to state parks, forestlands, and recreational areas, at all public beaches, and at other public places in this state where persons are likely to be informed of the existence and content of this chapter and the penalties for violating its provisions. [1971 ex.s. c 307 § 8.]

**70.93.090 Litter receptacles—Use of anti-litter symbol—Distribution—Placement—Violations—Penalties.** The department shall design and the director shall adopt by rule or regulation one or more types of litter receptacles which are reasonably uniform as to size, shape, capacity and color, for wide and extensive distribution throughout the public places of this state. Each such litter receptacle shall bear an anti-litter symbol as designed and adopted by the department. In addition, all litter receptacles shall be designed to attract attention and to encourage the depositing of litter.

Litter receptacles of the uniform design shall be placed along the public highways of this state and at all parks, campgrounds, trailer parks, drive-in restaurants, gasoline service

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stations, tavern parking lots, shopping centers, grocery store parking lots, parking lots of major industrial firms, marinas, boat launching areas, boat moorage and fueling stations, public and private piers, beaches and bathing areas, and such other public places within this state as specified by rule or regulation of the director adopted pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW. The number of such receptacles required to be placed as specified herein shall be determined by a formula related to the need for such receptacles.

It shall be the responsibility of any person owning or operating any establishment or public place in which litter receptacles of the uniform design are required by this section to procure and place such receptacles at their own expense on the premises in accord with rules and regulations adopted by the department.

Any person, other than a political subdivision, government agency, or municipality, who fails to place such litter receptacles on the premises in the numbers required by rule or regulation of the department, violating the provisions of this section or rules or regulations adopted thereunder shall be subject to a fine of ten dollars for each day of violation. [1998 c 257 § 4; 1979 c 94 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 9.]

**70.93.093 Official gatherings and sports facilities—Recycling.** In communities where there is an established curbside service and where recycling service is available to businesses, a recycling program must be provided at every official gathering and at every sports facility by the vendors who sell beverages in single-use aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans. A recycling program includes provision of receptacles or reverse vending machines, and provisions to transport and recycle the collected materials. Facility managers or event coordinators may choose to work with vendors to coordinate the recycling program. The recycling receptacles or reverse vending machines must be clearly marked, and must be provided for the aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans that contain the beverages sold by the vendor. [2007 c 244 § 2.]

**70.93.095 Marinas and airports—Recycling.** (1) Each marina with thirty or more slips and each airport providing regularly scheduled commercial passenger service shall provide adequate recycling receptacles on, or adjacent to, its facility. The receptacles shall be clearly marked for the disposal of at least two of the following recyclable materials: Aluminum, glass, newspaper, plastic, and tin.

(2) Marinas and airports subject to this section shall not be required to provide recycling receptacles until the city or county in which it is located adopts a waste reduction and recycling element of a solid waste management plan pursuant to RCW 70.95.090. [1991 c 11 § 2.]

**70.93.097 Transported waste must be covered or secured.** (1) By January 1, 1994, each county or city with a staffed transfer station or landfill in its jurisdiction shall adopt an ordinance to reduce litter from vehicles. The ordinance shall require the operator of a vehicle transporting solid waste to a staffed transfer station or landfill to secure or cover the vehicle's waste in a manner that will prevent spillage. The ordinance may provide exemptions for vehicle oper-

ators transporting waste that is unlikely to spill from a vehicle.

The ordinance shall, in the absence of an exemption, require a fee, in addition to other landfill charges, for a person arriving at a staffed landfill or transfer station without a cover on the vehicle's waste or without the waste secured.

(2) The fee collected under subsection (1) of this section shall be deposited, no less often than quarterly, with the city or county in which the landfill or transfer station is located.

(3) A vehicle transporting sand, dirt, or gravel in compliance with the provisions of RCW 46.61.655 shall not be required to secure or cover a load pursuant to ordinances adopted under this section. [1993 c 399 § 1.]

#### **70.93.110 Removal of litter—Responsibility.**

Responsibility for the removal of litter from receptacles placed at parks, beaches, campgrounds, trailer parks, and other public places shall remain upon those state and local agencies performing litter removal. Removal of litter from litter receptacles placed on private property which is used by the public shall remain the responsibility of the owner of such private property. [1971 ex.s. c 307 § 11.]

#### **70.93.180 Waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account—Distribution. (Effective until June 30, 2017.)**

(1) There is hereby created an account within the state treasury to be known as the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account shall be used as follows:

(a) Fifty percent to the department of ecology, for use by the departments of ecology, natural resources, revenue, transportation, and corrections, and the parks and recreation commission, for use in litter collection programs, to be distributed under RCW 70.93.220. The amount to the department of ecology shall also be used for a central coordination function for litter control efforts statewide; for statewide public awareness programs under RCW 70.93.200(7); and to support employment of youth in litter cleanup as intended in RCW 70.93.020, and for litter pick up using other authorized agencies. The amount to the department shall also be used to defray the costs of administering the funding, coordination, and oversight of local government programs for waste reduction, litter control, recycling, and composting, so that local governments can apply one hundred percent of their funding to achieving program goals. The amount to the department of revenue shall be used to enforce compliance with the litter tax imposed in chapter 82.19 RCW;

(b)(i) Twenty percent to the department for local government funding programs for waste reduction, litter control, recycling activities, and composting activities by cities and counties under RCW 70.93.250, to be administered by the department of ecology; (ii) any unspent funds under (b)(i) of this subsection may be used to create and pay for a matching fund competitive grant program to provide funding to qualified local governments and nonprofit organizations for local or statewide education programs designed to help the public with litter control, waste reduction, recycling, and composting of primarily the products taxed under chapter 82.19 RCW. Grants must adhere to the following requirements: (A)

No grant may exceed sixty thousand dollars; (B) grant recipients shall match the grant funding allocated by the department by an amount equal to twenty-five percent of eligible expenses. A local government's share of these costs may be met by cash or contributed services; (C) the obligation of the department to make grant payments is contingent upon the availability of the amount of money appropriated for this subsection (1)(b); and (D) grants are managed under the guidelines for existing grant programs; and

(c) Thirty percent to the department of ecology to: (i) Implement activities under RCW 70.93.200 for waste reduction, recycling, and composting efforts; (ii) provide technical assistance to local governments for commercial business and residential recycling and composting programs primarily for the products taxed under chapter 82.19 RCW designed to educate the public about waste reduction, litter control, and recyclable and compostable products and programs; and (iii) increase access to waste reduction, composting, and recycling programs, particularly for food packaging and plastic bags and appropriate composting techniques.

(2) All moneys directed to the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account under RCW 82.19.040 and fines and bail forfeitures collected or received pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in the account and used for the programs under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Not less than five percent and no more than ten percent of the amount appropriated into the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account every biennium shall be reserved for capital needs, including the purchase of vehicles for transporting crews and for collecting litter and solid waste. Capital funds shall be distributed among state agencies and local governments according to the same criteria provided in RCW 70.93.220 for the remainder of the funds, so that the most effective waste reduction, litter control, recycling, and composting programs receive the most funding. The intent of this subsection is to provide funds for the purchase of equipment that will enable the department to account for the greatest return on investment in terms of reaching a zero litter goal.

(4) Funds in the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account, collected under chapter 82.19 RCW, must be prioritized for the products identified under RCW 82.19.020 solely for the purposes of waste reduction, recycling, composting, and litter collection, reduction, and control programs. [2015 c 15 § 2. Prior: 2013 2nd sp.s. c 15 § 6; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 989; 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 963; 2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 945; 2009 c 564 § 950; 2005 c 518 § 939; 1998 c 257 § 5; 1992 c 175 § 8; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 40; 1985 c 57 § 68; 1983 c 277 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 18.]

**Expiration date—2015 c 15 §§ 2 and 5:** "Sections 2 and 5 of this act expire June 30, 2017." [2015 c 15 § 8.]

**Effective date—Expiration date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 15 §§ 5-7:** See notes following RCW 82.19.040.

**Effective dates—2013 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Effective date—2009 c 564:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.93.180 Waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account—Distribution.** (*Effective June 30, 2017.*) (1) There is hereby created an account within the state treasury to be known as the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account shall be used as follows:

(a) Fifty percent to the department of ecology, for use by the departments of ecology, natural resources, revenue, transportation, and corrections, and the parks and recreation commission, for use in litter collection programs, to be distributed under RCW 70.93.220. The amount to the department of ecology shall also be used for a central coordination function for litter control efforts statewide; for statewide public awareness programs under RCW 70.93.200(7); and to support employment of youth in litter cleanup as intended in RCW 70.93.020, and for litter pick up using other authorized agencies. The amount to the department shall also be used to defray the costs of administering the funding, coordination, and oversight of local government programs for waste reduction, litter control, recycling, and composting so that local governments can apply one hundred percent of their funding to achieving program goals. The amount to the department of revenue shall be used to enforce compliance with the litter tax imposed in chapter 82.19 RCW;

(b)(i) Twenty percent to the department for local government funding programs for waste reduction, litter control, recycling activities, and composting activities by cities and counties under RCW 70.93.250, to be administered by the department of ecology; (ii) any unspent funds under (b)(i) of this subsection may be used to create and pay for a matching fund competitive grant program to be used by local governments and nonprofit organizations for local or statewide education programs designed to help the public with litter control, waste reduction, recycling, and composting of primarily the products taxed under chapter 82.19 RCW. Grants must adhere to the following requirements: (A) No grant may exceed sixty thousand dollars; (B) grant recipients shall match the grant funding allocated by the department by an amount equal to twenty-five percent of eligible expenses. A local government's share of these costs may be met by cash or contributed services; (C) the obligation of the department to make grant payments is contingent upon the availability of the amount of money appropriated for this subsection (1)(b); and (D) grants are managed under the guidelines for existing grant programs; and

(c) Thirty percent to the department of ecology to: (i) Implement activities under RCW 70.93.200 for waste reduction, recycling, and composting efforts; (ii) provide technical assistance to local governments for commercial business and residential recycling programs primarily for the products taxed under chapter 82.19 RCW designed to educate citizens about waste reduction, litter control, and recyclable and compostable products and programs; and (iii) increase access to waste reduction, composting, and recycling programs, particularly for food packaging and plastic bags and appropriate composting techniques.

(2) All taxes imposed in RCW 82.19.010 and fines and bail forfeitures collected or received pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in the waste reduction, recycling, and litter

control account and used for the programs under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Not less than five percent and no more than ten percent of the amount appropriated into the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account every biennium shall be reserved for capital needs, including the purchase of vehicles for transporting crews and for collecting litter and solid waste. Capital funds shall be distributed among state agencies and local governments according to the same criteria provided in RCW 70.93.220 for the remainder of the funds, so that the most effective waste reduction, litter control, recycling, and composting programs receive the most funding. The intent of this subsection is to provide funds for the purchase of equipment that will enable the department to account for the greatest return on investment in terms of reaching a zero litter goal.

(4) Funds in the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account, collected under chapter 82.19 RCW, must be prioritized for the products identified under RCW 82.19.020 solely for the purposes of recycling, composting, and litter collection, reduction, and control programs. [2015 c 15 § 3; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 989; 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 963; 2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 945; 2009 c 564 § 950; 2005 c 518 § 939; 1998 c 257 § 5; 1992 c 175 § 8; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 40; 1985 c 57 § 68; 1983 c 277 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 18.]

**Effective date—2015 c 15 §§ 3 and 6:** "Sections 3 and 6 of this act take effect June 30, 2017." [2015 c 15 § 9.]

**Effective dates—2013 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Effective date—2009 c 564:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.93.200 Department of ecology—Administration of anti-litter and recycling programs.** In addition to the foregoing, the department of ecology shall use the moneys from RCW 70.93.180 of the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account to:

(1) Serve as the coordinating agency between the various industry organizations seeking to aid in the waste reduction, anti-litter, recycling, and composting efforts;

(2) Serve as the coordinating and administrating agency for all state agencies and local governments receiving funds for waste reduction, litter control, recycling, and composting under this chapter;

(3) Recommend to the governing bodies of all local governments that they adopt ordinances similar to the provisions of this chapter;

(4) Cooperate with all local governments to accomplish coordination of local waste reduction, anti-litter, recycling, and composting efforts;

(5) Encourage, organize, and coordinate all voluntary local waste reduction, anti-litter, and recycling campaigns seeking to focus the attention of the public on the programs of this state to reduce waste, control and remove litter, and foster recycling and composting;

(6) Investigate the availability of, and apply for funds available from any private or public source to be used in the program outlined in this chapter;

(7) Develop statewide programs by working with local governments, payers of the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control tax, and industry organizations that are active in waste reduction, anti-litter, recycling, and composting efforts to:

(a) Increase public awareness of and participation in recycling and composting; and

(b) Stimulate and encourage local private recycling and composting centers, public participation in recycling and composting, and research and development in the field of litter control, and recycling, removal, and disposal of litter-related recycling materials, and composting; and

(8) Provide on the department's web site a summary of all waste reduction, litter control, recycling, and composting efforts statewide including those of the department and other state agencies and local governments funded for such programs under this chapter. [2015 c 15 § 4; 2014 c 76 § 2; 1998 c 257 § 8; 1979 c 94 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 20.]

**70.93.210 Waste reduction, anti-litter, and recycling campaign—Industrial cooperation requested.** To aid in the statewide waste reduction, anti-litter, and recycling campaign, the state legislature requests that the payers of the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control tax and the various industry organizations which are active in waste reduction, anti-litter, and recycling efforts provide active cooperation with the department of ecology so that additional effect may be given to the waste reduction, anti-litter, and recycling campaign of the state of Washington. [1998 c 257 § 9; 1979 c 94 § 8; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 21.]

**70.93.220 Litter collection programs—Department of ecology—Coordinating agency—Use of funds—Reporting by agencies.** (1) The department is the coordinating and administrative agency working with the departments of natural resources, revenue, transportation, and corrections, and the parks and recreation commission in developing a biennial budget request for funds for the various agencies' litter collection programs.

(2) Funds may be used to meet the needs of efficient and effective litter collection and illegal dumping programs identified by the various agencies. The department shall develop criteria for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the waste reduction, litter control, and recycling programs being administered by the various agencies listed in RCW 70.93.180, and shall distribute funds according to the effectiveness and efficiency of those programs. In addition, the department shall approve funding requests for efficient and effective waste reduction, litter control, and recycling programs, provide funds, and monitor the results of all agency programs.

(3) All agencies are responsible for reporting information on their litter collection programs as requested by the department. [2014 c 76 § 3; 1998 c 257 § 6.]

**70.93.230 Violations of chapter—Penalties.** Every person convicted of a violation of this chapter for which no penalty is specially provided for shall be punished by a fine

of not more than fifty dollars for each such violation. [1983 c 277 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 23.]

**70.93.250 Funding to local governments—Reports.**

(1) The department shall provide funding to local units of government to establish, conduct, and evaluate community restitution and other programs for waste reduction, litter and illegal dump cleanup, and recycling. Programs eligible for funding under this section shall include, but not be limited to, programs established pursuant to RCW 72.09.260.

(2) Funds may be offered for costs associated with community waste reduction, litter cleanup and prevention, and recycling activities. The funding program must be flexible, allowing local governments to use funds broadly to meet their needs to reduce waste, control litter and illegal dumping, and promote recycling. Local governments are required to contribute resources or in-kind services. The department shall evaluate funding requests from local government according to the same criteria as those developed in RCW 70.93.220, provide funds according to the effectiveness and efficiency of local government litter control programs, and monitor the results of all local government programs under this section.

(3) Local governments shall report information as requested by the department in funding agreements entered into by the department and a local government. [2014 c 76 § 4; 2002 c 175 § 46. Prior: 1998 c 257 § 10; 1998 c 245 § 128; 1990 c 66 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—1990 c 66:** See note following RCW 72.09.260.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.93.910 Alternative to Initiative 40—Placement on ballot—Force and effect of chapter.** This 1971 amendatory act constitutes an alternative to Initiative 40. The secretary of state is directed to place this 1971 amendatory act on the ballot in conjunction with Initiative 40 at the next general election.

This 1971 amendatory act shall continue in force and effect until the secretary of state certifies the election results on this 1971 amendatory act. If affirmatively approved at the general election, this 1971 amendatory act shall continue in effect thereafter. [1971 ex.s. c 307 § 27.]

**Reviser's note:** Chapter 70.93 RCW [1971 ex.s. c 307] was approved and validated at the November 7, 1972, general election as Alternative Initiative Measure 40B.

**Chapter 70.94 RCW**

**WASHINGTON CLEAN AIR ACT**

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*Tax exemptions and credits for air pollution control facilities: Chapter 82.34 RCW.*

*Washington clean indoor air act: Chapter 70.160 RCW.*

### **70.94.011 Declaration of public policies and purpose.**

It is declared to be the public policy to preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality for current and future generations. Air is an essential resource that must be protected from harmful levels of pollution. Improving air quality is a matter of statewide concern and is in the public interest. It is the intent of this chapter to secure and maintain levels of air quality that protect human health and safety, including the most sensitive members of the population, to comply with the requirements of the federal clean air act, to prevent injury to plant, animal life, and property, to foster the comfort and convenience of Washington's inhabitants, to promote the economic and social development of the state, and to facilitate the enjoyment of the natural attractions of the state.

It is further the intent of this chapter to protect the public welfare, to preserve visibility, to protect scenic, aesthetic, historic, and cultural values, and to prevent air pollution problems that interfere with the enjoyment of life, property, or natural attractions.

Because of the extent of the air pollution problem the legislature finds it necessary to return areas with poor air quality to levels adequate to protect health and the environment as expeditiously as possible but no later than December 31, 1995. Further, it is the intent of this chapter to prevent any areas of the state with acceptable air quality from reaching air contaminant levels that are not protective of human health and the environment.

The legislature recognizes that air pollution control projects may affect other environmental media. In selecting air pollution control strategies state and local agencies shall support those strategies that lessen the negative environmental impact of the project on all environmental media, including air, water, and land.

The legislature further recognizes that energy efficiency and energy conservation can help to reduce air pollution and shall therefore be considered when making decisions on air pollution control strategies and projects.

It is the policy of the state that the costs of protecting the air resource and operating state and local air pollution control programs shall be shared as equitably as possible among all sources whose emissions cause air pollution.

It is also declared as public policy that regional air pollution control programs are to be encouraged and supported to the extent practicable as essential instruments for the securing and maintenance of appropriate levels of air quality.

To these ends it is the purpose of this chapter to safeguard the public interest through an intensive, progressive, and coordinated statewide program of air pollution prevention and control, to provide for an appropriate distribution of responsibilities, and to encourage coordination and cooperation between the state, regional, and local units of government, to improve cooperation between state and federal government, public and private organizations, and the concerned individual, as well as to provide for the use of all known, available, and reasonable methods to reduce, prevent, and control air pollution.

The legislature recognizes that the problems and effects of air pollution cross political boundaries, are frequently regional or interjurisdictional in nature, and are dependent upon the existence of human activity in areas having common topography and weather conditions conducive to the buildup of air contaminants. In addition, the legislature recognizes that air pollution levels are aggravated and compounded by increased population, and its consequences. These changes often result in increasingly serious problems for the public and the environment.

The legislature further recognizes that air emissions from thousands of small individual sources are major contributors to air pollution in many regions of the state. As the population of a region grows, small sources may contribute an increasing proportion of that region's total air emissions. It is declared to be the policy of the state to achieve significant reductions in emissions from those small sources whose aggregate emissions constitute a significant contribution to air pollution in a particular region.

It is the intent of the legislature that air pollution goals be incorporated in the missions and actions of state agencies. [1991 c 199 § 102; 1973 1st ex.s. c 193 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 1; 1967 c 238 § 1.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** "The legislature finds that ambient air pollution is the most serious environmental threat in Washington state. Air pollution causes significant harm to human health; damages the environment, including trees, crops, and animals; causes deterioration of equipment and materials; contributes to water pollution; and degrades the quality of life.

Over three million residents of Washington state live where air pollution levels are considered unhealthful. Of all toxic chemicals released into the environment more than half enter our breathing air. Citizens of Washington state spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually to offset health, environmental, and material damage caused by air pollution. The legislature considers such air pollution levels, costs, and damages to be unacceptable.

It is the intent of this act that the implementation of programs and regulations to control air pollution shall be the primary responsibility of the department of ecology and local air pollution control authorities." [1991 c 199 § 101.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.015 Air pollution control account—Air operating permit account.** (1) The air pollution control account is established in the state treasury. All receipts collected by or on behalf of the department from RCW 70.94.151(2), and receipts from nonpermit program sources under RCW 70.94.152(1) and 70.94.154(7), and all receipts from RCW \*70.94.650, \*70.94.660, \*\*82.44.020(2), and \*\*82.50.405 shall be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only to develop and implement the provisions of chapters 70.94 and 70.120 RCW.

(2) The amounts collected and allocated in accordance with this section shall be expended upon appropriation except as otherwise provided in this section and in accordance with the following limitations:

Portions of moneys received by the department of ecology from the air pollution control account shall be distributed by the department to local authorities based on:

(a) The level and extent of air quality problems within such authority's jurisdiction;

(b) The costs associated with implementing air pollution regulatory programs by such authority; and

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(c) The amount of funding available to such authority from other sources, whether state, federal, or local, that could be used to implement such programs.

(3) The air operating permit account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts collected by or on behalf of the department from permit program sources under RCW 70.94.152(1), 70.94.161, 70.94.162, and 70.94.154(7) shall be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the activities described in RCW 70.94.152(1), 70.94.161, 70.94.162, and 70.94.154(7). Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. [1998 c 321 § 33 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1993 c 252 § 1; 1991 c 199 § 228.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 70.94.650 and 70.94.660 were recodified as RCW 70.94.6528 and 70.94.6534 respectively pursuant to 2009 c 118 § 802.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 82.44.020 and 82.50.405 were repealed by 2000 1st sp.s. c 1 § 2.

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.017 Air pollution control account—Subaccount distribution. (Expires July 1, 2020.)** (1) Money deposited in the segregated subaccount of the air pollution control account under \*RCW 46.68.020(2) shall be distributed as follows:

(a) Eighty-five percent shall be distributed to air pollution control authorities created under this chapter. The money must be distributed in direct proportion with the amount of fees imposed under RCW \*\*46.12.080, \*\*\*46.12.170, and \*\*\*\*46.12.181 that are collected within the boundaries of each authority. However, an amount in direct proportion with those fees collected in counties for which no air pollution control authority exists must be distributed to the department.

(b) The remaining fifteen percent shall be distributed to the department.

(2) Money distributed to air pollution control authorities and the department under subsection (1) of this section must be used as follows:

(a) Eighty-five percent of the money received by an air pollution control authority or the department is available on a priority basis to retrofit school buses with exhaust emission control devices or to provide funding for fueling infrastructure necessary to allow school bus fleets to use alternative, cleaner fuels. In addition, the director of ecology or the air pollution control officer may direct funding under this section for other publicly or privately owned diesel equipment if the director of ecology or the air pollution control officer finds that funding for other publicly or privately owned diesel equipment will provide public health benefits and further the purposes of this chapter.

(b) The remaining fifteen percent may be used by the air pollution control authority or department to reduce transportation-related air contaminant emissions and clean up air pollution, or reduce and monitor toxic air contaminants.

(3) Money in the air pollution control account may be spent by the department only after appropriation.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2020. [2007 c 348 § 102; 2005 c 295 § 5; 2003 c 264 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The deposit of moneys into the segregated subaccount of the air pollution control account as referenced here in RCW 46.68.020(2) appears to have expired on July 1, 2008. RCW 46.68.020 was subsequently amended by 2011 c 171 § 84, deleting subsection (2).

\*\*\*(2) RCW 46.12.080 was recodified as RCW 46.12.590 pursuant to 2010 c 161 § 1210, effective July 1, 2011.

\*\*\*\*(3) RCW 46.12.170 was recodified as RCW 46.12.975 pursuant to 2010 c 161 § 1211, effective July 1, 2011.

\*\*\*\*\*(4) RCW 46.12.181 was recodified as RCW 46.12.580 pursuant to 2010 c 161 § 1210, effective July 1, 2011.

**Findings—2007 c 348:** See RCW 43.325.005.

**Findings—2005 c 295:** See note following RCW 70.120A.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.030 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Air contaminant" means dust, fumes, mist, smoke, other particulate matter, vapor, gas, odorous substance, or any combination thereof.

(2) "Air pollution" is presence in the outdoor atmosphere of one or more air contaminants in sufficient quantities and of such characteristics and duration as is, or is likely to be, injurious to human health, plant or animal life, or property, or which unreasonably interfere with enjoyment of life and property. For the purpose of this chapter, air pollution shall not include air contaminants emitted in compliance with chapter 17.21 RCW.

(3) "Air quality standard" means an established concentration, exposure time, and frequency of occurrence of an air contaminant or multiple contaminants in the ambient air which shall not be exceeded.

(4) "Ambient air" means the surrounding outside air.

(5) "Authority" means any air pollution control agency whose jurisdictional boundaries are coextensive with the boundaries of one or more counties.

(6) "Best available control technology" (BACT) means an emission limitation based on the maximum degree of reduction for each air pollutant subject to regulation under this chapter emitted from or that results from any new or modified stationary source, that the permitting authority, on a case-by-case basis, taking into account energy, environmental, and economic impacts and other costs, determines is achievable for such a source or modification through application of production processes and available methods, systems, and techniques, including fuel cleaning, clean fuels, or treatment or innovative fuel combustion techniques for control of each such a pollutant. In no event shall application of "best available control technology" result in emissions of any pollutants that will exceed the emissions allowed by any applicable standard under 40 C.F.R. Part 60 and Part 61, as they exist on July 25, 1993, or their later enactments as adopted by reference by the director by rule. Emissions from any source utilizing clean fuels, or any other means, to comply with this subsection shall not be allowed to increase above levels that would have been required under the definition of BACT as it existed prior to enactment of the federal clean air act amendments of 1990.

(7) "Best available retrofit technology" (BART) means an emission limitation based on the degree of reduction achievable through the application of the best system of continuous emission reduction for each pollutant that is emitted by an existing stationary facility. The emission limitation

must be established, on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the technology available, the costs of compliance, the energy and nonair quality environmental impacts of compliance, any pollution control equipment in use or in existence at the source, the remaining useful life of the source, and the degree of improvement in visibility that might reasonably be anticipated to result from the use of the technology.

(8) "Board" means the board of directors of an authority.

(9) "Control officer" means the air pollution control officer of any authority.

(10) "Department" or "ecology" means the department of ecology.

(11) "Emission" means a release of air contaminants into the ambient air.

(12) "Emission standard" and "emission limitation" mean a requirement established under the federal clean air act or this chapter that limits the quantity, rate, or concentration of emissions of air contaminants on a continuous basis, including any requirement relating to the operation or maintenance of a source to assure continuous emission reduction, and any design, equipment, work practice, or operational standard adopted under the federal clean air act or this chapter.

(13) "Fine particulate" means particulates with a diameter of two and one-half microns and smaller.

(14) "Lowest achievable emission rate" (LAER) means for any source that rate of emissions that reflects:

(a) The most stringent emission limitation that is contained in the implementation plan of any state for such class or category of source, unless the owner or operator of the proposed source demonstrates that such limitations are not achievable; or

(b) The most stringent emission limitation that is achieved in practice by such class or category of source, whichever is more stringent.

In no event shall the application of this term permit a proposed new or modified source to emit any pollutant in excess of the amount allowable under applicable new source performance standards.

(15) "Modification" means any physical change in, or change in the method of operation of, a stationary source that increases the amount of any air contaminant emitted by such source or that results in the emission of any air contaminant not previously emitted. The term modification shall be construed consistent with the definition of modification in Section 7411, Title 42, United States Code, and with rules implementing that section.

(16) "Multicounty authority" means an authority which consists of two or more counties.

(17) "New source" means (a) the construction or modification of a stationary source that increases the amount of any air contaminant emitted by such source or that results in the emission of any air contaminant not previously emitted, and (b) any other project that constitutes a new source under the federal clean air act.

(18) "Permit program source" means a source required to apply for or to maintain an operating permit under RCW 70.94.161.

(19) "Person" means an individual, firm, public or private corporation, association, partnership, political subdivision of the state, municipality, or governmental agency.

(20) "Reasonably available control technology" (RACT) means the lowest emission limit that a particular source or source category is capable of meeting by the application of control technology that is reasonably available considering technological and economic feasibility. RACT is determined on a case-by-case basis for an individual source or source category taking into account the impact of the source upon air quality, the availability of additional controls, the emission reduction to be achieved by additional controls, the impact of additional controls on air quality, and the capital and operating costs of the additional controls. RACT requirements for a source or source category shall be adopted only after notice and opportunity for comment are afforded.

(21) "Silvicultural burning" means burning of wood fiber on forestland consistent with the provisions of \*RCW 70.94.660.

(22) "Source" means all of the emissions units including quantifiable fugitive emissions, that are located on one or more contiguous or adjacent properties, and are under the control of the same person, or persons under common control, whose activities are ancillary to the production of a single product or functionally related group of products.

(23) "Stationary source" means any building, structure, facility, or installation that emits or may emit any air contaminant.

(24) "Trigger level" means the ambient level of fine particulates, measured in micrograms per cubic meter, that must be detected prior to initiating a first or second stage of impaired air quality under RCW 70.94.473. [2005 c 197 § 2; 1993 c 252 § 2; 1991 c 199 § 103; 1987 c 109 § 33; 1979 c 141 § 119; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 61 § 1; 1967 c 238 § 2; 1957 c 232 § 3.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.94.660 was recodified as RCW 70.94.6534 pursuant to 2009 c 118 § 802.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Capitons—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.033 Environmental excellence program agreements—Effect on chapter.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any legal requirement under this chapter, including any standard, limitation, rule, or order is superseded and replaced in accordance with the terms and provisions of an environmental excellence program agreement, entered into under chapter 43.21K RCW. [1997 c 381 § 21.]

**Purpose—1997 c 381:** See RCW 43.21K.005.

**70.94.035 Technical assistance program for regulated community.** The department shall establish a technical assistance unit within its air quality program, consistent with the federal clean air act, to provide the regulated community, especially small businesses with:

(1) Information on air pollution laws, rules, compliance methods, and technologies;

(2) Information on air pollution prevention methods and technologies, and prevention of accidental releases;

(3) Assistance in obtaining permits and developing emission reduction plans;

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(4) Information on the health and environmental effects of air pollution.

No representatives of the department designated as part of the technical assistance unit created in this section may have any enforcement authority. Staff of the technical assistance unit who provide on-site consultation at an industrial or commercial facility and who observe violations of air quality rules shall immediately inform the owner or operator of the facility of such violations. On-site consultation visits shall not be regarded as an inspection or investigation and no notices or citations may be issued or civil penalties assessed during such a visit. However, violations shall be reported to the appropriate enforcement agency and the facility owner or operator shall be notified that the violations will be reported. No enforcement action shall be taken by the enforcement agency for violations reported by technical assistance unit staff unless and until the facility owner or operator has been provided reasonable time to correct the violation. Violations that place any person in imminent danger of death or substantial bodily harm or cause physical damage to the property of another in an amount exceeding one thousand dollars may result in immediate enforcement action by the appropriate enforcement agency. [1991 c 199 § 308.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.037 Transportation activities—"Conformity" determination requirements.** In areas subject to a state implementation plan, no state agency, metropolitan planning organization, or local government shall approve or fund a transportation plan, program, or project within or that affects a nonattainment area unless a determination has been made that the plan, program, or project conforms with the state implementation plan for air quality as required by the federal clean air act.

Conformity determination shall be made by the state or local government or metropolitan planning organization administering or developing the plan, program, or project.

No later than eighteen months after May 15, 1991, the director of the department of ecology and the secretary of transportation, in consultation with other state, regional, and local agencies as appropriate, shall adopt by rule criteria and guidance for demonstrating and assuring conformity of plans, programs, and projects that are wholly or partially federally funded.

A project with a scope that is limited to preservation or maintenance, or both, shall be exempted from a conformity determination requirement. [1991 c 199 § 219.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.040 Causing or permitting air pollution unlawful—Exception.** Except where specified in a variance permit, as provided in RCW 70.94.181, it shall be unlawful for any person to cause air pollution or permit it to be caused in violation of this chapter, or of any ordinance, resolution, rule or regulation validly promulgated hereunder. [1980 c 175 § 2; 1967 c 238 § 3; 1957 c 232 § 4.]

**70.94.041 Exception—Burning wood at historic structure.** Except as otherwise provided in this section, any building or structure listed on the national register of historic sites, structures, or buildings established pursuant to 80 Stat.

915, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 470a, or on the state register established pursuant to RCW 27.34.220, shall be permitted to burn wood as it would have when it was a functioning facility as an authorized exception to the provisions of this chapter. Such burning of wood shall not be exempted from the provisions of RCW 70.94.710 through 70.94.730. [1991 c 199 § 506; 1983 c 3 § 175; 1977 ex.s. c 38 § 1.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.053 Air pollution control authorities created—Activated authorities, composition, meetings—Delineation of air pollution regions, considerations.** (1) In each county of the state there is hereby created an air pollution control authority, which shall bear the name of the county within which it is located. The boundaries of each authority shall be coextensive with the boundaries of the county within which it is located. An authority shall include all incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county within which it is located.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 70.94.262, all authorities which are presently activated authorities shall carry out the duties and exercise the powers provided in this chapter. Those activated authorities which encompass contiguous counties are declared to be and directed to function as a multicounty authority.

(3) All other air pollution control authorities are hereby designated as inactive authorities.

(4) The boards of those authorities designated as activated authorities by this chapter shall be comprised of such individuals as is provided in RCW 70.94.100. [1995 c 135 § 5. Prior: 1991 c 363 § 143; 1991 c 199 § 701; 1991 c 125 § 1; prior: 1987 c 505 § 60; 1987 c 109 § 34; 1979 c 141 § 120; 1967 c 238 § 4.]

**Intent—1995 c 135:** See note following RCW 29A.08.760.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.055 Air pollution control authority may be activated by counties, when.** The legislative authority of any county may activate an air pollution control authority following a public hearing on its own motion, or upon a filing of a petition signed by one hundred property owners within the county. If the county legislative authority determines as a result of the public hearing that:

(1) Air pollution exists or is likely to occur; and

(2) The city or town ordinances, or county resolutions, or their enforcement, are inadequate to prevent or control air pollution,

it may by resolution activate an air pollution control authority or combine with a contiguous county or counties to form a multicounty air pollution control authority. [1995 c 135 § 6. Prior: 1991 c 363 § 144; 1991 c 199 § 702; 1967 c 238 § 5.]

**Intent—1995 c 135:** See note following RCW 29A.08.760.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.057 Multicounty authority may be formed by contiguous counties—Name.** The boards of county commissioners of two or more contiguous counties may, by joint resolution, combine to form a multicounty air pollution control authority. Boundaries of such authority shall be coextensive with the boundaries of the counties forming the authority.

The name of the multicounty authority shall bear the names of the counties making up such multicounty authority or a name adopted by the board of such multicounty authority. [1967 c 238 § 6.]

**70.94.068 Merger of active and inactive authorities to form multicounty or regional authority—Procedure.** The respective boards of county commissioners of two or more contiguous counties may merge any combination of their several inactive or activated authorities to form one activated multicounty authority. Upon a determination that the purposes of this chapter will be served by such merger, each board of county commissioners may adopt the resolution providing for such merger. Such resolution shall become effective only when a similar resolution is adopted by the other contiguous county or counties comprising the proposed authority. The boundaries of such authority shall be coextensive with the boundaries of the counties within which it is located. [1969 ex.s. c 168 § 3; 1967 c 238 § 11.]

**70.94.069 Merger of active and inactive authorities to form multicounty or regional authority—Reorganization of board of directors—Rules and regulations.** Whenever there occurs a merger of an inactive authority with an activated authority or authorities, or of two activated authorities to form a multicounty authority, the board of directors shall be reorganized as provided in RCW 70.94.100, 70.94.110, and 70.94.120.

In the case of the merger of two or more activated authorities the rules and regulations of each authority shall continue in effect and shall be enforced within the jurisdiction of each until such time as the board of directors adopts rules and regulations applicable to the newly formed multicounty authority.

In the case of the merger of an inactive authority with an activated authority or authorities, upon approval of such merger by the board or boards of county commissioners of the county or counties comprising the existing activated authority or authorities, the rules and regulations of the activated authority or authorities shall remain in effect until superseded by the rules and regulations of the multicounty authority as provided in RCW 70.94.230. [1969 ex.s. c 168 § 4; 1967 c 238 § 12.]

**70.94.070 Resolutions activating authorities—Contents—Filings—Effective date of operation.** The resolution or resolutions activating an air pollution authority shall specify the name of the authority and participating political bodies; the authority's principal place of business; the territory included within it; and the effective date upon which such authority shall begin to transact business and exercise its powers. In addition, such resolution or resolutions may specify the amount of money to be contributed annually by each political subdivision, or a method of dividing expenses of the

air pollution control program. Upon the adoption of a resolution or resolutions calling for the activation of an authority or the merger of an inactive or activated authority or several activated authorities to form a multicounty authority, the governing body of each shall cause a certified copy of each such ordinance or resolution to be filed in the office of the secretary of state of the state of Washington. From and after the date of filing with the secretary of state a certified copy of each such resolution, or resolutions, or the date specified in such resolution or resolutions, whichever is later, the authority may begin to function and may exercise its powers.

Any authority activated by the provisions of this chapter shall cause a certified copy of all information required by this section to be filed in the office of the secretary of state of the state of Washington. [1969 ex.s. c 168 § 5; 1967 c 238 § 13; 1957 c 232 § 7.]

**70.94.081 Powers and duties of authorities.** An activated authority shall be deemed a municipal corporation; have right to perpetual succession; adopt and use a seal; may sue and be sued in the name of the authority in all courts and in all proceedings; and, may receive, account for, and disburse funds, employ personnel, and acquire or dispose of any interest in real or personal property within or without the authority in the furtherance of its purposes. [1969 ex.s. c 168 § 6; 1967 c 238 § 14.]

**70.94.085 Cost-reimbursement agreements.** (1) An authority may enter into a written cost-reimbursement agreement with a permit applicant or project proponent to recover from the applicant or proponent the reasonable costs incurred by the authority in carrying out the requirements of this chapter, as well as the requirements of other relevant laws, as they relate to permit coordination, environmental review, application review, technical studies, and permit processing.

(2) The cost-reimbursement agreement shall identify the tasks and costs for work to be conducted under the agreement. The agreement must include a schedule that states:

- (a) The estimated number of weeks for initial review of the permit application;
- (b) The estimated number of revision cycles;
- (c) The estimated number of weeks for review of subsequent revision submittals;
- (d) The estimated number of billable hours of employee time;
- (e) The rate per hour; and
- (f) A date for revision of the agreement if necessary.

(3) The written cost-reimbursement agreement shall be negotiated with the permit applicant or project proponent. Under the provisions of a cost-reimbursement agreement, funds from the applicant or proponent shall be used by the air pollution control authority to contract with an independent consultant to carry out the work covered by the cost-reimbursement agreement. The air pollution control authority may also use funds provided under a cost-reimbursement agreement to hire temporary employees, to assign current staff to review the work of the consultant, to provide necessary technical assistance when an independent consultant with comparable technical skills is unavailable, and to recover reasonable and necessary direct and indirect costs that arise from processing the permit. The air pollution con-

trol authority shall, in developing the agreement, ensure that final decisions that involve policy matters are made by the agency and not by the consultant. The air pollution control authority shall make an estimate of the number of permanent staff hours to process the permits, and shall contract with consultants or hire temporary employees to replace the time and functions committed by these permanent staff to the project. The billing process shall provide for accurate time and cost accounting and may include a billing cycle that provides for progress payments.

(4) The cost-reimbursement agreement must not negatively impact the processing of other permit applications. In order to maintain permit processing capacity, the agency may hire outside consultants, temporary employees, or make internal administrative changes. Consultants or temporary employees hired as part of a cost-reimbursement agreement or to maintain agency capacity are hired as agents of the state not of the permit applicant. The provisions of chapter 42.52 RCW apply to any cost-reimbursement agreement, and to any person hired as a result of a cost-reimbursement agreement. Members of the air pollution control authority's board of directors shall be considered as state officers, and employees of the air pollution control authority shall be considered as state employees, for the sole purpose of applying the restrictions of chapter 42.52 RCW to this section. [2009 c 97 § 12; 2007 c 94 § 14; 2003 c 70 § 5; 2000 c 251 § 6.]

**Intent—Captions not law—Effective date—2000 c 251:** See notes following RCW 43.21A.690.

**70.94.091 Excess tax levy authorized—Election, procedure, expense.** An activated authority shall have the power to levy additional taxes in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limitations for any of the authorized purposes of such activated authority, not in excess of twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value a year when authorized so to do by the electors of such authority by a three-fifths majority of those voting on the proposition at a special election, to be held in the year in which the levy is made, in the manner set forth in Article VII, section 2 (a) of the Constitution of this state, as amended by Amendment 59 and as thereafter amended. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent holding the foregoing special election at the same time as that fixed for a general election. The expense of all special elections held pursuant to this section shall be paid by the authority. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 84; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 7; 1967 c 238 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.092 Air pollution control authority—Fiscal year—Adoption of budget—Contents.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 1.16.030, the budget year of each activated authority shall be the fiscal year beginning July 1st and ending on the following June 30th. On or before the fourth Monday in June of each year, each activated authority shall adopt a budget for the following fiscal year. The activated authority budget shall contain adequate funding and provide for staff sufficient to carry out the provisions of all applicable ordinances, resolutions, and local regulations related to the reduction, prevention, and control of air pollution. The legislature acknowledges the need for the state to provide reasonable funding to local authorities to carry out

the requirements of this chapter. The budget shall contain an estimate of all revenues to be collected during the following budget year, including any surplus funds remaining unexpended from the preceding year. The remaining funds required to meet budget expenditures, if any, shall be designated as "supplemental income" and shall be obtained from the component cities, towns, and counties in the manner provided in this chapter. The affirmative vote of three-fourths of all members of the board shall be required to authorize emergency expenditures. [1991 c 199 § 703; 1975 1st ex.s. c 106 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 8; 1967 c 238 § 16.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.093 Methods for determining proportion of supplemental income to be paid by component cities, towns and counties—Payment.** (1) Each component city or town shall pay such proportion of the supplemental income to the authority as determined by either one of the following prescribed methods or by a combination of fifty percent of one and fifty percent of the other as provided in subsection (1)(c) of this section:

(a) Each component city or town shall pay such proportion of the supplemental income as the assessed valuation of property within its limits bears to the total assessed valuation of taxable property within the activated authority.

(b) Each component city or town shall pay such proportion of the supplemental income as the total population of such city or town bears to the total population of the activated authority. The population of the city or town shall be determined by the most recent census, estimate or survey by the federal bureau of census or any state board or commission authorized to make such a census, estimate or survey.

(c) A combination of the methods prescribed in (a) and (b) of this subsection: PROVIDED, That such combination shall be of fifty percent of the method prescribed in (a) of this subsection and fifty percent of the method prescribed in (b) of this subsection.

(2) Each component county shall pay such proportion of such supplemental income to the authority as determined by either one of the following prescribed methods or by a combination of fifty percent of one and fifty percent of the other as prescribed in subsection (2)(c) of this section:

(a) Each component county shall pay such proportion of such supplemental income as the assessed valuation of the property within the unincorporated area of such county lying within the activated authority bears to the total assessed valuation of taxable property within the activated authority.

(b) Each component county shall pay such proportion of the supplemental income as the total population of the unincorporated area of such county bears to the total population of the activated authority. The population of the county shall be determined by the most recent census, estimate or survey by the federal bureau of census or any state board or commission authorized to make such a census, estimate or survey.

(c) A combination of the methods prescribed in (a) and (b) of this subsection: PROVIDED, That such combination shall be of fifty percent of the method prescribed in (a) of this subsection and fifty percent of the method prescribed in (b) of this subsection.

(3) In making such determination of the assessed valuation of property in the component cities, towns and counties,

the board shall use the last available assessed valuations. The board shall certify to each component city, town and county, prior to the fourth Monday in June of each year, the share of the supplemental income to be paid by such component city, town or county for the next calendar year. The latter shall then include such amount in its budget for the ensuing calendar year, and during such year shall pay to the activated authority, in equal quarterly installments, the amount of its supplemental share. [1969 ex.s. c 168 § 9; 1967 c 238 § 17.]

**70.94.094 Designation of authority treasurer and auditor—Duties.** The treasurer of each component city, town, or county shall create a separate fund into which shall be paid all money collected from taxes or from any other available sources, levied by or obtained for the activated authority on property or on any other available sources in such city, town, or county. The collected money shall be forwarded quarterly by the treasurer of each such city, town, or county to the treasurer of the county designated by the board as the treasurer for the authority. The treasurer of the county designated to serve as treasurer of the authority shall establish and maintain funds as authorized by the board.

Money shall be disbursed from funds collected under this section upon warrants drawn by either the authority or the auditor of the county designated by the board as the auditor for the authority, as authorized by the board.

If an authority chooses to use a county auditor for the disbursement of funds, the respective county shall be reimbursed by the board for services rendered by the auditor of the respective county in connection with the disbursement of funds under this section. [2007 c 164 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 10; 1967 c 238 § 18.]

**70.94.095 Assessed valuation of taxable property, certification by county assessors.** It shall be the duty of the assessor of each component county to certify annually to the board the aggregate assessed valuation of all taxable property in all incorporated and unincorporated areas situated in any activated authority as the same appears from the last assessment roll of his or her county. [2012 c 117 § 405; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 11; 1967 c 238 § 19.]

**70.94.096 Authorization to borrow money.** An activated authority shall have the power when authorized by a majority of all members of the board to borrow money from any component city, town or county and such cities, towns and counties are hereby authorized to make such loans or advances on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon by the board and the legislative bodies of any such component city, town or county to provide funds to carry out the purposes of the activated authority. [1969 ex.s. c 168 § 12; 1967 c 238 § 20.]

**70.94.097 Special air pollution studies—Contracts for conduct of.** In addition to paying its share of the supplemental income of the activated authority, each component city, town, or county shall have the power to contract with such authority and expend funds for the conduct of special studies, investigations, plans, research, advice, or consultation relating to air pollution and its causes, effects, prevention, abatement, and control as such may affect any area

within the boundaries of the component city, town, or county, and which could not be performed by the authority with funds otherwise available to it. Any component city, town or county which contracts for the conduct of such special air pollution studies, investigations, plans, research, advice or consultation with any entity other than the activated authority shall require that such an entity consult with the activated authority. [1975 1st ex.s. c 106 § 2.]

**70.94.100 Air pollution control authority—Board of directors—Composition—Term.** (1) The governing body of each authority shall be known as the board of directors.

(2)(a) In the case of an authority comprised of one county, with a population of less than four hundred thousand people, the board shall be comprised of two appointees of the city selection committee, at least one of whom shall represent the city having the most population in the county, and two representatives to be designated by the board of county commissioners.

(b) In the case of an authority comprised of one county, with a population of equal to or greater than four hundred thousand people, the board shall be comprised of three appointees of cities, one each from the two cities with the most population in the county and one appointee of the city selection committee representing the other cities, and one representative to be designated by the board of county commissioners.

(c) In the case of an authority comprised of two, three, four, or five counties, the board shall be comprised of one appointee from each county, who shall represent the city having the most population in such county, to be designated by the mayor and city council of such city, and one representative from each county to be designated by the board of county commissioners of each county making up the authority.

(d) In the case of an authority comprised of six or more counties, the board shall be comprised of one representative from each county to be designated by the board of county commissioners of each county making up the authority, and three appointees, one each from the three largest cities within the local authority's jurisdiction to be appointed by the mayor and city council of such city.

(3) If the board of an authority otherwise would consist of an even number, the members selected as above provided shall agree upon and elect an additional member who shall be:

(a) In the case of an authority comprised of one county with a population of equal to or greater than four hundred thousand people, a citizen residing in the county who demonstrates significant professional experience in the field of public health, air quality protection, or meteorology; or

(b) In the case of an authority comprised of one county, with a population less than four hundred thousand people, or of more than one county, either a member of the governing body of one of the towns, cities or counties comprising the authority, or a private citizen residing in the authority.

(4) The terms of office of board members shall be four years.

(5) If an appointee is unable to complete his or her term as a board member, the vacancy for that office must be filled by the same method as the original appointment, except for the appointment by the city selection committee, which must

use the method in RCW 70.94.120(1) for replacements. The person appointed as a replacement will serve the remainder of the term for that office.

(6) Wherever a member of a board has a potential conflict of interest in an action before the board, the member shall declare to the board the nature of the potential conflict prior to participating in the action review. The board shall, if the potential conflict of interest, in the judgment of a majority of the board, may prevent the member from a fair and objective review of the case, remove the member from participation in the action. [2009 c 254 § 1; 2006 c 227 § 1; 1991 c 199 § 704; 1989 c 150 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 13; 1967 c 238 § 21; 1957 c 232 § 10.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.110 City selection committees.** There shall be a separate and distinct city selection committee for each county making up an authority. The membership of such committee shall consist of the mayor of each incorporated city and town within such county, except that the mayors of the cities, with the most population in a county, having already designated appointees to the board of an air pollution control authority comprised of a single county shall not be members of the committee. A majority of the members of each city selection committee shall constitute a quorum. [2006 c 227 § 2; 1967 c 238 § 22; 1963 c 27 § 1; 1957 c 232 § 11.]

**70.94.120 City selection committees—Meetings, notice, recording officer—Alternative mail balloting—Notice.** (1) The city selection committee of each county which is included within an authority shall meet within one month after the activation of such authority for the purpose of making its initial appointments to the board of such authority and thereafter whenever necessary for the purpose of making succeeding appointments. All meetings shall be held upon at least two weeks written notice given by the county auditor to each member of the city selection committee of each county and he or she shall give such notice upon request of any member of such committee. A similar notice shall be given to the general public by a publication of such notice in a newspaper of general circulation in such authority. The county auditor shall act as recording officer, maintain its records, and give appropriate notice of its proceedings and actions.

(2) As an alternative to meeting in accordance with subsection (1) of this section, the county auditor may administer the appointment process through the mail.

(a) At least four months prior to the expiration of the term of office, the county auditor must mail a request to each member of the city selection committee seeking nominations to the office. The members of the selection committee have until the last day of the fourth month to return the nomination to the auditor or the auditor's designee.

(b) Within five business days of the close of the nomination period, the county auditor will mail ballots by certified mail to the members of the city selection committee, specifying the date by which to return the completed ballot which is the last day of the third month prior to the expiration of the term of office. Each mayor who chooses to participate in the balloting shall mark the choice for appointment, sign the ballot, and return the ballot to the county auditor. Each completed ballot shall be date-stamped upon receipt by the mayor

or staff of the mayor of the city or town. The timely return of completed ballots by a majority of the members of each city selection committee constitutes a quorum and the common choice by a majority of the quorum constitutes a valid appointment.

(3) At least two weeks' written notice must be given by the county auditor to each member of the city selection committee prior to the nomination process. A similar notice shall be given to the general public by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the authority. A single notice is sufficient for both the nomination process and the balloting process. [2012 c 117 § 406; 2009 c 254 § 2; 1995 c 261 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 14; 1967 c 238 § 23; 1957 c 232 § 12.]

**70.94.130 Air pollution control authority—Board of directors—Powers, quorum, officers, compensation.** The board shall exercise all powers of the authority except as otherwise provided. The board shall conduct its first meeting within thirty days after all of its members have been appointed or designated as provided in RCW 70.94.100. The board shall meet at least ten times per year. All meetings shall be publicly announced prior to their occurrence. All meetings shall be open to the public. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and shall be necessary for any action taken by the board. The board shall elect from its members a chair and such other officers as may be necessary. Any member of the board may designate a regular alternate to serve on the board in his or her place with the same authority as the member when he or she is unable to attend. In no event may a regular alternate serve as the permanent chair. Each member of the board, or his or her representative, shall receive from the authority compensation consistent with such authority's rates (but not to exceed one thousand dollars per year) for time spent in the performance of duties under this chapter, plus the actual and necessary expenses incurred by the member in such performance. The board may appoint a control officer, and any other personnel, and shall determine their salaries, and pay same, together with any other proper indebtedness, from authority funds. [1998 c 342 § 1; 1991 c 199 § 705; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 15; 1967 c 238 § 24; 1957 c 232 § 13.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.141 Air pollution control authority—Powers and duties of activated authority.** The board of any activated authority in addition to any other powers vested in them by law, shall have power to:

(1) Adopt, amend and repeal its own rules and regulations, implementing this chapter and consistent with it, after consideration at a public hearing held in accordance with chapter 42.30 RCW. Rules and regulations shall also be adopted in accordance with the notice and adoption procedures set forth in RCW 34.05.320, those provisions of RCW 34.05.325 that are not in conflict with chapter 42.30 RCW, and with the procedures of RCW 34.05.340, \*34.05.355 through 34.05.380, and with chapter 34.08 RCW, except that rules shall not be published in the Washington Administrative Code. Judicial review of rules adopted by an authority shall be in accordance with Part V of chapter 34.05 RCW. An air pollution control authority shall not be deemed to be a state agency.

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(2) Hold hearings relating to any aspect of or matter in the administration of this chapter not prohibited by the provisions of chapter 62, Laws of 1970 ex. sess. and in connection therewith issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence, administer oaths and take the testimony of any person under oath.

(3) Issue such orders as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter and enforce the same by all appropriate administrative and judicial proceedings subject to the rights of appeal as provided in chapter 62, Laws of 1970 ex. sess.

(4) Require access to records, books, files and other information specific to the control, recovery or release of air contaminants into the atmosphere.

(5) Secure necessary scientific, technical, administrative and operational services, including laboratory facilities, by contract or otherwise.

(6) Prepare and develop a comprehensive plan or plans for the prevention, abatement and control of air pollution within its jurisdiction.

(7) Encourage voluntary cooperation by persons or affected groups to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

(8) Encourage and conduct studies, investigation and research relating to air pollution and its causes, effects, prevention, abatement and control.

(9) Collect and disseminate information and conduct educational and training programs relating to air pollution.

(10) Advise, consult, cooperate and contract with agencies and departments and the educational institutions of the state, other political subdivisions, industries, other states, interstate or interlocal agencies, and the United States government, and with interested persons or groups.

(11) Consult, upon request, with any person proposing to construct, install, or otherwise acquire an air contaminant source or device or system for the control thereof, concerning the efficacy of such device or system, or the air pollution problems which may be related to the source, device or system. Nothing in any such consultation shall be construed to relieve any person from compliance with this chapter, ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations in force pursuant thereto, or any other provision of law.

(12) Accept, receive, disburse and administer grants or other funds or gifts from any source, including public and private agencies and the United States government for the purpose of carrying out any of the functions of this chapter. [1991 c 199 § 706; 1970 ex.s. c 62 § 56; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 16; 1967 c 238 § 25.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 34.05.355 was repealed by 1995 c 403 § 305.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.142 Subpoena powers—Witnesses, expenses and mileage—Rules and regulations.** In connection with the subpoena powers given in RCW 70.94.141(2):

(1) In any hearing held under RCW 70.94.181 and 70.94.221, the board or the department, and their authorized agents:

(a) Shall issue a subpoena upon the request of any party and, to the extent required by rule or regulation, upon a statement or showing of general relevance and reasonable scope of the evidence sought;

(b) May issue a subpoena upon their own motion.

(2) The subpoena powers given in RCW 70.94.141(2) shall be statewide in effect.

(3) Witnesses appearing under the compulsion of a subpoena in a hearing before the board or the department shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are provided for witnesses in the courts of this state. Such fees and mileage, and the cost of duplicating records required to be produced by subpoena issued upon the motion of the board or department, shall be paid by the board or department. Such fees and mileage, and the cost of producing records required to be produced by subpoena issued upon the request of a party, shall be paid by that party.

(4) If an individual fails to obey the subpoena, or obeys the subpoena but refuses to testify when required concerning any matter under examination or investigation or the subject of the hearing, the board or department shall file its written report thereof and proof of service of its subpoena, in any court of competent jurisdiction in the county where the examination, hearing, or investigation is being conducted. Thereupon, the court shall forthwith cause the individual to be brought before it and, upon being satisfied that the subpoena is within the jurisdiction of the board or department and otherwise in accordance with law, shall punish him or her as if the failure or refusal related to a subpoena from or testimony in that court.

(5) The department may make such rules and regulations as to the issuance of its own subpoenas as are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. [2012 c 117 § 407; 1987 c 109 § 35; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 17; 1967 c 238 § 26.]

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.143 Federal aid.** Any authority exercising the powers and duties prescribed in this chapter may make application for, receive, administer, and expend any federal aid, under federal legislation from any agency of the federal government, for the prevention and control of air pollution or the development and administration of programs related to air pollution control and prevention, as permitted by RCW 70.94.141(12): PROVIDED, That any such application shall be submitted to and approved by the department. The department shall adopt rules and regulations establishing standards for such approval and shall approve any such application, if it is consistent with this chapter, and any other applicable requirements of law. [1987 c 109 § 36; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 18; 1967 c 238 § 27.]

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.151 Classification of air contaminant sources—Registration—Fee—Registration program defined—Adoption of rules requiring persons to report emissions of greenhouse gases.** (1) The board of any activated authority or the department, may classify air contaminant sources, by ordinance, resolution, rule or regulation, which in its judgment may cause or contribute to air pollution, according to levels and types of emissions and other characteristics which cause or contribute to air pollution, and may require registration or reporting or both for any such class or classes. Classifications made pursuant to this section

may be for application to the area of jurisdiction of such authority, or the state as a whole or to any designated area within the jurisdiction, and shall be made with special reference to effects on health, economic and social factors, and physical effects on property.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, any person operating or responsible for the operation of air contaminant sources of any class for which the ordinances, resolutions, rules or regulations of the department or board of the authority, require registration or reporting shall register therewith and make reports containing information as may be required by such department or board concerning location, size and height of contaminant outlets, processes employed, nature of the contaminant emission and such other information as is relevant to air pollution and available or reasonably capable of being assembled. In the case of emissions of greenhouse gases as defined in RCW 70.235.010 the department shall adopt rules requiring reporting of those emissions. The department or board may require that such registration or reporting be accompanied by a fee, and may determine the amount of such fee for such class or classes: PROVIDED, That the amount of the fee shall only be to compensate for the costs of administering such registration or reporting program which shall be defined as initial registration and annual or other periodic reports from the source owner providing information directly related to air pollution registration, on-site inspections necessary to verify compliance with registration requirements, data storage and retrieval systems necessary for support of the registration program, emission inventory reports and emission reduction credits computed from information provided by sources pursuant to registration program requirements, staff review, including engineering or other reliable analysis for accuracy and currentness, of information provided by sources pursuant to registration program requirements, clerical and other office support provided in direct furtherance of the registration program, and administrative support provided in directly carrying out the registration program: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any such registration made with either the board or the department shall preclude a further registration and reporting with any other board or the department, except that emissions of greenhouse gases as defined in RCW 70.235.010 must be reported as required under subsection (5) of this section.

All registration program and reporting fees collected by the department shall be deposited in the air pollution control account. All registration program fees collected by the local air authorities shall be deposited in their respective treasuries.

(3) If a registration or report has been filed for a grain warehouse or grain elevator as required under this section, registration, reporting, or a registration program fee shall not, after January 1, 1997, again be required under this section for the warehouse or elevator unless the capacity of the warehouse or elevator as listed as part of the license issued for the facility has been increased since the date the registration or reporting was last made. If the capacity of the warehouse or elevator listed as part of the license is increased, any registration or reporting required for the warehouse or elevator under this section must be made by the date the warehouse or elevator receives grain from the first harvest season that occurs after the increase in its capacity is listed in the license.

This subsection does not apply to a grain warehouse or grain elevator if the warehouse or elevator handles more than ten million bushels of grain annually.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3) of this section:

(a) A "grain warehouse" or "grain elevator" is an establishment classified in standard industrial classification (SIC) code 5153 for wholesale trade for which a license is required and includes, but is not limited to, such a licensed facility that also conducts cleaning operations for grain;

(b) A "license" is a license issued by the department of agriculture licensing a facility as a grain warehouse or grain elevator under chapter 22.09 RCW or a license issued by the federal government licensing a facility as a grain warehouse or grain elevator for purposes similar to those of licensure for the facility under chapter 22.09 RCW; and

(c) "Grain" means a grain or a pulse.

(5)(a) The department shall adopt rules requiring persons to report emissions of greenhouse gases as defined in RCW 70.235.010 where those emissions from a single facility, source, or site, or from fossil fuels sold in Washington by a single supplier meet or exceed ten thousand metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually. The department may phase in the requirement to report greenhouse gas emissions until the reporting threshold in this subsection is met, which must occur by January 1, 2012. In addition, the rules must require that:

(i) Emissions of greenhouse gases resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels be reported separately from emissions of greenhouse gases resulting from the combustion of biomass;

(ii) Reporting will start in 2010 for 2009 emissions. Each annual report must include emissions data for the preceding calendar year and must be submitted to the department by October 31st of the year in which the report is due. However, starting in 2011, a person who is required to report greenhouse gas emissions to the United States environmental protection agency under 40 C.F.R. Part 98, as adopted on September 22, 2009, must submit the report required under this section to the department concurrent with the submission to the United States environmental protection agency. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the data for emissions in Washington and any corrections thereto that are reported to the United States environmental protection agency must be the emissions data reported to the department; and

(iii) Emissions of carbon dioxide associated with the complete combustion or oxidation of liquid motor vehicle fuel, special fuel, or aircraft fuel that is sold in Washington where the annual emissions associated with that combustion or oxidation equal or exceed ten thousand metric tons be reported to the department. Each person who is required to file periodic tax reports of motor vehicle fuel sales under \*RCW 82.36.031 or special fuel sales under \*\*RCW 82.38.150, or each distributor of aircraft fuel required to file periodic tax reports under \*\*\*RCW 82.42.040 must report to the department the annual emissions of carbon dioxide from the complete combustion or oxidation of the fuels listed in those reports as sold in the state of Washington. The department shall not require suppliers to use additional data to calculate greenhouse gas emissions other than the data the suppliers report to the department of licensing. The rules may allow this information to be aggregated when reported to the

department. The department and the department of licensing shall enter into an interagency agreement to ensure proprietary and confidential information is protected if the departments share reported information. Any proprietary or confidential information exempt from disclosure when reported to the department of licensing is exempt from disclosure when shared by the department of licensing with the department under this provision.

(b)(i) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the rules adopted by the department under (a) of this subsection must be consistent with the regulations adopted by the United States environmental protection agency in 40 C.F.R. Part 98 on September 22, 2009.

(ii) The department may by rule include additional gases to the definition of "greenhouse gas" in RCW 70.235.010 only if the gas has been designated as a greenhouse gas by the United States congress or by the United States environmental protection agency. Prior to including additional gases to the definition of "greenhouse gas" in RCW 70.235.010, the department shall notify the appropriate committees of the legislature. Decisions to amend the rule to include additional gases must be made prior to December 1st of any year and the amended rule may not take effect before the end of the regular legislative session in the next year.

(iii) The department may by rule exempt persons who are required to report greenhouse gas emissions to the United States environmental protection agency and who emit less than ten thousand metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent annually.

(iv) The department must establish a methodology for persons who are not required to report under this section to voluntarily report their greenhouse gas emissions.

(c) The department shall review and if necessary update its rules whenever the United States environmental protection agency adopts final amendments to 40 C.F.R. Part 98 to ensure consistency with federal reporting requirements for emissions of greenhouse gases. However, the department shall not amend its rules in a manner that conflicts with (a) of this subsection.

(d) The department shall share any reporting information reported to it with the local air authority in which the person reporting under the rules adopted by the department operates.

(e) The fee provisions in subsection (2) of this section apply to reporting of emissions of greenhouse gases. Persons required to report under (a) of this subsection who fail to report or pay the fee required in subsection (2) of this section are subject to enforcement penalties under this chapter. The department shall enforce the reporting rule requirements unless it approves a local air authority's request to enforce the requirements for persons operating within the authority's jurisdiction. However, neither the department nor a local air authority approved under this section are authorized to assess enforcement penalties on persons required to report under (a) of this subsection until six months after the department adopts its reporting rule in 2010.

(f) The energy facility site evaluation council shall, simultaneously with the department, adopt rules that impose greenhouse gas reporting requirements in site certifications on owners or operators of a facility permitted by the energy facility site evaluation council. The greenhouse gas reporting requirements imposed by the energy facility site evaluation

council must be the same as the greenhouse gas reporting requirements imposed by the department. The department shall share any information reported to it from facilities permitted by the energy facility site evaluation council with the council, including notice of a facility that has failed to report as required. The energy facility site evaluation council shall contract with the department to monitor the reporting requirements adopted under this section.

(g) The inclusion or failure to include any person, source, classes of persons or sources, or types of emissions of greenhouse gases into the department's rules for reporting under this section does not indicate whether such a person, source, or category is appropriate for inclusion in state, regional, or national greenhouse gas reduction programs or strategies. Furthermore, aircraft fuel purchased in the state may not be considered equivalent to aircraft fuel combusted in the state.

(h)(i) The definitions in RCW 70.235.010 apply throughout this subsection (5) unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(ii) For the purpose of this subsection (5), the term "supplier" includes: (A) A motor vehicle fuel supplier or a motor vehicle fuel importer, as those terms are defined in \*RCW 82.36.010; (B) a special fuel supplier or a special fuel importer, as those terms are defined in \*\*\*\*RCW 82.38.020; and (C) a distributor of aircraft fuel, as those terms are defined in RCW 82.42.010.

(iii) For the purpose of this subsection (5), the term "person" includes: (A) An owner or operator, as those terms are defined by the United States environmental protection agency in its mandatory greenhouse gas reporting regulation in 40 C.F.R. Part 98, as adopted on September 22, 2009; and (B) a supplier. [2010 c 146 § 2; 2008 c 14 § 5; 2005 c 138 § 1; 1997 c 410 § 1; 1993 c 252 § 3; 1987 c 109 § 37; 1984 c 88 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 19; 1967 c 238 § 28.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) Chapter 82.36 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 2013 c 225 § 501, effective July 1, 2016.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 82.38.150 was amended by 2013 c 225 § 116, deleting the term "special fuel," effective July 1, 2016.

\*\*\*\*(3) RCW 82.42.040 was amended by 2013 c 225 § 304, removing the requirement of "periodic tax reports," effective July 1, 2016. See RCW 82.42.140.

\*\*\*\*\*(4) RCW 82.38.020 was amended by 2013 c 225 § 102, deleting the definitions of "special fuel supplier" and "special fuel importer," effective July 1, 2016.

**Findings—Intent—Scope of chapter 14, Laws of 2008—2008 c 14:** See RCW 70.235.005 and 70.235.900.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.152 Notice may be required of construction of proposed new contaminant source—Submission of plans—Approval, disapproval—Emission control—"De minimis new sources" defined.** (1) The department of ecology or board of any authority may require notice of the establishment of any proposed new sources except single-family and duplex dwellings or de minimis new sources as defined in rules adopted under subsection (11) of this section. The department of ecology or board may require such notice to be accompanied by a fee and determine the amount of such fee: PROVIDED, That the amount of the fee may not exceed the cost of reviewing the plans, specifications, and other information and administering such notice: PROVIDED FUR-

THER, That any such notice given or notice of construction application submitted to either the board or to the department of ecology shall preclude a further submittal of a duplicate application to any board or to the department of ecology.

(2) The department shall, after opportunity for public review and comment, adopt rules that establish a workload-driven process for determination and review of the fee covering the direct and indirect costs of processing a notice of construction application and a methodology for tracking revenues and expenditures. All new source fees collected by the delegated local air authorities from sources shall be deposited in the dedicated accounts of their respective treasuries. All new source fees collected by the department from sources shall be deposited in the air pollution control account.

(3) Within thirty days of receipt of a notice of construction application, the department of ecology or board may require, as a condition precedent to the establishment of the new source or sources covered thereby, the submission of plans, specifications, and such other information as it deems necessary to determine whether the proposed new source will be in accord with applicable rules and regulations in force under this chapter. If on the basis of plans, specifications, or other information required under this section the department of ecology or board determines that the proposed new source will not be in accord with this chapter or the applicable ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations adopted under this chapter, it shall issue an order denying permission to establish the new source. If on the basis of plans, specifications, or other information required under this section, the department of ecology or board determines that the proposed new source will be in accord with this chapter, and the applicable rules and regulations adopted under this chapter, it shall issue an order of approval for the establishment of the new source or sources, which order may provide such conditions as are reasonably necessary to assure the maintenance of compliance with this chapter and the applicable rules and regulations adopted under this chapter. Every order of approval under this chapter must be reviewed prior to issuance by a professional engineer or staff under the supervision of a professional engineer in the employ of the department of ecology or board.

(4) The determination required under subsection (3) of this section shall include a determination of whether the operation of the new air contaminant source at the location proposed will cause any ambient air quality standard to be exceeded.

(5) New source review of a modification shall be limited to the emission unit or units proposed to be modified and the air contaminants whose emissions would increase as a result of the modification.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the department of ecology or board to require the use of emission control equipment or other equipment, machinery, or devices of any particular type, from any particular supplier, or produced by any particular manufacturer.

(7) Any features, machines, and devices constituting parts of or called for by plans, specifications, or other information submitted pursuant to subsection (1) or (3) of this section shall be maintained and operate in good working order.

(8) The absence of an ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation, or the failure to issue an order pursuant to this section

shall not relieve any person from his or her obligation to comply with applicable emission control requirements or with any other provision of law.

(9) Within thirty days of receipt of a notice of construction application the department of ecology or board shall either notify the applicant in writing that the application is complete or notify the applicant in writing of all additional information necessary to complete the application. Within sixty days of receipt of a complete application the department or board shall either (a) issue a final decision on the application, or (b) for those projects subject to public notice, initiate notice and comment on a proposed decision, followed as promptly as possible by a final decision. A person seeking approval to construct or modify a source that requires an operating permit may elect to integrate review of the operating permit application or amendment required by RCW 70.94.161 and the notice of construction application required by this section. A notice of construction application designated for integrated review shall be processed in accordance with operating permit program procedures and deadlines.

(10) A notice of construction approval required under subsection (3) of this section shall include a determination that the new source will achieve best available control technology. If more stringent controls are required under federal law, the notice of construction shall include a determination that the new source will achieve the more stringent federal requirements. Nothing in this subsection is intended to diminish other state authorities under this chapter.

(11) No person is required to submit a notice of construction or receive approval for a new source that is deemed by the department of ecology or board to have de minimis impact on air quality. The department of ecology shall adopt and periodically update rules identifying categories of de minimis new sources. The department of ecology may identify de minimis new sources by category, size, or emission thresholds.

(12) For purposes of this section, "de minimis new sources" means new sources with trivial levels of emissions that do not pose a threat to human health or the environment. [1996 c 67 § 1; 1996 c 29 § 1; 1993 c 252 § 4; 1991 c 199 § 302; 1973 1st ex.s. c 193 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 20; 1967 c 238 § 29.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1996 c 29 § 1 and by 1996 c 67 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

*Use of emission credits to be consistent with new source review program: RCW 70.94.850.*

**70.94.153 Existing stationary source—Replacement or substantial alteration of emission control technology.** Any person proposing to replace or substantially alter the emission control technology installed on an existing stationary source emission unit shall file a notice of construction application with the jurisdictional permitting authority. For projects not otherwise reviewable under RCW 70.94.152, the permitting authority may (1) require that the owner or operator employ reasonably available control technology for the affected emission unit and (2) may prescribe reasonable operation and maintenance conditions for the control equipment.

Within thirty days of receipt of an application for notice of construction under this section the permitting authority shall either notify the applicant in writing that the application is complete or notify the applicant in writing of all additional information necessary to complete the application. Within thirty days of receipt of a complete application the permitting authority shall either issue an order of approval or a proposed RACT determination for the proposed project. Construction shall not commence on a project subject to review under this section until the permitting authority issues a final order of approval. However, any notice of construction application filed under this section shall be deemed to be approved without conditions if the permitting authority takes no action within thirty days of receipt of a complete application for a notice of construction. [1991 c 199 § 303.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.154 RACT requirements.** (1) RACT as defined in RCW 70.94.030 is required for existing sources except as otherwise provided in RCW 70.94.331(9).

(2) RACT for each source category containing three or more sources shall be determined by rule except as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) Source-specific RACT determinations may be performed under any of the following circumstances:

(a) As authorized by RCW 70.94.153;

(b) When required by the federal clean air act;

(c) For sources in source categories containing fewer than three sources;

(d) When an air quality problem, for which the source is a contributor, justifies a source-specific RACT determination prior to development of a categorical RACT rule; or

(e) When a source-specific RACT determination is needed to address either specific air quality problems for which the source is a significant contributor or source-specific economic concerns.

(4) By January 1, 1994, ecology shall develop a list of sources and source categories requiring RACT review and a schedule for conducting that review. Ecology shall review the list and schedule within six months of receiving the initial operating permit applications and at least once every five years thereafter. In developing the list to determine the schedule of RACT review, ecology shall consider emission reductions achievable through the use of new available technologies and the impacts of those incremental reductions on air quality, the remaining useful life of previously installed control equipment, the impact of the source or source category on air quality, the number of years since the last BACT, RACT, or LAER determination for that source and other relevant factors. Prior to finalizing the list and schedule, ecology shall consult with local air authorities, the regulated community, environmental groups, and other interested individuals and organizations. The department and local authorities shall revise RACT requirements, as needed, based on the review conducted under this subsection.

(5) In determining RACT, ecology and local authorities shall utilize the factors set forth in RCW 70.94.030 and shall consider RACT determinations and guidance made by the federal environmental protection agency, other states and local authorities for similar sources, and other relevant factors. In establishing or revising RACT requirements, ecology

and local authorities shall address, where practicable, all air contaminants deemed to be of concern for that source or source category.

(6) Emission standards and other requirements contained in rules or regulatory orders in effect at the time of operating permit issuance or renewal shall be considered RACT for purposes of permit issuance or renewal. RACT determinations under subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall be incorporated into operating permits as provided in RCW 70.94.161 and rules implementing that section.

(7) The department and local air authorities are authorized to assess and collect a fee to cover the costs of developing, establishing, or reviewing categorical or case-by-case RACT requirements. The fee shall apply to determinations of RACT requirements as defined under this section and RCW 70.94.331(9). The amount of the fee may not exceed the direct and indirect costs of establishing the requirement for the particular source or the pro rata portion of the direct and indirect costs of establishing the requirement for the relevant source category. The department shall, after opportunity for public review and comment, adopt rules that establish a workload-driven process for determination and review of the fee covering the direct and indirect costs of its RACT determinations and a methodology for tracking revenues and expenditures. All such RACT determination fees collected by the delegated local air authorities from sources shall be deposited in the dedicated accounts of their respective treasuries. All such RACT fees collected by the department from sources shall be deposited in the air pollution control account. [1996 c 29 § 2; 1993 c 252 § 8.]

**70.94.155 Control of emissions—Bubble concept—Schedules of compliance.** (1) As used in subsection (3) of this section, the term "bubble" means an air pollution control system which permits aggregate measurements of allowable emissions, for a single category of pollutant, for emissions points from a specified emissions-generating facility or facilities. Individual point source emissions levels from such specified facility or facilities may be modified provided that the aggregate limit for the specified sources is not exceeded.

(2) Whenever any regulation relating to emission standards or other requirements for the control of emissions is adopted which provides for compliance with such standards or requirements no later than a specified time after the date of adoption of the regulation, the appropriate activated air pollution control authority or, if there be none, the department of ecology shall, by permit or regulatory order, issue to air contaminant sources subject to the standards or requirements, schedules of compliance setting forth timetables for the achievement of compliance as expeditiously as practicable, but in no case later than the time specified in the regulation. Interim dates in such schedules for the completion of steps of progress toward compliance shall be as enforceable as the final date for full compliance therein.

(3) Wherever requirements necessary for the attainment of air quality standards or, where such standards are not exceeded, for the maintenance of air quality can be achieved through the use of a control program involving the bubble concept, such program may be authorized by a regulatory order or orders or permit issued to the air contaminant source or sources involved. Such order or permit shall only be autho-

rized after the control program involving the bubble concept is accepted by [the] United States environmental protection agency as part of an approved state implementation plan. Any such order or permit provision shall restrict total emissions within the bubble to no more than would otherwise be allowed in the aggregate for all emitting processes covered. The orders or permits provided for by this subsection shall be issued by the department or the authority with jurisdiction. If the bubble involves interjurisdictional approval, concurrence in the total program must be secured from each regulatory entity concerned. [1991 c 199 § 305; 1981 c 224 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 193 § 3.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

*Use of emission credits to be consistent with bubble program:* RCW 70.94.850.

**70.94.157 Preemption of uniform building and fire codes.** The department and local air pollution control authorities shall preempt the application of chapter 9 of the uniform building code and article 80 of the uniform fire code by other state agencies and local governments for the purposes of controlling outdoor air pollution from industrial and commercial sources, except where authorized by chapter 199, Laws of 1991. Actions by other state agencies and local governments under article 80 of the uniform fire code to take immediate action in response to an emission that presents a physical hazard or imminent health hazard are not preempted. [1991 c 199 § 315.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.161 Operating permits for air contaminant sources—Generally—Fees, report to legislature.** The department of ecology, or board of an authority, shall require renewable permits for the operation of air contaminant sources subject to the following conditions and limitations:

(1) Permits shall be issued for a term of five years. A permit may be modified or amended during its term at the request of the permittee, or for any reason allowed by the federal clean air act. The rules adopted pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall include rules for permit amendments and modifications. The terms and conditions of a permit shall remain in effect after the permit itself expires if the permittee submits a timely and complete application for permit renewal.

(2)(a) Rules establishing the elements for a statewide operating permit program and the process for permit application and renewal consistent with federal requirements shall be established by the department by January 1, 1993. The rules shall provide that every proposed permit must be reviewed prior to issuance by a professional engineer or staff under the direct supervision of a professional engineer in the employ of the permitting authority. The permit program established by these rules shall be administered by the department and delegated local air authorities. Rules developed under this subsection shall not preclude a delegated local air authority from including in a permit its own more stringent emission standards and operating restrictions.

(b) The board of any local air pollution control authority may apply to the department of ecology for a delegation order authorizing the local authority to administer the operating permit program for sources under that authority's jurisdiction.

The department shall, by order, approve such delegation, if the department finds that the local authority has the technical and financial resources, to discharge the responsibilities of a permitting authority under the federal clean air act. A delegation request shall include adequate information about the local authority's resources to enable the department to make the findings required by this subsection. However, any delegation order issued under this subsection shall take effect ninety days after the environmental protection agency authorizes the local authority to issue operating permits under the federal clean air act.

(c) Except for the authority granted the energy facility site evaluation council to issue permits for the new construction, reconstruction, or enlargement or operation of new energy facilities under chapter 80.50 RCW, the department may exercise the authority, as delegated by the environmental protection agency, to administer Title IV of the federal clean air act as amended and to delegate such administration to local authorities as applicable pursuant to (b) of this subsection.

(3) In establishing technical standards, defined in RCW 70.94.030, the permitting authority shall consider and, if found to be appropriate, give credit for waste reduction within the process.

(4) Operating permits shall apply to all sources (a) where required by the federal clean air act, and (b) for any source that may cause or contribute to air pollution in such quantity as to create a threat to the public health or welfare. Subsection (b) of this subsection is not intended to apply to small businesses except when both of the following limitations are satisfied: (i) The source is in an area exceeding or threatening to exceed federal or state air quality standards; and (ii) the department provides a reasonable justification that requiring a source to have a permit is necessary to meet a federal or state air quality standard, or to prevent exceeding a standard in an area threatening to exceed the standard. For purposes of this subsection "areas threatening to exceed air quality standards" shall mean areas projected by the department to exceed such standards within five years. Prior to identifying threatened areas the department shall hold a public hearing or hearings within the proposed areas.

(5) Sources operated by government agencies are not exempt under this section.

(6) Within one hundred eighty days after the United States environmental protection agency approves the state operating permit program, a person required to have a permit shall submit to the permitting authority a compliance plan and permit application, signed by a responsible official, certifying the accuracy of the information submitted. Until permits are issued, existing sources shall be allowed to operate under presently applicable standards and conditions provided that such sources submit complete and timely permit applications.

(7) All draft permits shall be subject to public notice and comment. The rules adopted pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall specify procedures for public notice and comment. Such procedures shall provide the permitting agency with an opportunity to respond to comments received from interested parties prior to the time that the proposed permit is submitted to the environmental protection agency for review pursuant to section 505(a) of the federal clean air act. In the

event that the environmental protection agency objects to a proposed permit pursuant to section 505(b) of the federal clean air act, the permitting authority shall not issue the permit, unless the permittee consents to the changes required by the environmental protection agency.

(8) The procedures contained in chapter 43.21B RCW shall apply to permit appeals. The pollution control hearings board may stay the effectiveness of any permit issued under this section during the pendency of an appeal filed by the permittee, if the permittee demonstrates that compliance with the permit during the pendency of the appeal would require significant expenditures that would not be necessary in the event that the permittee prevailed on the merits of the appeal.

(9) After the effective date of any permit program promulgated under this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to: (a) Operate a permitted source in violation of any requirement of a permit issued under this section; or (b) fail to submit a permit application at the time required by rules adopted under subsection (2) of this section.

(10) Each air operating permit shall state the origin of and specific legal authority for each requirement included therein. Every requirement in an operating permit shall be based upon the most stringent of the following requirements:

(a) The federal clean air act and rules implementing that act, including provision of the approved state implementation plan;

(b) This chapter and rules adopted thereunder;

(c) In permits issued by a local air pollution control authority, the requirements of any order or regulation adopted by that authority;

(d) Chapter 70.98 RCW and rules adopted thereunder; and

(e) Chapter 80.50 RCW and rules adopted thereunder.

(11) Consistent with the provisions of the federal clean air act, the permitting authority may issue general permits covering categories of permitted sources, and temporary permits authorizing emissions from similar operations at multiple temporary locations.

(12) Permit program sources within the territorial jurisdiction of an authority delegated the operating permit program shall file their permit applications with that authority, except that permit applications for sources regulated on a statewide basis pursuant to RCW 70.94.395 shall be filed with the department. Permit program sources outside the territorial jurisdiction of a delegated authority shall file their applications with the department. Permit program sources subject to chapter 80.50 RCW shall, irrespective of their location, file their applications with the energy facility site evaluation council.

(13) When issuing operating permits to coal-fired electric generating plants, the permitting authority shall establish requirements consistent with Title IV of the federal clean air act.

(14)(a) The department and the local air authorities are authorized to assess and to collect, and each source emitting one hundred tons or more per year of a regulated pollutant shall pay an interim assessment to fund the development of the operating permit program during fiscal year 1994.

(b) The department shall conduct a workload analysis and prepare an operating permit program development budget for fiscal year 1994. The department shall allocate among

all sources emitting one hundred tons or more per year of a regulated pollutant during calendar year 1992 the costs identified in its program development budget according to a three-tiered model, with each of the three tiers being equally weighted, based upon:

- (i) The number of sources;
- (ii) The complexity of sources; and
- (iii) The size of sources, as measured by the quantity of each regulated pollutant emitted by the source.

(c) Each local authority and the department shall collect from sources under their respective jurisdictions the interim fee determined by the department and shall remit the fee to the department.

(d) Each local authority may, in addition, allocate its fiscal year 1994 operating permit program development costs among the sources under its jurisdiction emitting one hundred tons or more per year of a regulated pollutant during calendar year 1992 and may collect an interim fee from these sources. A fee assessed pursuant to this subsection (14)(d) shall be collected at the same time as the fee assessed pursuant to (c) of this subsection.

(e) The fees assessed to a source under this subsection shall be limited to the first seven thousand five hundred tons for each regulated pollutant per year.

(15)(a) The department shall determine the persons liable for the fee imposed by subsection (14) of this section, compute the fee, and provide by November 1, 1993, the identity of the fee payer with the computation of the fee to each local authority and to the department of revenue for collection. The department of revenue shall collect the fee computed by the department from the fee payers under the jurisdiction of the department. The administrative, collection, and penalty provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW shall apply to the collection of the fee by the department of revenue. The department shall provide technical assistance to the department of revenue for decisions made by the department of revenue pursuant to RCW 82.32.160 and 82.32.170. All interim fees collected by the department of revenue on behalf of the department and all interim fees collected by local authorities on behalf of the department shall be deposited in the air operating permit account. The interim fees collected by the local air authorities to cover their permit program development costs under subsection (14)(d) of this section shall be deposited in the dedicated accounts of their respective treasuries.

(b) All fees identified in this section shall be due and payable on March 1, 1994, except that the local air pollution control authorities may adopt by rule an earlier date on which fees are to be due and payable. The section 5, chapter 252, Laws of 1993 amendments to RCW 70.94.161 do not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, incurred pursuant to the provisions of RCW 70.94.161 (15) and (17) as they existed prior to July 25, 1993.

(16) For sources or source categories not required to obtain permits under subsection (4) of this section, the department or local authority may establish by rule control technology requirements. If control technology rule revisions are made by the department or local authority under this subsection, the department or local authority shall consider the remaining useful life of control equipment previously installed on existing sources before requiring technology

changes. The department or any local air authority may issue a general permit, as authorized under the federal clean air act, for such sources.

(17) Emissions of greenhouse gases as defined in RCW 70.235.010 must be reported as required by RCW 70.94.151. The reporting provisions of RCW 70.94.151 shall not apply to any other emissions from any permit program source after the effective date of United States environmental protection agency approval of the state operating permit program. [2008 c 14 § 6; 1993 c 252 § 5; 1991 c 199 § 301.]

**Findings—Intent—Scope of chapter 14, Laws of 2008—2008 c 14:** See RCW 70.235.005 and 70.235.900.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

*Air operating permit account: RCW 70.94.015.*

**70.94.162 Annual fees from operating permit program source to cover cost of program.** (1) The department and delegated local air authorities are authorized to determine, assess, and collect, and each permit program source shall pay, annual fees sufficient to cover the direct and indirect costs of implementing a state operating permit program approved by the United States environmental protection agency under the federal clean air act. However, a source that receives its operating permit from the United States environmental protection agency shall not be considered a permit program source so long as the environmental protection agency continues to act as the permitting authority for that source. Each permitting authority shall develop by rule a fee schedule allocating among its permit program sources the costs of the operating permit program, and may, by rule, establish a payment schedule whereby periodic installments of the annual fee are due and payable more frequently. All operating permit program fees collected by the department shall be deposited in the air operating permit account. All operating permit program fees collected by the delegated local air authorities shall be deposited in their respective air operating permit accounts or other accounts dedicated exclusively to support of the operating permit program. The fees assessed under this subsection shall first be due not less than forty-five days after the United States environmental protection agency delegates to the department the authority to administer the operating permit program and then annually thereafter.

The department shall establish, by rule, procedures for administrative appeals to the department regarding the fee assessed pursuant to this subsection.

(2) The fee schedule developed by each permitting authority shall fully cover and not exceed both its permit administration costs and the permitting authority's share of statewide program development and oversight costs.

(a) Permit administration costs are those incurred by each permitting authority, including the department, in administering and enforcing the operating permit program with respect to sources under its jurisdiction. Costs associated with the following activities are fee eligible as these activities relate to the operating permit program and to the sources permitted by a permitting authority, including, where applicable, sources subject to a general permit:

(i) Preapplication assistance and review of an application and proposed compliance plan for a permit, permit revision, or renewal;

(ii) Source inspections, testing, and other data-gathering activities necessary for the development of a permit, permit revision, or renewal;

(iii) Acting on an application for a permit, permit revision, or renewal, including the costs of developing an applicable requirement as part of the processing of a permit, permit revision, or renewal, preparing a draft permit and fact sheet, and preparing a final permit, but excluding the costs of developing BACT, LAER, BART, or RACT requirements for criteria and toxic air pollutants;

(iv) Notifying and soliciting, reviewing and responding to comment from the public and contiguous states and tribes, conducting public hearings regarding the issuance of a draft permit and other costs of providing information to the public regarding operating permits and the permit issuance process;

(v) Modeling necessary to establish permit limits or to determine compliance with permit limits;

(vi) Reviewing compliance certifications and emissions reports and conducting related compilation and reporting activities;

(vii) Conducting compliance inspections, complaint investigations, and other activities necessary to ensure that a source is complying with permit conditions;

(viii) Administrative enforcement activities and penalty assessment, excluding the costs of proceedings before the pollution control hearings board and all costs of judicial enforcement;

(ix) The share attributable to permitted sources of the development and maintenance of emissions inventories;

(x) The share attributable to permitted sources of ambient air quality monitoring and associated recording and reporting activities;

(xi) Training for permit administration and enforcement;

(xii) Fee determination, assessment, and collection, including the costs of necessary administrative dispute resolution and penalty collection;

(xiii) Required fiscal audits, periodic performance audits, and reporting activities;

(xiv) Tracking of time, revenues and expenditures, and accounting activities;

(xv) Administering the permit program including the costs of clerical support, supervision, and management;

(xvi) Provision of assistance to small businesses under the jurisdiction of the permitting authority as required under section 507 of the federal clean air act; and

(xvii) Other activities required by operating permit regulations issued by the United States environmental protection agency under the federal clean air act.

(b) Development and oversight costs are those incurred by the department in developing and administering the state operating permit program, and in overseeing the administration of the program by the delegated local permitting authorities. Costs associated with the following activities are fee eligible as these activities relate to the operating permit program:

(i) Review and determinations necessary for delegation of authority to administer and enforce a permit program to a local air authority under RCW 70.94.161(2) and 70.94.860;

(ii) Conducting fiscal audits and periodic performance audits of delegated local authorities, and other oversight functions required by the operating permit program;

(iii) Administrative enforcement actions taken by the department on behalf of a permitting authority, including those actions taken by the department under RCW 70.94.785, but excluding the costs of proceedings before the pollution control hearings board and all costs of judicial enforcement;

(iv) Determination and assessment with respect to each permitting authority of the fees covering its share of the costs of development and oversight;

(v) Training and assistance for permit program administration and oversight, including training and assistance regarding technical, administrative, and data management issues;

(vi) Development of generally applicable regulations or guidance regarding the permit program or its implementation or enforcement;

(vii) State codification of federal rules or standards for inclusion in operating permits;

(viii) Preparation of delegation package and other activities associated with submittal of the state permit program to the United States environmental protection agency for approval, including ongoing coordination activities;

(ix) General administration and coordination of the state permit program, related support activities, and other agency indirect costs, including necessary data management and quality assurance;

(x) Required fiscal audits and periodic performance audits of the department, and reporting activities;

(xi) Tracking of time, revenues and expenditures, and accounting activities;

(xii) Public education and outreach related to the operating permit program, including the maintenance of a permit register;

(xiii) The share attributable to permitted sources of compiling and maintaining emissions inventories;

(xiv) The share attributable to permitted sources of ambient air quality monitoring, related technical support, and associated recording activities;

(xv) The share attributable to permitted sources of modeling activities;

(xvi) Provision of assistance to small business as required under section 507 of the federal clean air act as it exists on July 25, 1993, or its later enactment as adopted by reference by the director by rule;

(xvii) Provision of services by the department of revenue and the office of the state attorney general and other state agencies in support of permit program administration;

(xviii) A one-time revision to the state implementation plan to make those administrative changes necessary to ensure coordination of the state implementation plan and the operating permit program; and

(xix) Other activities required by operating permit regulations issued by the United States environmental protection agency under the federal clean air act.

(3) The responsibility for operating permit fee determination, assessment, and collection is to be shared by the department and delegated local air authorities as follows:

(a) Each permitting authority, including the department, acting in its capacity as a permitting authority, shall develop a fee schedule and mechanism for collecting fees from the permit program sources under its jurisdiction; the fees collected by each authority shall be sufficient to cover its costs

of permit administration and its share of the department's costs of development and oversight. Each delegated local authority shall remit to the department its share of the department's development and oversight costs.

(b) Only those local air authorities to whom the department has delegated the authority to administer the program pursuant to RCW 70.94.161(2) (b) and (c) and 70.94.860 shall have the authority to administer and collect operating permit fees. The department shall retain the authority to administer and collect such fees with respect to the sources within the jurisdiction of a local air authority until the effective date of program delegation to that air authority.

(c) The department shall allocate its development and oversight costs among all permitting authorities, including the department, in proportion to the number of permit program sources under the jurisdiction of each authority, except that extraordinary costs or other costs readily attributable to a specific permitting authority may be assessed that authority. For purposes of this subsection, all sources covered by a single general permit shall be treated as one source.

(4) The department and each delegated local air authority shall adopt by rule a general permit fee schedule for sources under their respective jurisdictions after such time as the department adopts provisions for general permit issuance. Within ninety days of the time that the department adopts a general permit fee schedule, the department shall report to the relevant standing committees of the legislature regarding the general permit fee schedules adopted by the department and by the delegated local air authorities. The permit administration costs of each general permit shall be allocated equitably among only those sources subject to that general permit. The share of development and oversight costs attributable to each general permit shall be determined pursuant to subsection (3)(c) of this section.

(5) The fee schedule developed by the department shall allocate among the sources for whom the department acts as a permitting authority, other than sources subject to a general permit, those portions of the department's permit administration costs and the department's share of the development and oversight costs which the department does not plan to recover under its general permit fee schedule or schedules as follows:

(a) The department shall allocate its permit administration costs and its share of the development and oversight costs not recovered through general permit fees according to a three-tiered model based upon:

(i) The number of permit program sources under its jurisdiction;

(ii) The complexity of permit program sources under its jurisdiction; and

(iii) The size of permit program sources under its jurisdiction, as measured by the quantity of each regulated pollutant emitted by the source.

(b) Each of the three tiers shall be equally weighted.

(c) The department may, in addition, allocate activities-based costs readily attributable to a specific source to that source under RCW 70.94.152(1) and 70.94.154(7).

The quantity of each regulated pollutant emitted by a source shall be determined based on the annual emissions during the most recent calendar year for which data is available.

(6) The department shall, after opportunity for public review and comment, adopt rules that establish a process for development and review of its operating permit program fee schedule, a methodology for tracking program revenues and expenditures, and, for both the department and the delegated local air authorities, a system of fiscal audits, reports, and periodic performance audits.

(a) The fee schedule development and review process shall include the following:

(i) The department shall conduct a biennial workload analysis. The department shall provide the opportunity for public review of and comment on the workload analysis. The department shall review and update its workload analysis during each biennial budget cycle, taking into account information gathered by tracking previous revenues, time, and expenditures and other information obtained through fiscal audits and performance audits.

(ii) The department shall prepare a biennial budget based upon the resource requirements identified in the workload analysis for that biennium. In preparing the budget, the department shall take into account the projected operating permit account balance at the start of the biennium. The department shall provide the opportunity for public review of and comment on the proposed budget. The department shall review and update its budget each biennium.

(iii) The department shall develop a fee schedule allocating the department's permit administration costs and its share of the development and oversight costs among the department's permit program sources using the methodology described in subsection (5) of this section. The department shall provide the opportunity for public review of and comment on the allocation methodology and fee schedule. The department shall provide procedures for administrative resolution of disputes regarding the source data on which allocation determinations are based; these procedures shall be designed such that resolution occurs prior to the completion of the allocation process. The department shall review and update its fee schedule annually.

(b) The methodology for tracking revenues and expenditures shall include the following:

(i) The department shall develop a system for tracking revenues and expenditures that provides the maximum practicable information. At a minimum, revenues from fees collected under the operating permit program shall be tracked on a source-specific basis and time and expenditures required to administer the program shall be tracked on the basis of source categories and functional categories. Each general permit will be treated as a separate source category for tracking and accounting purposes.

(ii) The department shall use the information obtained from tracking revenues, time, and expenditures to modify the workload analysis required in subsection (6)(a) of this section.

(iii) The information obtained from tracking revenues, time, and expenditures shall not provide a basis for challenge to the amount of an individual source's fee.

(c) The system of fiscal audits, reports, and periodic performance audits shall include the following:

(i) The department and the delegated local air authorities shall periodically report information about the air operating permit program on the department's web site.

(ii) The department shall arrange for fiscal audits and routine performance audits and for periodic intensive performance audits of each permitting authority and of the department.

(7) Each local air authority requesting delegation shall, after opportunity for public review and comment, publish regulations which establish a process for development and review of its operating permit program fee schedule, and a methodology for tracking its revenues and expenditures. These regulations shall be submitted to the department for review and approval as part of the local authority's delegation request.

(8) As used in this section and in RCW 70.94.161(14), "regulated pollutant" shall have the same meaning as defined in section 502(b) of the federal clean air act as it exists on July 25, 1993, or its later enactment as adopted by reference by the director by rule.

(9) Fee structures as authorized under this section shall remain in effect until such time as the legislature authorizes an alternative structure following receipt of the report required by this subsection. [2014 c 76 § 5; 1998 c 245 § 129; 1993 c 252 § 6.]

**70.94.163 Source categories not required to have a permit—Recommendations.** The department shall prepare recommendations to reduce air emissions for source categories not generally required to have a permit under RCW 70.94.161. Such recommendations shall not require any action by the owner or operator of a source and shall be consistent with rules adopted under chapter 70.95C RCW. The recommendations shall include but not be limited to: Process changes, product substitution, equipment modifications, hazardous substance use reduction, recycling, and energy efficiency. [1991 c 199 § 304.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.165 Gasoline recovery devices—Limitation on requiring.** (1) A gasoline vapor recovery device that captures vapors during vehicle fueling may only be required at a service station, or any other gasoline dispensing facility supplying fuel to the general public, in any of the following circumstances:

(a) The facility sells in excess of six hundred thousand gallons of gasoline per year and is located in a county, any part of which is designated as nonattainment for ozone under the federal clean air act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 7407; or

(b) The facility sells in excess of six hundred thousand gallons of gasoline per year and is located in a county where a maintenance plan has been adopted by a local air pollution control authority or the department of ecology that includes gasoline vapor recovery devices as a control strategy; or

(c) From March 30, 1996, until December 31, 1998, in any facility that sells in excess of one million two hundred thousand gallons of gasoline per year and is located in an ozone-contributing county. For purposes of this section, an ozone-contributing county means a county in which the emissions have contributed to the formation of ozone in any county where violations of federal ozone standards have been measured, and includes: Cowlitz, Island, Kitsap, Lewis, Skagit, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom counties; or

(d) After December 31, 1998, in any facility that sells in excess of eight hundred forty thousand gallons of gasoline per year and is located in any county, no part of which is designated as nonattainment for ozone under the federal clean air act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 7407, provided that the department of ecology determines by December 31, 1997, that the use of gasoline vapor control devices in the county is important to achieving or maintaining attainment status in any other county.

(2) This section does not preclude the department of ecology or any local air pollution authority from requiring a gasoline vapor recovery device that captures vapors during vehicle refueling as part of the regulation of sources as provided in RCW 70.94.152, 70.94.331, or 70.94.141 or where required under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 7412. [1996 c 294 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.170 Air pollution control authority control officer.** Any activated authority which has adopted an ordinance, resolution, or valid rules and regulations as provided herein for the control and prevention of air pollution shall appoint a full time control officer, whose sole responsibility shall be to observe and enforce the provisions of this chapter and all orders, ordinances, resolutions, or rules and regulations of such activated authority pertaining to the control and prevention of air pollution. [1991 c 199 § 707; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 21; 1967 c 238 § 30; 1957 c 232 § 17.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.181 Variances—Application for—Considerations—Limitations—Renewals—Review.** (1) Any person who owns or is in control of any plant, building, structure, establishment, process or equipment may apply to the department of ecology or appropriate local authority board for a variance from rules or regulations governing the quality, nature, duration or extent of discharges of air contaminants. The application shall be accompanied by such information and data as the department of ecology or board may require. The department of ecology or board may grant such variance, provided that variances to state rules shall require the department's approval prior to being issued by a local authority board. The total time period for a variance and renewal of such variance shall not exceed one year. Variances may be issued by either the department or a local board but only after public hearing or due notice, if the department or board finds that:

(a) The emissions occurring or proposed to occur do not endanger public health or safety or the environment; and

(b) Compliance with the rules or regulations from which variance is sought would produce serious hardship without equal or greater benefits to the public.

(2) No variance shall be granted pursuant to this section until the department of ecology or board has considered the relative interests of the applicant, other owners of property likely to be affected by the discharges, and the general public.

(3) Any variance or renewal thereof shall be granted within the requirements of subsection (1) of this section and under conditions consistent with the reasons therefor, and within the following limitations:

(a) If the variance is granted on the ground that there is no practicable means known or available for the adequate

prevention, abatement or control of the pollution involved, it shall be only until the necessary means for prevention, abatement or control become known and available, and subject to the taking of any substitute or alternate measures that the department of ecology or board may prescribe.

(b) If the variance is granted on the ground that compliance with the particular requirement or requirements from which variance is sought will require the taking of measures which, because of their extent or cost, must be spread over a considerable period of time, it shall be for a period not to exceed such reasonable time as, in the view of the department of ecology or board is requisite for the taking of the necessary measures. A variance granted on the ground specified herein shall contain a timetable for the taking of action in an expeditious manner and shall be conditioned on adherence to such timetable.

(c) If the variance is granted on the ground that it is justified to relieve or prevent hardship of a kind other than that provided for in (a) and (b) of this subsection, it shall be for not more than one year.

(4) Any variance granted pursuant to this section may be renewed on terms and conditions and for periods which would be appropriate on initial granting of a variance. If complaint is made to the department of ecology or board on account of the variance, no renewal thereof shall be granted unless following a public hearing on the complaint on due notice the department or board finds that renewal is justified. No renewal shall be granted except on application therefor. Any such application shall be made at least sixty days prior to the expiration of the variance. Immediately upon receipt of an application for renewal, the department of ecology or board shall give public notice of such application in accordance with rules of the department of ecology or board.

(5) A variance or renewal shall not be a right of the applicant or holder thereof but shall be granted at the discretion of the department of ecology or board. However, any applicant adversely affected by the denial or the terms and conditions of the granting of an application for a variance or renewal of a variance by the department of ecology or board may obtain judicial review thereof under the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW as now or hereafter amended.

(6) Nothing in this section and no variance or renewal granted pursuant hereto shall be construed to prevent or limit the application of the emergency provisions and procedures of RCW 70.94.710 through 70.94.730 to any person or his or her property.

(7) An application for a variance, or for the renewal thereof, submitted to the department of ecology or board pursuant to this section shall be approved or disapproved by the department or board within sixty-five days of receipt unless the applicant and the department of ecology or board agree to a continuance.

(8) Variances approved under this section shall not be included in orders or permits provided for in RCW 70.94.161 or 70.94.152 until such time as the variance has been accepted by the United States environmental protection agency as part of an approved state implementation plan. [1991 c 199 § 306; 1983 c 3 § 176; 1974 ex.s. c 59 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 22; 1967 c 238 § 31.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

(2016 Ed.)

**70.94.200 Investigation of conditions by control officer or department—Entering private, public property.** For the purpose of investigating conditions specific to the control, recovery or release of air contaminants into the atmosphere, a control officer, the department, or their duly authorized representatives, shall have the power to enter at reasonable times upon any private or public property, excepting nonmultiple unit private dwellings housing two families or less. No person shall refuse entry or access to any control officer, the department, or their duly authorized representatives, who requests entry for the purpose of inspection, and who presents appropriate credentials; nor shall any person obstruct, hamper or interfere with any such inspection. [1987 c 109 § 38; 1979 c 141 § 121; 1967 c 238 § 32; 1957 c 232 § 20.]

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.205 Confidentiality of records and information.** Whenever any records or other information, other than ambient air quality data or emission data, furnished to or obtained by the department of ecology or the board of any authority under this chapter, relate to processes or production unique to the owner or operator, or is likely to affect adversely the competitive position of such owner or operator if released to the public or to a competitor, and the owner or operator of such processes or production so certifies, such records or information shall be only for the confidential use of the department of ecology or board. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the use of records or information by the department of ecology or board in compiling or publishing analyses or summaries relating to the general condition of the outdoor atmosphere: PROVIDED, That such analyses or summaries do not reveal any information otherwise confidential under the provisions of this section: PROVIDED FURTHER, That emission data furnished to or obtained by the department of ecology or board shall be correlated with applicable emission limitations and other control measures and shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at offices of the department of ecology or board. [1991 c 199 § 307; 1973 1st ex.s. c 193 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 23; 1967 c 238 § 33.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.211 Enforcement actions by air authority—Notice to violators.** At least thirty days prior to the commencement of any formal enforcement action under RCW 70.94.430 or 70.94.431 a local air authority shall cause written notice to be served upon the alleged violator or violators. The notice shall specify the provision of this chapter or the rule or regulation alleged to be violated, and the facts alleged to constitute a violation thereof, and may include an order directing that necessary corrective action be taken within a reasonable time. In lieu of an order, the board or the control officer may require that the alleged violator or violators appear before the board for a hearing. Every notice of violation shall offer to the alleged violator an opportunity to meet with the local air authority prior to the commencement of enforcement action. [1991 c 199 § 309; 1974 ex.s. c 69 § 4; 1970 ex.s. c 62 § 57; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 24; 1967 c 238 § 34.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

[Title 70 RCW—page 233]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.221 Order final unless appealed to pollution control hearings board.** Any order issued by the board or by the control officer, shall become final unless such order is appealed to the hearings board as provided in chapter 43.21B RCW. [1970 ex.s. c 62 § 58; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 25; 1967 c 238 § 35.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.230 Rules of authority supersede local rules, regulations, etc.—Exceptions.** The rules and regulations hereafter adopted by an authority under the provisions of this chapter shall supersede the existing rules, regulations, resolutions and ordinances of any of the component bodies included within said authority in all matters relating to the control and enforcement of air pollution as contemplated by this chapter: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That existing rules, regulations, resolutions and ordinances shall remain in effect until such rules, regulations, resolutions and ordinances are superseded as provided in this section: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing herein shall be construed to supersede any local county, or city ordinance or resolution, or any provision of the statutory or common law pertaining to nuisance; nor to affect any aspect of employer-employee relationship relating to conditions in a place of work, including without limitation, statutes, rules or regulations governing industrial health and safety standards or performance standards incorporated in zoning ordinances or resolutions of the component bodies where such standards relating to air pollution control or air quality containing requirements not less stringent than those of the authority. [1969 ex.s. c 168 § 28; 1967 c 238 § 38; 1957 c 232 § 23.]

**70.94.231 Air pollution control authority—Dissolution of prior districts—Continuation of rules and regulations until superseded.** Upon the date that an authority begins to exercise its powers and functions, all rules and regulations in force on such date shall remain in effect until superseded by the rules and regulations of the authority as provided in RCW 70.94.230. [1991 c 199 § 708; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 29; 1967 c 238 § 39.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.240 Air pollution control advisory council.** The board of any authority may appoint an air pollution control advisory council to advise and consult with such board, and the control officer in effectuating the purposes of this chapter. The council shall consist of at least five appointed members who are residents of the authority and who are preferably skilled and experienced in the field of air pollution control, chemistry, meteorology, public health, or a related field, at least one of whom shall serve as a representative of industry and one of whom shall serve as a representative of the environmental community. The chair of the board of any such authority shall serve as ex officio member of the council and be its chair. Each member of the council shall receive from the authority per diem and travel expenses in an amount not to exceed that provided for the state board in this chapter (but not to exceed one thousand dollars per year) for each full day spent in the performance of his or her duties under this chap-

ter. [1991 c 199 § 709; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 30; 1967 c 238 § 41; 1957 c 232 § 24.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.260 Dissolution of authority—Deactivation of authority.** An air pollution control authority may be deactivated prior to the term provided in the original or subsequent agreement by the county or counties comprising such authority upon the adoption by the board, following a hearing held upon ten days notice, to said counties, of a resolution for dissolution or deactivation and upon the approval by the legislative authority of each county comprising the authority. In such event, the board shall proceed to wind up the affairs of the authority and pay all indebtedness thereof. Any surplus of funds shall be paid over to the counties comprising the authority in proportion to their last contribution. Upon the completion of the process of closing the affairs of the authority, the board shall by resolution entered in its minutes declare the authority deactivated and a certified copy of such resolution shall be filed with the secretary of state and the authority shall be deemed inactive. [1979 ex.s. c 30 § 12; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 31; 1967 c 238 § 43; 1957 c 232 § 26.]

**70.94.262 Withdrawal from multicounty authority.**

(1) Any county that is part of a multicounty authority, pursuant to RCW 70.94.053, may withdraw from the multicounty authority after January 1, 1992, if the county wishes to provide for air quality protection and regulation by an alternate air quality authority. A withdrawing county shall:

- (a) Create its own single county authority;
- (b) Join another existing multicounty authority with which its boundaries are contiguous;
- (c) Join with one or more contiguous inactive authorities to operate as a new multicounty authority; or
- (d) Become an inactive authority and subject to regulation by the department of ecology.

(2) In order to withdraw from an existing multicounty authority, a county shall make arrangements, by interlocal agreement, for division of assets and liabilities and the appropriate release of any and all interest in assets of the multicounty authority.

(3) In order to effectuate any of the alternate arrangements in subsection (1) of this section, the procedures of this chapter to create an air pollution control authority shall be met and the actions must be taken at least six months prior to the effective date of withdrawal. The rules of the original multicounty authority shall continue in force for the withdrawing county until such time as all conditions to create an air pollution control authority have been met.

(4) At the effective date of a county's withdrawal, the remaining counties shall reorganize and reconstitute the legislative authority pursuant to this chapter. The air pollution control regulations of the existing multicounty authority shall remain in force and effect after the reorganization.

(5) If a county elects to withdraw from an existing multicounty authority, the air pollution control regulations shall remain in effect for the withdrawing county until suspended by the adoption of rules, regulations, or ordinances adopted under one of the alternatives of subsection (1) of this section. A county shall initiate proceedings to adopt such rules, regu-

lations, or ordinances on or before the effective date of the county's withdrawal. [1991 c 125 § 2.]

**70.94.302 Certain generators fueled by biogas produced by an anaerobic digester—Extended compliance period for permit provisions related to the emissions limit for sulfur—Technical assistance.** (1) A generator operating at an electric generating project with an installed generator capacity of at least seven hundred fifty kilowatts but not exceeding one thousand kilowatts, that is in operation on June 7, 2012, and began operating after 2008, and that is located on agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW, is granted an extended compliance period for permit provisions related to the emissions limit for sulfur established by the department or a local air authority until December 31, 2016, if it is fueled by biogas that is produced by an anaerobic digester that qualifies for the solid waste permitting exemption specified in RCW 70.95.330.

(2) A generator that meets the requirements in subsection (1) of this section may not be located in a federally designated nonattainment or maintenance area.

(3) Upon request, the department or a local air authority must provide technical assistance to a generator meeting the requirements in subsection (1) of this section to assist the generator in reducing its emissions in order to meet the requirements in this chapter.

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Anaerobic digester" means a vessel that processes organic material into biogas and digestate using microorganisms in a decomposition process within a closed, oxygen-free container.

(b) "Generator" means an internal combustion engine that converts biogas into electricity, and includes any backup combustion device to burn biogas when an engine is idled for maintenance. [2012 c 238 § 1.]

**70.94.331 Powers and duties of department.** (1) The department shall have all the powers as provided in RCW 70.94.141.

(2) The department, in addition to any other powers vested in it by law after consideration at a public hearing held in accordance with chapters 42.30 and 34.05 RCW shall:

(a) Adopt rules establishing air quality objectives and air quality standards;

(b) Adopt emission standards which shall constitute minimum emission standards throughout the state. An authority may enact more stringent emission standards, except for emission performance standards for new woodstoves and opacity levels for residential solid fuel burning devices which shall be statewide, but in no event may less stringent standards be enacted by an authority without the prior approval of the department after public hearing and due notice to interested parties;

(c) Adopt by rule air quality standards and emission standards for the control or prohibition of emissions to the outdoor atmosphere of radionuclides, dust, fumes, mist, smoke, other particulate matter, vapor, gas, odorous substances, or any combination thereof. Such requirements may be based upon a system of classification by types of emissions or types

of sources of emissions, or combinations thereof, which it determines most feasible for the purposes of this chapter. However, an industry, or the air pollution control authority having jurisdiction, can choose, subject to the submittal of appropriate data that the industry has quantified, to have any limit on the opacity of emissions from a source whose emission standard is stated in terms of a weight of particulate per unit volume of air (e.g., grains per dry standard cubic foot) be based on the applicable particulate emission standard for that source, such that any violation of the opacity limit accurately indicates a violation of the applicable particulate emission standard. Any alternative opacity limit provided by this section that would result in increasing air contaminants emissions in any nonattainment area shall only be granted if equal or greater emission reductions are provided for by the same source obtaining the revised opacity limit. A reasonable fee may be assessed to the industry to which the alternate opacity standard would apply. The fee shall cover only those costs to the air pollution control authority which are directly related to the determination on the acceptability of the alternate opacity standard, including testing, oversight and review of data.

(3) The air quality standards and emission standards may be for the state as a whole or may vary from area to area or source to source, except that emission performance standards for new woodstoves and opacity levels for residential solid fuel burning devices shall be statewide, as may be appropriate to facilitate the accomplishment of the objectives of this chapter and to take necessary or desirable account of varying local conditions of population concentration, the existence of actual or reasonably foreseeable air pollution, topographic and meteorologic conditions and other pertinent variables.

(4) The department is directed to cooperate with the appropriate agencies of the United States or other states or any interstate agencies or international agencies with respect to the control of air pollution and air contamination, or for the formulation for the submission to the legislature of interstate air pollution control compacts or agreements.

(5) The department is directed to conduct or cause to be conducted a continuous surveillance program to monitor the quality of the ambient atmosphere as to concentrations and movements of air contaminants and conduct or cause to be conducted a program to determine the quantity of emissions to the atmosphere.

(6) The department shall enforce the air quality standards and emission standards throughout the state except where a local authority is enforcing the state regulations or its own regulations which are more stringent than those of the state.

(7) The department shall encourage local units of government to handle air pollution problems within their respective jurisdictions; and, on a cooperative basis provide technical and consultative assistance therefor.

(8) The department shall have the power to require the addition to or deletion of a county or counties from an existing authority in order to carry out the purposes of this chapter. No such addition or deletion shall be made without the concurrence of any existing authority involved. Such action shall only be taken after a public hearing held pursuant to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW.

(9) The department shall establish rules requiring sources or source categories to apply reasonable and avail-

able control methods. Such rules shall apply to those sources or source categories that individually or collectively contribute the majority of statewide air emissions of each regulated pollutant. The department shall review, and if necessary, update its rules every five years to ensure consistency with current reasonable and available control methods. The department shall have adopted rules required under this subsection for all sources by July 1, 1996.

For the purposes of this section, "reasonable and available control methods" shall include but not be limited to, changes in technology, processes, or other control strategies. [1991 c 199 § 710; 1988 c 106 § 1. Prior: 1987 c 405 § 13; 1987 c 109 § 39; 1985 c 372 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 34; 1967 c 238 § 46.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.332 Enforcement actions by department—Notice to violators.** At least thirty days prior to the commencement of any formal enforcement action under RCW 70.94.430 and 70.94.431, the department of ecology shall cause written notice to be served upon the alleged violator or violators. The notice shall specify the provision of this chapter or the rule or regulation alleged to be violated, and the facts alleged to constitute a violation thereof, and may include an order that necessary corrective action be taken within a reasonable time. In lieu of an order, the department may require that the alleged violator or violators appear before it for the purpose of providing the department information pertaining to the violation or the charges complained of. Every notice of violation shall offer to the alleged violator an opportunity to meet with the department prior to the commencement of enforcement action. [1991 c 199 § 711; 1987 c 109 § 18; 1967 c 238 § 47.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.335 Hazardous substance remedial actions—Procedural requirements not applicable.** The procedural requirements of this chapter shall not apply to any person conducting a remedial action at a facility pursuant to a consent decree, order, or agreed order issued pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW, or to the department of ecology when it conducts a remedial action under chapter 70.105D RCW. The department of ecology shall ensure compliance with the substantive requirements of this chapter through the consent decree, order, or agreed order issued pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW, or during the department-conducted remedial action, through the procedures developed by the department pursuant to RCW 70.105D.090. [1994 c 257 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.350 Contracts, agreements for use of personnel by department—Reimbursement—Merit system regulations waived.** The department is authorized to contract for or otherwise agree to the use of personnel of municipal corporations or other agencies or private persons; and the department is further authorized to reimburse such municipal corpora-

tions or agencies for the employment of such personnel. Merit system regulations or standards for the employment of personnel may be waived for personnel hired under contract as provided for in this section. The department shall provide, within available appropriations, for the scientific, technical, legal, administrative, and other necessary services and facilities for performing the functions under this chapter. [1987 c 109 § 40; 1979 c 141 § 122; 1967 c 238 § 45; 1961 c 188 § 6.]

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.370 Powers and rights of governmental units and persons are not limited by act or recommendations.** No provision of this chapter or any recommendation of the state board or of any local or regional air pollution program is a limitation:

(1) On the power of any city, town or county to declare, prohibit and abate nuisances.

(2) On the power of the secretary of social and health services to provide for the protection of the public health under any authority presently vested in that office or which may be hereafter prescribed by law.

(3) On the power of a state agency in the enforcement, or administration of any provision of law which it is specifically permitted or required to enforce or administer.

(4) On the right of any person to maintain at any time any appropriate action for relief against any air pollution. [1979 c 141 § 123; 1967 c 238 § 59; 1961 c 188 § 8.]

**70.94.380 Emission control requirements.** (1) Every activated authority operating an air pollution control program shall have requirements for the control of emissions which are no less stringent than those adopted by the department of ecology for the geographic area in which such air pollution control program is located. Less stringent requirements than compelled by this section may be included in a local or regional air pollution control program only after approval by the department of ecology following demonstration to the satisfaction of the department of ecology that the proposed requirements are consistent with the purposes of this chapter: PROVIDED, That such approval shall be preceded by public hearing, of which notice has been given in accordance with chapter 42.30 RCW. The department of ecology, upon receiving evidence that conditions have changed or that additional information is relevant to a decision with respect to the requirements for emission control, may, after public hearing on due notice, withdraw any approval previously given to a less stringent local or regional requirement.

[(2)] Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent a local or regional air pollution control authority from adopting and enforcing more stringent emission control requirements than those adopted by the department of ecology and applicable within the jurisdiction of the local or regional air pollution control authority, except that the emission performance standards for new woodstoves and the opacity levels for residential solid fuel burning devices shall be statewide. [1987 c 405 § 14; 1979 ex.s. c 30 § 13; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 36; 1967 c 238 § 50.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.385 State financial aid—Application for—Requirements.** (1) Any authority may apply to the department for state financial aid. The department shall annually establish the amount of state funds available for the local authorities taking into consideration available federal and state funds. The establishment of funding amounts shall be consistent with federal requirements and local maintenance of effort necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. Any such aid shall be expended from the general fund or from other appropriations as the legislature may provide for this purpose: PROVIDED, That federal funds shall be utilized to the maximum unless otherwise approved by the department: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the amount of state funds provided to local authorities during the previous year shall not be reduced without a public notice or public hearing held by the department if requested by the affected local authority, unless such changes are the direct result of a reduction in the available federal funds for air pollution control programs.

(2) Before any such application is approved and financial aid is given or approved by the department, the authority shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that it is fulfilling the requirements of this chapter. If the department has not adopted ambient air quality standards and objectives as permitted by RCW 70.94.331, the authority shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that it is acting in good faith and doing all that is possible and reasonable to control and prevent air pollution within its jurisdictional boundaries and to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(3) The department shall adopt rules requiring the submission of such information by each authority including the submission of its proposed budget and a description of its program in support of the application for state financial aid as necessary to enable the department to determine the need for state aid. [1991 c 199 § 712; 1987 c 109 § 41; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 37; 1967 c 238 § 51.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.390 Hearing upon activation of authority—Finding—Assumption of jurisdiction by department—Expenses.** The department may, at any time and on its own motion, hold a hearing to determine if the activation of an authority is necessary for the prevention, abatement, and control of air pollution which exists or is likely to exist in any area of the state. Notice of such hearing shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 42.30 RCW and chapter 34.05 RCW. If at such hearing the department finds that air pollution exists or is likely to occur in a particular area, and that the purposes of this chapter and the public interest will be best served by the activation of an authority it shall designate the boundaries of such area and set forth in a report to the appropriate county or counties recommendations for the activation of an authority: PROVIDED, That if at such hearing the department determines that the activation of an authority is not practical or feasible for the reason that a local or regional air pollution control program cannot be successfully established or operated due to unusual circumstances and conditions, but that the control and/or prevention of air pollution is necessary for the purposes of this chapter and the public

interest, it may assume jurisdiction and so declare by order. Such order shall designate the geographic area in which, and the effective date upon which, the department will exercise jurisdiction for the control and/or prevention of air pollution. The department shall exercise its powers and duties in the same manner as if it had assumed authority under RCW 70.94.410.

All expenses incurred by the department in the control and prevention of air pollution in any county pursuant to the provisions of RCW 70.94.390 and 70.94.410 shall constitute a claim against such county. The department shall certify the expenses to the auditor of the county, who promptly shall issue his or her warrant on the county treasurer payable out of the current expense fund of the county. In the event that the amount in the current expense fund of the county is not adequate to meet the expenses incurred by the department, the department shall certify to the state treasurer that it has a prior claim on any money in the "liquor excise tax fund" that is to be apportioned to that county by the state treasurer as provided in RCW 82.08.170. In the event that the amount in the "liquor excise tax fund" that is to be apportioned to that county by the state treasurer is not adequate to meet the expenses incurred by the department, the department shall certify to the state treasurer that they have a prior claim on any excess funds from the liquor revolving fund that are to be distributed to that county as provided in RCW 66.08.190 through \*66.08.220. All moneys that are collected as provided in this section shall be placed in the general fund in the account of the office of air programs of the department. [2012 c 117 § 408; 1987 c 109 § 42; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 38; 1967 c 238 § 52.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 66.08.220 was repealed by 2012 c 2 § 215 (Initiative Measure No. 1183).

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.395 Air contaminant sources—Regulation by department; authorities may be more stringent—Hearing—Standards.** If the department finds, after public hearing upon due notice to all interested parties, that the emissions from a particular type or class of air contaminant source should be regulated on a statewide basis in the public interest and for the protection of the welfare of the citizens of the state, it may adopt and enforce rules to control and/or prevent the emission of air contaminants from such source. An authority may, after public hearing and a finding by the board of a need for more stringent rules than those adopted by the department under this section, propose the adoption of such rules by the department for the control of emissions from the particular type or class of air contaminant source within the geographical area of the authority. The department shall hold a public hearing and shall adopt the proposed rules within the area of the requesting authority, unless it finds that the proposed rules are inconsistent with the rules adopted by the department under this section. When such standards are adopted by the department it shall delegate solely to the requesting authority all powers necessary for their enforcement at the request of the authority. If after public hearing the department finds that the regulation on a statewide basis of a particular type or class of air contaminant source is no longer required for the public interest and the protection of the wel-

fare of the citizens of the state, the department may relinquish exclusive jurisdiction over such source. [1991 c 199 § 713; 1987 c 109 § 43; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 39; 1967 c 238 § 53.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.400 Order activating authority—Filing—Hearing—Amendment of order.** If, at the end of ninety days after the department issues a report as provided for in RCW 70.94.390, to appropriate county or counties recommending the activation of an authority such county or counties have not performed those actions recommended by the department, and the department is still of the opinion that the activation of an authority is necessary for the prevention, abatement and control of air pollution which exists or is likely to exist, then the department may, at its discretion, issue an order activating an authority. Such order, a certified copy of which shall be filed with the secretary of state, shall specify the participating county or counties and the effective date by which the authority shall begin to function and exercise its powers. Any authority activated by order of the department shall choose the members of its board as provided in RCW 70.94.100 and begin to function in the same manner as if it had been activated by resolutions of the county or counties included within its boundaries. The department may, upon due notice to all interested parties, conduct a hearing in accordance with chapter 42.30 RCW and chapter 34.05 RCW within six months after the order was issued to review such order and to ascertain if such order is being carried out in good faith. At such time the department may amend any such order issued if it is determined by the department that such order is being carried out in bad faith or the department may take the appropriate action as is provided in RCW 70.94.410. [1987 c 109 § 44; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 40; 1967 c 238 § 54.]

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.405 Air pollution control authority—Review by department of program.** At any time after an authority has been activated for no less than one year, the department may, on its own motion, conduct a hearing held in accordance with chapters 42.30 and 34.05 RCW, to determine whether or not the air pollution prevention and control program of such authority is being carried out in good faith and is as effective as possible. If at such hearing the department finds that such authority is not carrying out its air pollution control or prevention program in good faith, is not doing all that is possible and reasonable to control and/or prevent air pollution within the geographical area over which it has jurisdiction, or is not carrying out the provisions of this chapter, it shall set forth in a report or order to the appropriate authority: (1) Its recommendations as to how air pollution prevention and/or control might be more effectively accomplished; and (2) guidelines which will assist the authority in carrying out the recommendations of the department. [1991 c 199 § 714; 1987 c 109 § 45; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 41; 1967 c 238 § 55.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

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**70.94.410 Air pollution control authority—Assumption of control by department.** (1) If, after thirty days from the time that the department issues a report or order to an authority under RCW 70.94.400 and 70.94.405, such authority has not taken action which indicates that it is attempting in good faith to implement the recommendations or actions of the department as set forth in the report or order, the department may, by order, declare as null and void any or all ordinances, resolutions, rules or regulations of such authority relating to the control and/or prevention of air pollution, and at such time the department shall become the sole body with authority to make and enforce rules and regulations for the control and/or prevention of air pollution within the geographical area of such authority. If this occurs, the department may assume all those powers which are given to it by law to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. The department may, by order, continue in effect and enforce provisions of the ordinances, resolutions, or rules of such authority which are not less stringent than those requirements which the department may have found applicable to the area under RCW 70.94.331, until such time as the department adopts its own rules. Any rules promulgated by the department shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. Any enforcement actions shall be subject to RCW 43.21B.300 or 43.21B.310.

(2) No provision of this chapter is intended to prohibit any authority from reestablishing its air pollution control program which meets with the approval of the department and which complies with the purposes of this chapter and with applicable rules and orders of the department.

(3) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent the department from withdrawing the exercise of its jurisdiction over an authority upon its own motion if the department has found at a hearing held in accordance with chapters 42.30 and 34.05 RCW, that the air pollution prevention and control program of such authority will be carried out in good faith, that such program will do all that is possible and reasonable to control and/or prevent air pollution within the geographical area over which it has jurisdiction, and that the program complies with the provisions of this chapter. Upon the withdrawal of the department, the department shall prescribe certain recommendations as to how air pollution prevention and/or control is to be effectively accomplished and guidelines which will assist the authority in carrying out the recommendations of the department. [1991 c 199 § 715; 1987 c 109 § 46; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 42; 1967 c 238 § 56.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.420 State departments and agencies to cooperate with department and authorities.** It is declared to be the intent of the legislature of the state of Washington that any state department or agency having jurisdiction over any building, installation, other property, or other activity creating or likely to create significant air pollution shall cooperate with the department and with air pollution control agencies in preventing and/or controlling the pollution of the air in any area insofar as the discharge of air contaminants from or by such building, installation, other property, or activity may cause or contribute to pollution of the air in such area. Such

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state department or agency shall comply with the provisions of this chapter and with any ordinance, resolution, rule or regulation issued hereunder in the same manner as any other person subject to such laws or rules. [1991 c 199 § 716; 1987 c 109 § 47; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 44; 1967 c 238 § 58.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.422 Department of health powers regarding radionuclides—Energy facility site evaluation council authority over permit program sources.** (1) The department of health shall have all the enforcement powers as provided in RCW 70.94.332, 70.94.425, 70.94.430, 70.94.431 (1) through (7), and 70.94.435 with respect to emissions of radionuclides. This section does not preclude the department of ecology from exercising its authority under this chapter.

(2) Permits for energy facilities subject to chapter 80.50 RCW shall be issued by the energy facility site evaluation council. However, the permits become effective only if the governor approves an application for certification and executes a certification agreement under chapter 80.50 RCW. The council shall have all powers necessary to administer an operating permits program pertaining to such facilities, consistent with applicable air quality standards established by the department or local air pollution control authorities, or both, and to obtain the approval of the United States environmental protection agency. The council's powers include, but are not limited to, all of the enforcement powers provided in RCW 70.94.332, 70.94.425, 70.94.430, 70.94.431 (1) through (7), and 70.94.435 with respect to permit program sources required to obtain certification from the council under chapter 80.50 RCW. To the extent not covered under RCW 80.50.071, the council may collect fees as granted to delegated local air authorities under RCW 70.94.152, 70.94.161 (14) and (15), 70.94.162, and 70.94.154(7) with respect to permit program sources required to obtain certification from the council under chapter 80.50 RCW. The council and the department shall each establish procedures that provide maximum coordination and avoid duplication between the two agencies in carrying out the requirements of this chapter. [1993 c 252 § 7.]

**70.94.425 Restraining orders—Injunctions.** Notwithstanding the existence or use of any other remedy, whenever any person has engaged in, or is about to engage in, any acts or practices which constitute or will constitute a violation of any provision of this chapter, or any rule, regulation or order issued thereunder, the governing body or board or the department, after notice to such person and an opportunity to comply, may petition the superior court of the county wherein the violation is alleged to be occurring or to have occurred for a restraining order or a temporary or permanent injunction or another appropriate order. [1987 c 109 § 48; 1967 c 238 § 60.]

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.430 Penalties.** (1) Any person who knowingly violates any of the provisions of chapter 70.94 or 70.120 RCW, or any ordinance, resolution, or regulation in force

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pursuant thereto is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for up to three hundred sixty-four days, or by both for each separate violation.

(2) Any person who negligently releases into the ambient air any substance listed by the department of ecology as a hazardous air pollutant, other than in compliance with the terms of an applicable permit or emission limit, and who at the time negligently places another person in imminent danger of death or substantial bodily harm is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or by imprisonment for up to three hundred sixty-four days, or both.

(3) Any person who knowingly releases into the ambient air any substance listed by the department of ecology as a hazardous air pollutant, other than in compliance with the terms of an applicable permit or emission limit, and who knows at the time that he or she thereby places another person in imminent danger of death or substantial bodily harm, is guilty of a class C felony and shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than fifty thousand dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.

(4) Any person who knowingly fails to disclose a potential conflict of interest under RCW 70.94.100 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars. [2011 c 96 § 49; 2003 c 53 § 355; 1991 c 199 § 310; 1984 c 255 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 176 § 1; 1967 c 238 § 61.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.431 Civil penalties—Excusable excess emissions.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 43.05.060 through 43.05.080 and 43.05.150, and in addition to or as an alternate to any other penalty provided by law, any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter, chapter 70.120 RCW, chapter 70.310 RCW, or any of the rules in force under such chapters may incur a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars per day for each violation. Each such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense, and in case of a continuing violation, each day's continuance shall be a separate and distinct violation.

Any person who fails to take action as specified by an order issued pursuant to this chapter shall be liable for a civil penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars for each day of continued noncompliance.

(2) Penalties incurred but not paid shall accrue interest, beginning on the ninety-first day following the date that the penalty becomes due and payable, at the highest rate allowed by RCW 19.52.020 on the date that the penalty becomes due and payable. If violations or penalties are appealed, interest shall not begin to accrue until the thirty-first day following final resolution of the appeal.

The maximum penalty amounts established in this section may be increased annually to account for inflation as determined by the state office of the economic and revenue forecast council.

(3) Each act of commission or omission which procures, aids or abets in the violation shall be considered a violation under the provisions of this section and subject to the same penalty. The penalties provided in this section shall be imposed pursuant to RCW 43.21B.300.

(4) All penalties recovered under this section by the department shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the air pollution control account established in RCW 70.94.015 or, if recovered by the authority, shall be paid into the treasury of the authority and credited to its funds. If a prior penalty for the same violation has been paid to a local authority, the penalty imposed by the department under subsection (1) of this section shall be reduced by the amount of the payment.

(5) To secure the penalty incurred under this section, the state or the authority shall have a lien on any vessel used or operated in violation of this chapter which shall be enforced as provided in RCW 60.36.050.

(6) Public or private entities that are recipients or potential recipients of department grants, whether for air quality related activities or not, may have such grants rescinded or withheld by the department for failure to comply with provisions of this chapter.

(7) In addition to other penalties provided by this chapter, persons knowingly under-reporting emissions or other information used to set fees, or persons required to pay emission or permit fees who are more than ninety days late with such payments may be subject to a penalty equal to three times the amount of the original fee owed.

(8) By January 1, 1992, the department shall develop rules for excusing excess emissions from enforcement action if such excess emissions are unavoidable. The rules shall specify the criteria and procedures for the department and local air authorities to determine whether a period of excess emissions is excusable in accordance with the state implementation plan. [2013 c 51 § 6; 1995 c 403 § 630; 1991 c 199 § 311; 1990 c 157 § 1; 1987 c 109 § 19; 1984 c 255 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 176 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 53.]

**Findings—Short title—Intent—1995 c 403:** See note following RCW 34.05.328.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Cap-tions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.435 Additional means for enforcement of chapter.** As an additional means of enforcing this chapter, the governing body or board may accept an assurance of discontinuance of any act or practice deemed in violation of this chapter or of any ordinance, resolution, rule or regulation adopted pursuant hereto, from any person engaging in, or who has engaged in, such act or practice. Any such assurance shall specify a time limit during which such discontinuance is to be accomplished. Failure to perform the terms of any such assurance shall constitute prima facie proof of a violation of this chapter or the ordinances, resolutions, rules or regulations, or order issued pursuant thereto, which make the alleged act or practice unlawful for the purpose of securing any injunction or other relief from the superior court as provided in RCW 70.94.425. [1967 c 238 § 62.]

**70.94.440 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the "Washington Clean Air Act". [1967 c 238 § 63.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.450 Woodstoves—Policy.** In the interest of the public health and welfare and in keeping with the objectives of RCW 70.94.011, the legislature declares it to be the public policy of the state to control, reduce, and prevent air pollution caused by woodstove emissions. It is the state's policy to reduce woodstove emissions by encouraging the department of ecology to continue efforts to educate the public about the effects of woodstove emissions, other heating alternatives, and the desirability of achieving better emission performance and heating efficiency from woodstoves. The legislature further declares that: (1) The purchase of certified woodstoves will not solve the problem of pollution caused by woodstove emissions; and (2) the reduction of air pollution caused by woodstove emissions will only occur when woodstove users adopt proper methods of wood burning. [1987 c 405 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.453 Woodstoves—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 70.94.453 through \*70.94.487:

(1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(2) "Woodstove" means a solid fuel burning device other than a fireplace not meeting the requirements of RCW 70.94.457, including any fireplace insert, woodstove, wood burning heater, wood stick boiler, coal-fired furnace, coal stove, or similar device burning any solid fuel used for aesthetic or space-heating purposes in a private residence or commercial establishment, which has a heat input less than one million British thermal units per hour. The term "woodstove" does not include wood cook stoves.

(3) "Fireplace" means: (a) Any permanently installed masonry fireplace; or (b) any factory-built metal solid fuel burning device designed to be used with an open combustion chamber and without features to control the air to fuel ratio.

(4) "New woodstove" means: (a) A woodstove that is sold at retail, bargained, exchanged, or given away for the first time by the manufacturer, the manufacturer's dealer or agency, or a retailer; and (b) has not been so used to have become what is commonly known as "secondhand" within the ordinary meaning of that term.

(5) "Solid fuel burning device" means any device for burning wood, coal, or any other nongaseous and nonliquid fuel, including a woodstove and fireplace.

(6) "Authority" means any air pollution control agency whose jurisdictional boundaries are coextensive with the boundaries of one or more counties.

(7) "Opacity" means the degree to which an object seen through a plume is obscured, stated as a percentage. The methods approved by the department in accordance with RCW 70.94.331 shall be used to establish opacity for the purposes of this chapter. [1987 c 405 § 2.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 70.94.487 was repealed by 1988 c 186 § 16, effective June 30, 1988.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.455 Residential and commercial construction—Burning and heating device standards.** After January 1, 1992, no used solid fuel burning device shall be installed in new or existing buildings unless such device is either Oregon department of environmental quality phase II or United States environmental protection agency certified or a pellet stove either certified or exempt from certification by the United States environmental protection agency.

(1) By July 1, 1992, the state building code council shall adopt rules requiring an adequate source of heat other than woodstoves in all new and substantially remodeled residential and commercial construction. This rule shall apply (a) to areas designated by a county to be an urban growth area under chapter 36.70A RCW; and (b) to areas designated by the environmental protection agency as being in nonattainment for particulate matter.

(2) For purposes of this section, "substantially remodeled" means any alteration or restoration of a building exceeding sixty percent of the appraised value of such building within a twelve-month period. [1991 c 199 § 503.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.457 Solid fuel burning devices—Emission performance standards.** The department of ecology shall establish by rule under chapter 34.05 RCW:

(1) Statewide emission performance standards for new solid fuel burning devices. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter which allows an authority to adopt more stringent emission standards, no authority shall adopt any emission standard for new solid fuel burning devices other than the statewide standard adopted by the department under this section.

(a) After January 1, 1995, no solid fuel burning device shall be offered for sale in this state to residents of this state that does not meet the following particulate air contaminant emission standards under the test methodology of the United States environmental protection agency in effect on January 1, 1991, or an equivalent standard under any test methodology adopted by the United States environmental protection agency subsequent to such date: (i) Two and one-half grams per hour for catalytic woodstoves; and (ii) four and one-half grams per hour for all other solid fuel burning devices. For purposes of this subsection, "equivalent" shall mean the emissions limits specified in this subsection multiplied by a statistically reliable conversion factor determined by the department that compares the difference between the emission test methodology established by the United States environmental protection agency prior to May 15, 1991, with the test methodology adopted subsequently by the agency. Subsection (a) of this subsection does not apply to fireplaces.

(b) After January 1, 1997, no fireplace, except masonry fireplaces, shall be offered for sale unless such fireplace meets the 1990 United States environmental protection agency standards for woodstoves or equivalent standard that may be established by the state building code council by rule. Prior to January 1, 1997, the state building code council shall establish by rule a methodology for the testing of factory-built fireplaces. The methodology shall be designed to achieve a particulate air emission standard equivalent to the 1990 United States environmental protection agency standard for woodstoves. In developing the rules, the council

shall include on the technical advisory committee at least one representative from the masonry fireplace builders and at least one representative of the factory-built fireplace manufacturers.

(c) Prior to January 1, 1997, the state building code council shall establish by rule design standards for the construction of new masonry fireplaces in Washington state. In developing the rules, the council shall include on the technical advisory committee at least one representative from the masonry fireplace builders and at least one representative of the factory-built fireplace manufacturers. It shall be the goal of the council to develop design standards that generally achieve reductions in particulate air contaminant emissions commensurate with the reductions being achieved by factory-built fireplaces at the time the standard is established.

(d) Actions of the department and local air pollution control authorities under this section shall preempt actions of other state agencies and local governments for the purposes of controlling air pollution from solid fuel burning devices, except where authorized by chapter 199, Laws of 1991.

(e) Subsection (1)(a) of this section shall not apply to fireplaces.

(f) Notwithstanding (a) of this subsection, the department is authorized to adopt, by rule, emission standards adopted by the United States environmental protection agency for new woodstoves sold at retail. For solid fuel burning devices for which the United States environmental protection agency has not established emission standards, the department may exempt or establish, by rule, statewide standards including emission levels and test procedures for such devices and such emission levels and test procedures shall be equivalent to emission levels per pound per hour burned for other new woodstoves and fireplaces regulated under this subsection.

(2) A program to:

(a) Determine whether a new solid fuel burning device complies with the statewide emission performance standards established in subsection (1) of this section; and

(b) Approve the sale of devices that comply with the statewide emission performance standards. [1995 c 205 § 3; 1991 c 199 § 501; 1987 c 405 § 4.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.460 Sale of unapproved woodstoves—Prohibited.** After July 1, 1988, no person shall sell, offer to sell, or knowingly advertise to sell a new woodstove in this state to a resident of this state unless the woodstove has been approved by the department under the program established under RCW 70.94.457. [1995 c 205 § 4; 1987 c 405 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.463 Sale of unapproved woodstoves—Penalty.** After July 1, 1988, any person who sells, offers to sell, or knowingly advertises to sell a new woodstove in this state in violation of RCW 70.94.460 shall be subject to the penalties and enforcement actions under this chapter. [1987 c 405 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.467 Sale of unapproved woodstoves—Application of law to advertising media.** Nothing in RCW 70.94.460 or 70.94.463 shall apply to a radio station, television station, publisher, printer, or distributor of a newspaper, magazine, billboard, or other advertising medium that accepts advertising in good faith and without knowledge of its violation of RCW 70.94.453 through \*70.94.487. [1987 c 405 § 12.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.94.487 was repealed by 1988 c 186 § 16, effective June 30, 1988.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.470 Residential solid fuel burning devices—Opacity levels—Enforcement and public education.** (1) The department shall establish, by rule under chapter 34.05 RCW, (a) a statewide opacity level of twenty percent for residential solid fuel burning devices for the purpose of enforcement on a complaint basis and (b) a statewide opacity of ten percent for purposes of public education.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter which may allow an authority to adopt a more stringent opacity level, no authority shall adopt or enforce an opacity level for solid fuel burning devices other than established in this section.

(3) Actions of the department and local air pollution control authorities under this section shall preempt actions of other state agencies and local governments for the purposes of controlling air pollution from solid fuel burning devices, except where authorized by chapter 199, Laws of 1991. [1991 c 199 § 502; 1987 c 405 § 5.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.473 Limitations on burning wood for heat—First and second stage burn bans—Report on second stage burn ban—Exceptions—Emergency situations.** (1) Any person in a residence or commercial establishment which has an adequate source of heat without burning wood shall:

(a) Not burn wood in any solid fuel burning device whenever the department has determined under RCW 70.94.715 that any air pollution episode exists in that area;

(b) Not burn wood in any solid fuel burning device except those which are either Oregon department of environmental quality phase II or United States environmental protection agency certified or certified by the department under RCW 70.94.457(1) or a pellet stove either certified or issued an exemption by the United States environmental protection agency in accordance with Title 40, Part 60 of the code of federal regulations, in the geographical area and for the period of time that a first stage of impaired air quality has been determined, by the department or any authority, for that area.

(i) A first stage of impaired air quality is reached when forecasted meteorological conditions are predicted to cause fine particulate levels to exceed thirty-five micrograms per cubic meter, measured on a twenty-four hour average, within forty-eight hours, except for areas of fine particulate nonattainment or areas at risk for fine particulate nonattainment;

(ii) A first stage burn ban for impaired air quality may be called for a county containing fine particulate nonattainment

areas or areas at risk for fine particulate nonattainment, and when feasible only for the necessary portions of the county, when forecasted meteorological conditions are predicted to cause fine particulate levels to reach or exceed thirty micrograms per cubic meter, measured on a twenty-four hour average, within seventy-two hours; and

(c)(i) Not burn wood in any solid fuel burning device in a geographical area and for the period of time that a second stage of impaired air quality has been determined by the department or any authority, for that area. A second stage of impaired air quality is reached when a first stage of impaired air quality has been in force and has not been sufficient to reduce the increasing fine particulate pollution trend, fine particulates are at an ambient level of twenty-five micrograms per cubic meter measured on a twenty-four hour average, and forecasted meteorological conditions are not expected to allow levels of fine particulates to decline below twenty-five micrograms per cubic meter for a period of twenty-four hours or more from the time that the fine particulates are measured at the trigger level.

(ii) A second stage burn ban may be called without calling a first stage burn ban only when all of the following occur and shall require the department or the local air pollution control authority calling a second stage burn ban under this subsection to comply with the requirements of subsection (3) of this section:

(A) Fine particulate levels have reached or exceeded twenty-five micrograms per cubic meter, measured on a twenty-four hour average;

(B) Meteorological conditions have caused fine particulate levels to rise rapidly;

(C) Meteorological conditions are predicted to cause fine particulate levels to exceed the thirty-five micrograms per cubic meter, measured on a twenty-four hour average, within twenty-four hours; and

(D) Meteorological conditions are highly likely to prevent sufficient dispersion of fine particulate.

(iii) In fine particulate nonattainment areas or areas at risk for fine particulate nonattainment, a second stage burn ban may be called for the county containing the nonattainment area or areas at risk for nonattainment, and when feasible only for the necessary portions of the county, without calling a first stage burn ban only when (c)(ii)(A), (B), and (D) of this subsection have been met and meteorological conditions are predicted to cause fine particulate levels to reach or exceed thirty micrograms per cubic meter, measured on a twenty-four hour average, within twenty-four hours.

(2) Actions of the department and local air pollution control authorities under this section shall preempt actions of other state agencies and local governments for the purposes of controlling air pollution from solid fuel burning devices, except where authorized by chapter 199, Laws of 1991.

(3)(a) The department or any local air pollution control authority that has called a second stage burn ban under the authority of subsection (1)(c)(ii) of this section shall, within ninety days, prepare a written report describing:

(i) The meteorological conditions that resulted in their calling the second stage burn ban;

(ii) Whether the agency could have taken actions to avoid calling a second stage burn ban without calling a first stage burn ban; and

(iii) Any changes the department or authority is making to its procedures of calling first stage and second stage burn bans to avoid calling a second stage burn ban without first calling a first stage burn ban.

(b) After consulting with affected parties, the department shall prescribe the format of such a report and may also require additional information be included in the report. All reports shall be sent to the department and the department shall keep the reports on file for not less than five years and available for public inspection and copying in accordance with RCW 42.56.090.

(4) For the purposes of chapter 219, Laws of 2012, an area at risk for nonattainment means an area where the three-year average of the annual ninety-eighth percentile of twenty-four hour fine particulate values is greater than twenty-nine micrograms per cubic meter, based on the years 2008 through 2010 monitoring data.

(5)(a) Nothing in this section restricts a person from installing or repairing a certified solid fuel burning device approved by the department under the program established under RCW 70.94.457 in a residence or commercial establishment or from replacing a solid fuel burning device with a certified solid fuel burning device. Nothing in this section restricts a person from burning wood in a solid fuel burning device, regardless of whether a burn ban has been called, if there is an emergency power outage. In addition, for the duration of an emergency power outage, nothing restricts the use of a solid fuel burning device or the temporary installation, repair, or replacement of a solid fuel burning device to prevent the loss of life, health, or business.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, an emergency power outage includes:

(i) Any natural or human-caused event beyond the control of a person that leave[s] the person's residence or commercial establishment temporarily without an adequate source of heat other than the solid fuel burning device; or

(ii) A natural or human-caused event for which the governor declares an emergency in an area under chapter 43.06 RCW, including a public disorder, disaster, or energy emergency under RCW 43.06.010(12). [2016 c 187 § 1; 2012 c 219 § 1; 2008 c 40 § 1; 2007 c 339 § 1; 2005 c 197 § 1; 1998 c 342 § 8; 1995 c 205 § 1; 1991 c 199 § 504; 1990 c 128 § 2; 1987 c 405 § 6.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.475 Liability of condominium owners' association or resident association.** A condominium owners' association or an association formed by residents of a multiple-family dwelling are not liable for violations of RCW 70.94.473 by a resident of a condominium or multiple-family dwelling. The associations shall cooperate with local air pollution control authorities to acquaint residents with the provisions of this section. [1990 c 157 § 2.]

**70.94.477 Limitations on use of solid fuel burning devices.** (1) Unless allowed by rule under chapter 34.05 RCW, a person shall not cause or allow any of the following materials to be burned in any residential solid fuel burning device:

(a) Garbage;

(b) Treated wood;

(c) Plastics;

(d) Rubber products;

(e) Animals;

(f) Asphaltic products;

(g) Waste petroleum products;

(h) Paints; or

(i) Any substance, other than properly seasoned fuel wood, which normally emits dense smoke or obnoxious odors.

(2) To achieve and maintain attainment in areas of nonattainment for fine particulates in accordance with section 172 of the federal clean air act, a local air pollution control authority or the department may, after meeting requirements in subsection (3) of this section, prohibit the use of solid fuel burning devices, except:

(a) Fireplaces as defined in RCW 70.94.453(3), except if needed to meet federal requirements as a contingency measure in a state implementation plan for a fine particulate nonattainment area;

(b) Woodstoves meeting the standards set forth in RCW 70.94.473(1)(b); or

(c) Pellet stoves.

(3) Prior to prohibiting the use of solid fuel burning devices under subsection (2) of this section, the department or the local air pollution control authority must:

(a) Seek input from any city, county, or jurisdictional health department affected by the proposal to prohibit the use of solid fuel burning devices; and

(b) Make written findings that:

(i) The area is designated as an area of nonattainment for fine particulate matter by the United States environmental protection agency, or is in maintenance status under that designation;

(ii) Emissions from solid fuel burning devices in the area are a major contributing factor for violating the national ambient air quality standard for fine particulates; and

(iii) The area has an adequately funded program to assist low-income households to secure an adequate source of heat, which may include woodstoves meeting the requirements of RCW 70.94.453(2).

(4) If and only if the nonattainment area is within the jurisdiction of the department and the legislative authority of a city or county within the area of nonattainment formally expresses concerns with the department's written findings, then the department must publish on the department's web site the reasons for prohibiting the use of solid fuel burning devices under subsection (2) of this section that includes a response to the concerns expressed by the city or county legislative authority.

(5) When a local air pollution control authority or the department prohibits the use of solid fuel burning devices as authorized by this section, the cities, counties, and jurisdictional health departments serving the area shall cooperate with the department or local air pollution control authority as the department or the local air pollution control authority implements the prohibition. The responsibility for actual enforcement of the prohibition shall reside solely with the department or the local air pollution control authority. A city, county, or jurisdictional health department serving a fine par-

ticulate nonattainment area may agree to assist with enforcement activities.

(6) A prohibition issued by a local air pollution control authority or the department under this section shall not apply to:

(a) A person in a residence or commercial establishment that does not have an adequate source of heat without burning wood; or

(b) A person with a shop or garage that is detached from the main residence or commercial establishment that does not have an adequate source of heat in the detached shop or garage without burning wood.

(7) On June 7, 2012, and prior to January 1, 2015, the local air pollution control authority or the department shall, within available resources, provide assistance to households using solid fuel burning devices to reduce the emissions from those devices or change out to a lower emission device. Prior to the effective date of a prohibition, as defined in this section, on the use of uncertified stoves, the department or local air pollution control authority shall provide public education in the nonattainment area regarding how households can reduce their emissions through cleaner burning practices, the importance of respecting burn bans, and the opportunities for assistance in obtaining a cleaner device. If the area is designated as a nonattainment area as of January 1, 2015, or if required by the United States environmental protection agency, the local air pollution control authority or the department may prohibit the use of uncertified devices.

(8) As used in this section:

(a) "Jurisdictional health department" means a city, county, city-county, or district public health department.

(b) "Prohibit the use" or "prohibition" may include requiring disclosure of an uncertified device, removal, or rendering inoperable, as may be approved by rule by a local air pollution control authority or the department. The effective date of such a rule may not be prior to January 1, 2015. However, except as provided in RCW 64.06.020 relating to the seller disclosure of wood burning appliances, any such prohibition may not include imposing separate time of sale obligations on the seller or buyer of real estate as part of a real estate transaction. [2012 c 219 § 2; 2009 c 282 § 1; 1995 c 205 § 2; 1990 c 128 § 3; 1987 c 405 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.480 Woodstove education program.** (1) The department of ecology shall establish a program to educate woodstove dealers and the public about:

(a) The effects of woodstove emissions on health and air quality;

(b) Methods of achieving better efficiency and emission performance from woodstoves;

(c) Woodstoves that have been approved by the department;

(d) The benefits of replacing inefficient woodstoves with stoves approved under RCW 70.94.457.

(2) Persons selling new woodstoves shall distribute and verbally explain educational materials describing when a stove can and cannot be legally used to customers purchasing new woodstoves. [1990 c 128 § 6; 1987 c 405 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.483 Woodstove education and enforcement account created—Fee imposed on solid fuel burning device sales.** (1) The woodstove education and enforcement account is hereby created in the state treasury. Money placed in the account shall include all money received under subsection (2) of this section and any other money appropriated by the legislature. Money in the account shall be spent for the purposes of the woodstove education program established under RCW 70.94.480 and for enforcement of the woodstove program, and shall be subject to legislative appropriation. However, during the 2003-05 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the woodstove education and enforcement account to the air pollution control account such amounts as specified in the omnibus operating budget bill.

(2) The department of ecology, with the advice of the advisory committee, shall set a flat fee of thirty dollars, on the retail sale, as defined in RCW 82.04.050, of each solid fuel burning device after January 1, 1992. The fee shall be imposed upon the consumer and shall not be subject to the retail sales tax provisions of chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW. The fee may be adjusted annually above thirty dollars to account for inflation as determined by the state office of the economic and revenue forecast council. The fee shall be collected by the department of revenue in conjunction with the retail sales tax under chapter 82.08 RCW. If the seller fails to collect the fee herein imposed or fails to remit the fee to the department of revenue in the manner prescribed in chapter 82.08 RCW, the seller shall be personally liable to the state for the amount of the fee. The collection provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW shall apply. The department of revenue shall deposit fees collected under this section in the woodstove education and enforcement account. [2003 1st sp.s. c 25 § 932; 1991 sp.s. c 13 §§ 64, 65; 1991 c 199 § 505; 1990 c 128 § 5; 1987 c 405 § 10.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.488 Woodsmoke emissions—Findings.** The legislature finds that there are some communities in the state in which the national ambient air quality standards for PM 2.5 are exceeded, primarily due to woodsmoke emissions, and that current strategies are not sufficient to reduce woodsmoke emissions to levels that comply with the federal standards or adequately protect public health. The legislature finds that it is in the state's interest and to the benefit of the people of the state to evaluate additional measures to reduce woodsmoke emissions and update the state woodsmoke control program. [2007 c 339 § 2.]

**70.94.505 Woodsmoke emissions—Work group.** (1) The department shall convene and chair a work group to study the impacts of woodsmoke from solid fuel burning devices on communities in Washington and make recommendations to the legislature on practical and cost-effective opportunities to reduce exposure to woodsmoke from solid fuel burning devices and meet the new national air quality standards for fine particulates in Washington state. The work group shall be established by the director and include representatives from the department, the state department of health, regional air quality agencies, local health departments, related industry representatives, and nongovernmental

health organizations. Recommendations may include statutory or regulatory changes, incentives, and other strategies that will reduce ambient PM 2.5 pollution. Recommendations should be presented to the governor and to the legislature by December 1, 2007.

(2) In carrying out its assignment the work group shall include, but not be limited to, the following considerations:

(a) Communities in the state that have elevated levels of PM 2.5 pollution;

(b) The contribution of pollution from solid fuel burning devices to potential violations of federal air quality standards;

(c) Strategies used in other states, regions, or cities to reduce woodsmoke pollution levels and effectiveness of these strategies;

(d) State laws, rules, fees, utility regulations, and other policies that may affect the ability to reduce emissions from solid fuel burning devices or encourage the use of cleaner burning devices; and

(e) Potential financial incentives and sources of funding to change out older solid fuel burning devices to cleaner burning devices. [2007 c 339 § 3.]

**70.94.510 Policy to cooperate with federal government.** It is declared to be the policy of the state of Washington through the department of ecology to cooperate with the federal government in order to insure the coordination of the provisions of the federal and state clean air acts, and the department is authorized and directed to implement and enforce the provisions of this chapter in carrying out this policy as follows:

(1) To accept and administer grants from the federal government for carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

(2) To take all action necessary to secure to the state the benefits of the federal clean air act. [1987 c 109 § 49; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 45.]

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.94.521 Transportation demand management—Findings.** The legislature finds that automotive traffic in Washington's metropolitan areas is the major source of emissions of air contaminants. This air pollution causes significant harm to public health, causes damage to trees, plants, structures, and materials and degrades the quality of the environment.

Increasing automotive traffic is also aggravating traffic congestion in Washington's metropolitan areas. This traffic congestion imposes significant costs on Washington's businesses, governmental agencies, and individuals in terms of lost working hours and delays in the delivery of goods and services. Traffic congestion worsens automobile-related air pollution, increases the consumption of fuel, and degrades the habitability of many of Washington's cities and suburban areas. The capital and environmental costs of fully accommodating the existing and projected automobile traffic on roads and highways are prohibitive. Decreasing the demand for vehicle trips is significantly less costly and at least as effective in reducing traffic congestion and its impacts as constructing new transportation facilities such as roads and bridges, to accommodate increased traffic volumes.

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The legislature also finds that increasing automotive transportation is a major factor in increasing consumption of gasoline and, thereby, increasing reliance on imported sources of petroleum. Moderating the growth in automotive travel is essential to stabilizing and reducing dependence on imported petroleum and improving the nation's energy security.

The legislature further finds that reducing the number of commute trips to work made via single-occupant cars and light trucks is an effective way of reducing automobile-related air pollution, traffic congestion, and energy use. Major employers have significant opportunities to encourage and facilitate reducing single-occupant vehicle commuting by employees. In addition, the legislature also recognizes the importance of increasing individual citizens' awareness of air quality, energy consumption, and traffic congestion, and the contribution individual actions can make towards addressing these issues.

The intent of this chapter is to require local governments in those counties experiencing the greatest automobile-related air pollution and traffic congestion to develop and implement plans to reduce single-occupant vehicle commute trips. Such plans shall require major employers and employers at major worksites to implement programs to reduce single-occupant vehicle commuting by employees at major worksites. Local governments in counties experiencing significant but less severe automobile-related air pollution and traffic congestion may implement such plans. State agencies shall implement programs to reduce single-occupant vehicle commuting at all major worksites throughout the state. [1997 c 250 § 1; 1991 c 202 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.524 Transportation demand management—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "A major employer" means a private or public employer, including state agencies, that employs one hundred or more full-time employees at a single worksite who begin their regular workday between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekdays for at least twelve continuous months during the year.

(2) "Major worksite" means a building or group of buildings that are on physically contiguous parcels of land or on parcels separated solely by private or public roadways or rights-of-way, and at which there are one hundred or more full-time employees, who begin their regular workday between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekdays, for at least twelve continuous months.

(3) "Major employment installation" means a military base or federal reservation, excluding tribal reservations, at which there are one hundred or more full-time employees, who begin their regular workday between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekdays, for at least twelve continuous months during the year.

(4) "Person hours of delay" means the daily person hours of delay per mile in the peak period of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., as calculated using the best available methodology by the department of transportation.

(5) "Commute trip" means trips made from a worker's home to a worksite during the peak period of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on weekdays.

(6) "Proportion of single-occupant vehicle commute trips" means the number of commute trips made by single-occupant automobiles divided by the number of full-time employees.

(7) "Commute trip vehicle miles traveled per employee" means the sum of the individual vehicle commute trip lengths in miles over a set period divided by the number of full-time employees during that period.

(8) "Base year" means the twelve-month period commencing when a major employer is determined to be participating by the local jurisdiction, on which commute trip reduction goals shall be based.

(9) "Growth and transportation efficiency center" means a defined, compact, mixed-use urban area that contains jobs or housing and supports multiple modes of transportation. For the purpose of funding, a growth and transportation efficiency center must meet minimum criteria established by the commute trip reduction board under RCW 70.94.537, and must be certified by a regional transportation planning organization as established in RCW 47.80.020.

(10)(a) "Affected urban growth area" means:

(i) An urban growth area, designated pursuant to RCW 36.70A.110, whose boundaries contain a state highway segment exceeding the one hundred person hours of delay threshold calculated by the department of transportation, and any contiguous urban growth areas; and

(ii) An urban growth area, designated pursuant to RCW 36.70A.110, containing a jurisdiction with a population over seventy thousand that adopted a commute trip reduction ordinance before the year 2000, and any contiguous urban growth areas.

(b) Affected urban growth areas will be listed by the department of transportation in the rules for chapter 329, Laws of 2006 using the criteria identified in (a) of this subsection.

(11) "Certification" means a determination by a regional transportation planning organization that a locally designated growth and transportation efficiency center program meets the minimum criteria developed in a collaborative regional process and the rules established by the department of transportation. [2006 c 329 § 1; 1991 c 202 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.527 Transportation demand management—Requirements for counties and cities.** (1) Each county containing an urban growth area, designated pursuant to RCW 36.70A.110, and each city within an urban growth area with a state highway segment exceeding the one hundred person hours of delay threshold calculated by the department of transportation, as well as those counties and cities located in any contiguous urban growth areas, shall adopt a commute trip reduction plan and ordinance for major employers in the affected urban growth area by a date specified by the commute trip reduction board. Jurisdictions located within an urban growth area with a population greater than seventy thousand that adopted a commute trip reduction ordinance before the year 2000, as well as any jurisdiction within contiguous urban growth areas, shall also adopt a commute trip

reduction plan and ordinance for major employers in the affected urban growth area by a date specified by the commute trip reduction board. Jurisdictions containing a major employment installation in a county with an affected growth area, designated pursuant to RCW 36.70A.110, shall adopt a commute trip reduction plan and ordinance for major employers in the major employment installation by a date specified by the commute trip reduction board. The ordinance shall establish the requirements for major employers and provide an appeals process by which major employers, who as a result of special characteristics of their business or its locations would be unable to meet the requirements of the ordinance, may obtain waiver or modification of those requirements. The plan shall be designed to achieve reductions in the proportion of single-occupant vehicle commute trips and be consistent with the rules established by the department of transportation. The county, city, or town shall submit its adopted plan to the regional transportation planning organization. The county, city, or town plan shall be included in the regional commute trip reduction plan for regional transportation planning purposes, consistent with the rules established by the department of transportation in RCW 70.94.537.

(2) All other counties, cities, and towns may adopt and implement a commute trip reduction plan consistent with department of transportation rules established under RCW 70.94.537. Tribal governments are encouraged to adopt a commute trip reduction plan for their lands. State investment in voluntary commute trip reduction plans shall be limited to those areas that meet criteria developed by the commute trip reduction board.

(3) The department of ecology may, after consultation with the department of transportation, as part of the state implementation plan for areas that do not attain the national ambient air quality standards for carbon monoxide or ozone, require municipalities other than those identified in subsection (1) of this section to adopt and implement commute trip reduction plans if the department determines that such plans are necessary for attainment of said standards.

(4) A commute trip reduction plan shall be consistent with the rules established under RCW 70.94.537 and shall include but is not limited to (a) goals for reductions in the proportion of single-occupant vehicle commute trips consistent with the state goals established by the commute trip reduction board under RCW 70.94.537 and the regional commute trip reduction plan goals established in the regional commute trip reduction plan; (b) a description of the requirements for major public and private sector employers to implement commute trip reduction programs; (c) a commute trip reduction program for employees of the county, city, or town; and (d) means, consistent with rules established by the department of transportation, for determining base year values and progress toward meeting commute trip reduction plan goals. The plan shall be developed in consultation with local transit agencies, the applicable regional transportation planning organization, major employers, and other interested parties.

(5) The commute trip reduction plans adopted by counties, cities, and towns under this chapter shall be consistent with and may be incorporated in applicable state or regional transportation plans and local comprehensive plans and shall be coordinated, and consistent with, the commute trip reduc-

tion plans of counties, cities, or towns with which the county, city, or town has, in part, common borders or related regional issues. Such regional issues shall include assuring consistency in the treatment of employers who have worksites subject to the requirements of this chapter in more than one jurisdiction. Counties, cities, and towns adopting commute trip reduction plans may enter into agreements through the inter-local cooperation act or by resolution or ordinance as appropriate with other jurisdictions, local transit agencies, transportation management associations or other private or non-profit providers of transportation services, or regional transportation planning organizations to coordinate the development and implementation of such plans. Transit agencies shall work with counties, cities, and towns as a part of their six-year transit development plan established in RCW 35.58.2795 to take into account the location of major employer worksites when planning and prioritizing transit service changes or the expansion of public transportation services, including rideshare services. Counties, cities, or towns adopting a commute trip reduction plan shall review it annually and revise it as necessary to be consistent with applicable plans developed under RCW 36.70A.070. Regional transportation planning organizations shall review the local commute trip reduction plans during the development and update of the regional commute trip reduction plan.

(6) Each affected regional transportation planning organization shall adopt a commute trip reduction plan for its region consistent with the rules and deadline established by the department of transportation under RCW 70.94.537. The plan shall include, but is not limited to: (a) Regional program goals for commute trip reduction in urban growth areas and all designated growth and transportation efficiency centers; (b) a description of strategies for achieving the goals; (c) a sustainable financial plan describing projected revenues and expenditures to meet the goals; (d) a description of the way in which progress toward meeting the goals will be measured; and (e) minimum criteria for growth and transportation efficiency centers. (i) Regional transportation planning organizations shall review proposals from local jurisdictions to designate growth and transportation efficiency centers and shall determine whether the proposed growth and transportation efficiency center is consistent with the criteria defined in the regional commute trip reduction plan. (ii) Growth and transportation efficiency centers certified as consistent with the minimum requirements by the regional transportation planning organization shall be identified in subsequent updates of the regional commute trip reduction plan. These plans shall be developed in collaboration with all affected local jurisdictions, transit agencies, and other interested parties within the region. The plan will be reviewed and approved by [the] commute trip reduction board as established under RCW 70.94.537. Regions without an approved regional commute trip reduction plan shall not be eligible for state commute trip reduction program funds.

The regional commute trip reduction plan shall be consistent with and incorporated into transportation demand management components in the regional transportation plan as required by RCW 47.80.030.

(7) Each regional transportation planning organization implementing a regional commute trip reduction program shall, consistent with the rules and deadline established by

the department of transportation, submit its plan as well as any related local commute trip reduction plans and certified growth and transportation efficiency center programs, to the commute trip reduction board established under RCW 70.94.537. The commute trip reduction board shall review the regional commute trip reduction plan and the local commute trip reduction plans. The regional transportation planning organization shall collaborate with the commute trip reduction board to evaluate the consistency of local commute trip reduction plans with the regional commute trip reduction plan. Local and regional plans must be approved by the commute trip reduction board in order to be eligible for state funding provided for the purposes of this chapter.

(8) Each regional transportation planning organization implementing a regional commute trip reduction program shall submit an annual progress report to the commute trip reduction board established under RCW 70.94.537. The report shall be due at the end of each state fiscal year for which the program has been implemented. The report shall describe progress in attaining the applicable commute trip reduction goals and shall highlight any problems being encountered in achieving the goals. The information shall be reported in a form established by the commute trip reduction board.

(9) Any waivers or modifications of the requirements of a commute trip reduction plan granted by a jurisdiction shall be submitted for review to the commute trip reduction board established under RCW 70.94.537. The commute trip reduction board may not deny the granting of a waiver or modification of the requirements of a commute trip reduction plan by a jurisdiction but they may notify the jurisdiction of any comments or objections.

(10) Plans implemented under this section shall not apply to commute trips for seasonal agricultural employees.

(11) Plans implemented under this section shall not apply to construction worksites when the expected duration of the construction project is less than two years.

(12) If an affected urban growth area has not previously implemented a commute trip reduction program and the state has funded solutions to state highway deficiencies to address the area's exceeding the person hours of delay threshold, the affected urban growth area shall be exempt from the duties of this section for a period not exceeding two years. [2006 c 329 § 2; 1997 c 250 § 2; 1996 c 186 § 513; 1991 c 202 § 12.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 186:** See notes following RCW 43.330.904.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.528 Transportation demand management—Growth and transportation efficiency centers.** (1) A county, city, or town may, as part of its commute trip reduction plan, designate existing activity centers listed in its comprehensive plan or new activity centers as growth and transportation efficiency centers and establish a transportation demand management program in the designated area.

(a) The transportation demand management program for the growth and transportation efficiency center shall be developed in consultation with local transit agencies, the applicable regional transportation planning organization, major employers, and other interested parties.

(b) In order to be eligible for state funding provided for the purposes of this section, designated growth and transportation efficiency centers shall be certified by the applicable regional transportation organization to: (i) Meet the minimum land use and transportation criteria established in collaboration among local jurisdictions, transit agencies, the regional transportation planning organization, and other interested parties as part of the regional commute trip reduction plan; and (ii) have established a transportation demand management program that includes the elements identified in (c) of this subsection and is consistent with the rules established by the department of transportation in RCW 70.94.537(2). If a designated growth and transportation efficiency center is denied certification, the local jurisdiction may appeal the decision to the commute trip reduction board.

(c) Transportation demand management programs for growth and transportation efficiency centers shall include, but are not limited to: (i) Goals for reductions in the proportion of single-occupant vehicle trips that are more aggressive than the state program goal established by the commute trip reduction board; (ii) a sustainable financial plan demonstrating how the program can be implemented to meet state and regional trip reduction goals, indicating resources from public and private sources that are reasonably expected to be made available to carry out the plan, and recommending any innovative financing techniques consistent with chapter 47.29 RCW, including public/private partnerships, to finance needed facilities, services, and programs; (iii) a proposed organizational structure for implementing the program; (iv) a proposal to measure performance toward the goal and implementation progress; and (v) an evaluation to which local land use and transportation policies apply, including parking policies and ordinances, to determine the extent that they complement and support the trip reduction investments of major employers. Each of these program elements shall be consistent with the rules established under RCW 70.94.537.

(d) A designated growth and transportation efficiency center shall be consistent with the land use and transportation elements of the local comprehensive plan.

(e) Transit agencies, local governments, and regional transportation planning organizations shall identify certified growth and transportation efficiency centers as priority areas for new service and facility investments in their respective investment plans.

(2) A county, city, or town that has established a growth and transportation efficiency center program shall support vehicle trip reduction activities in the designated area. The implementing jurisdiction shall adopt policies, ordinances, and funding strategies that will lead to attainment of program goals in those areas. [2006 c 329 § 4.]

**70.94.531 Transportation demand management—Requirements for employers.** (1) State agency worksites are subject to the same requirements under this section and RCW 70.94.534 as private employers.

(2) Not more than ninety days after the adoption of a jurisdiction's commute trip reduction plan, each major employer in that jurisdiction shall perform a baseline measurement consistent with the rules established by the department of transportation under RCW 70.94.537. Not more than ninety days after receiving the results of the baseline mea-

surement, each major employer shall develop a commute trip reduction program and shall submit a description of that program to the jurisdiction for review. The program shall be implemented not more than ninety days after approval by the jurisdiction.

(3) A commute trip reduction program of a major employer shall consist of, at a minimum (a) designation of a transportation coordinator and the display of the name, location, and telephone number of the coordinator in a prominent manner at each affected worksite; (b) regular distribution of information to employees regarding alternatives to single-occupant vehicle commuting; (c) a regular review of employee commuting and reporting of progress toward meeting the single-occupant vehicle reduction goals to the county, city, or town consistent with the method established in the commute trip reduction plan and the rules established by the department of transportation under RCW 70.94.537; and (d) implementation of a set of measures designed to achieve the applicable commute trip reduction goals adopted by the jurisdiction. Such measures may include but are not limited to:

(i) Provision of preferential parking or reduced parking charges, or both, for high occupancy vehicles and motorcycles;

(ii) Instituting or increasing parking charges for single-occupant vehicles;

(iii) Provision of commuter ride matching services to facilitate employee ride sharing for commute trips;

(iv) Provision of subsidies for transit fares;

(v) Provision of vans for van pools;

(vi) Provision of subsidies for car pooling or van pooling;

(vii) Permitting the use of the employer's vehicles for car pooling or van pooling;

(viii) Permitting flexible work schedules to facilitate employees' use of transit, car pools, or van pools;

(ix) Cooperation with transportation providers to provide additional regular or express service to the worksite;

(x) Construction of special loading and unloading facilities for transit, car pool, and van pool users;

(xi) Provision of bicycle parking facilities, lockers, changing areas, and showers for employees who bicycle or walk to work;

(xii) Provision of a program of parking incentives such as a rebate for employees who do not use the parking facility;

(xiii) Establishment of a program to permit employees to work part or full time at home or at an alternative worksite closer to their homes;

(xiv) Establishment of a program of alternative work schedules such as compressed workweek schedules which reduce commuting; and

(xv) Implementation of other measures designed to facilitate the use of high occupancy vehicles such as on-site day care facilities and emergency taxi services.

(4) Employers or owners of worksites may form or utilize existing transportation management associations or other transportation-related associations authorized by RCW 35.87A.010 to assist members in developing and implementing commute trip reduction programs.

(5) Employers shall make a good faith effort towards achievement of the goals identified in RCW 70.94.527(4)(d).

[2013 c 26 § 1; 2006 c 329 § 5; 1997 c 250 § 3; (1995 2nd sp.s. c 14 § 530 expired June 30, 1997); 1991 c 202 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.534 Transportation demand management—Jurisdictions' review and penalties.** (1) Each jurisdiction implementing a commute trip reduction plan under this chapter or as part of a plan or ordinance developed under RCW 36.70A.070 shall review each employer's initial commute trip reduction program to determine if the program is likely to meet the applicable commute trip reduction goals. The employer shall be notified by the jurisdiction of its findings. If the jurisdiction finds that the program is not likely to meet the applicable commute trip reduction goals, the jurisdiction will work with the employer to modify the program as necessary. The jurisdiction shall complete review of each employer's initial commute trip reduction program within ninety days of receipt.

(2) Employers implementing commute trip reduction programs are expected to undertake good faith efforts to achieve the goals outlined in RCW 70.94.527(4). Employers are considered to be making a good faith effort if the following conditions have been met:

(a) The employer has met the minimum requirements identified in RCW 70.94.531;

(b) The employer has notified the jurisdiction of its intent to substantially change or modify its program and has either received the approval of the jurisdiction to do so or has acknowledged that its program may not be approved without additional modifications;

(c) The employer has provided adequate information and documentation of implementation when requested by the jurisdiction; and

(d) The employer is working collaboratively with its jurisdiction to continue its existing program or is developing and implementing program modifications likely to result in improvements to the program over an agreed upon length of time.

(3) Each jurisdiction shall review at least once every two years each employer's progress and good faith efforts toward meeting the applicable commute trip reduction goals. If an employer makes a good faith effort, as defined in this section, but is not likely to meet the applicable commute trip reduction goals, the jurisdiction shall work collaboratively with the employer to make modifications to the commute trip reduction program. Failure of an employer to reach the applicable commute trip reduction goals is not a violation of this chapter.

(4) If an employer fails to make a good faith effort and fails to meet the applicable commute trip reduction goals, the jurisdiction shall work collaboratively with the employer to propose modifications to the program and shall direct the employer to revise its program within thirty days to incorporate those modifications or modifications which the jurisdiction determines to be equivalent.

(5) Each jurisdiction implementing a commute trip reduction plan pursuant to this chapter may impose civil penalties, in the manner provided in chapter 7.80 RCW, for failure by an employer to implement a commute trip reduction program or to modify its commute trip reduction program as required in subsection (4) of this section. No major employer

may be held liable for civil penalties for failure to reach the applicable commute trip reduction goals. No major employer shall be liable for civil penalties under this chapter if failure to achieve a commute trip reduction program goal was the result of an inability to reach agreement with a certified collective bargaining agent under applicable laws where the issue was raised by the employer and pursued in good faith.

(6) Jurisdictions shall notify major employers of the procedures for applying for goal modification or exemption from the commute trip reduction requirements based on the guidelines established by the commute trip reduction board authorized under RCW 70.94.537. [2006 c 329 § 6; 1997 c 250 § 4; 1991 c 202 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.537 Transportation demand management—Commute trip reduction board.** (1) A sixteen member state commute trip reduction board is established as follows:

(a) The secretary of transportation or the secretary's designee who shall serve as chair;

(b) One representative from the office of financial management;

(c) The director or the director's designee of one of the following agencies, to be determined by the secretary of transportation:

(i) Department of enterprise services;

(ii) Department of ecology;

(iii) Department of commerce;

(d) Three representatives from cities and towns or counties appointed by the secretary of transportation for staggered four-year terms from a list recommended by the association of Washington cities or the Washington state association of counties;

(e) Two representatives from transit agencies appointed by the secretary of transportation for staggered four-year terms from a list recommended by the Washington state transit association;

(f) Two representatives from participating regional transportation planning organizations appointed by the secretary of transportation for staggered four-year terms;

(g) Four representatives of employers at or owners of major worksites in Washington, or transportation management associations, business improvement areas, or other transportation organizations representing employers, appointed by the secretary of transportation for staggered four-year terms; and

(h) Two citizens appointed by the secretary of transportation for staggered four-year terms.

Members of the commute trip reduction board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Members appointed by the secretary of transportation shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.220. The board has all powers necessary to carry out its duties as prescribed by this chapter.

(2) By March 1, 2007, the department of transportation shall establish rules for commute trip reduction plans and implementation procedures. The commute trip reduction board shall advise the department on the content of the rules. The rules are intended to ensure consistency in commute trip reduction plans and goals among jurisdictions while fairly

taking into account differences in employment and housing density, employer size, existing and anticipated levels of transit service, special employer circumstances, and other factors the board determines to be relevant. The rules shall include:

(a) Guidance criteria for growth and transportation efficiency centers;

(b) Data measurement methods and procedures for determining the efficacy of commute trip reduction activities and progress toward meeting commute trip reduction plan goals;

(c) Model commute trip reduction ordinances;

(d) Methods for assuring consistency in the treatment of employers who have worksites subject to the requirements of this chapter in more than one jurisdiction;

(e) An appeals process by which major employers, who as a result of special characteristics of their business or its locations would be unable to meet the requirements of a commute trip reduction plan, may obtain a waiver or modification of those requirements and criteria for determining eligibility for waiver or modification;

(f) Establishment of a process for determining the state's affected areas, including criteria and procedures for regional transportation planning organizations in consultation with local jurisdictions to propose to add or exempt urban growth areas;

(g) Listing of the affected areas of the program to be done every four years as identified in subsection (5) of this section;

(h) Establishment of a criteria and application process to determine whether jurisdictions that voluntarily implement commute trip reduction are eligible for state funding;

(i) Guidelines and deadlines for creating and updating local commute trip reduction plans, including guidance to ensure consistency between the local commute trip reduction plan and the transportation demand management strategies identified in the transportation element in the local comprehensive plan, as required by RCW 36.70A.070;

(j) Guidelines for creating and updating regional commute trip reduction plans, including guidance to ensure the regional commute trip reduction plan is consistent with and incorporated into transportation demand management components in the regional transportation plan;

(k) Methods for regional transportation planning organizations to evaluate and certify that designated growth and transportation efficiency center programs meet the minimum requirements and are eligible for funding;

(l) Guidelines for creating and updating growth and transportation efficiency center programs; and

(m) Establishment of statewide program goals. The goals shall be designed to achieve substantial reductions in the proportion of single-occupant vehicle commute trips and the commute trip vehicle miles traveled per employee, at a level that is projected to improve the mobility of people and goods by increasing the efficiency of the state highway system.

(3) The board shall create a state commute trip reduction plan that shall be updated every four years as discussed in subsection (5) of this section. The state commute trip reduction plan shall include, but is not limited to: (a) Statewide commute trip reduction program goals that are designed to substantially improve the mobility of people and goods; (b) identification of strategies at the state and regional levels to

achieve the goals and recommendations for how transportation demand management strategies can be targeted most effectively to support commute trip reduction program goals; (c) performance measures for assessing the cost-effectiveness of commute trip reduction strategies and the benefits for the state transportation system; and (d) a sustainable financial plan. The board shall review and approve regional commute trip reduction plans, and work collaboratively with regional transportation planning organizations in the establishment of the state commute trip reduction plan.

(4) The board shall work with affected jurisdictions, major employers, and other parties to develop and implement a public awareness campaign designed to increase the effectiveness of local commute trip reduction programs and support achievement of the objectives identified in this chapter.

(5) The board shall evaluate and update the commute trip reduction program plan and recommend changes to the rules every four years, with the first assessment report due July 1, 2011, to ensure that the latest data methodology used by the department of transportation is incorporated into the program and to determine which areas of the state should be affected by the program. The board shall review the definition of a major employer no later than December 1, 2009. The board shall regularly identify urban growth areas that are projected to be affected by chapter 329, Laws of 2006 in the next four-year period and may provide advance planning support to the potentially affected jurisdictions.

(6) The board shall review progress toward implementing commute trip reduction plans and programs and the costs and benefits of commute trip reduction plans and programs and shall make recommendations to the legislature and the governor by December 1, 2009, and every two years thereafter. In assessing the costs and benefits, the board shall consider the costs of not having implemented commute trip reduction plans and programs. The board shall examine other transportation demand management programs nationally and incorporate its findings into its recommendations to the legislature. The recommendations shall address the need for continuation, modification, or termination or any or all requirements of this chapter.

(7) The board shall invite personnel with appropriate expertise from state, regional, and local government, private, public, and nonprofit providers of transportation services, and employers or owners of major worksites in Washington to act as a technical advisory group. The technical advisory group shall advise the board on the implementation of local and regional commute trip reduction plans and programs, program evaluation, program funding allocations, and state rules and guidelines. [2015 c 225 § 104; 2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 26; 2006 c 329 § 7; 1997 c 250 § 5; 1996 c 186 § 514; 1995 c 399 § 188; 1991 c 202 § 15.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 72.23.025.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 186:** See notes following RCW 43.330.904.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.541 Transportation demand management—Technical assistance.** (1) The department of transportation shall provide staff support to the commute trip reduction board in carrying out the requirements of RCW 70.94.537.

(2) The department of transportation shall provide technical assistance to regional transportation planning organizations, counties, cities, towns, state agencies, as defined in RCW 40.06.010, and other employers in developing and implementing commute trip reduction plans and programs. The technical assistance shall include: (a) Guidance in single measurement methodology and practice to be used in determining progress in attaining plan goals; (b) developing model plans and programs appropriate to different situations; and (c) providing consistent training and informational materials for the implementation of commute trip reduction programs. Model plans and programs, training, and informational materials shall be developed in cooperation with representatives of regional transportation planning organizations, local governments, transit agencies, and employers.

(3) In carrying out this section the department of transportation may contract with statewide associations representing cities, towns, and counties to assist cities, towns, and counties in implementing commute trip reduction plans and programs. [2009 c 427 § 1; 2006 c 329 § 8; 1996 c 186 § 515; 1991 c 202 § 16.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 186:** See notes following RCW 43.330.904.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **70.94.544 Transportation demand management—**

**Use of funds.** A portion of the funds made available for the purposes of this chapter shall be used to fund the commute trip reduction board in carrying out the responsibilities of RCW 70.94.537, and the department of transportation, including the activities authorized under RCW 70.94.541(2), and to assist regional transportation planning organizations, counties, cities, and towns implementing commute trip reduction plans. The commute trip reduction board shall determine the allocation of program funds made available for the purposes of this chapter to regional transportation planning organizations, counties, cities, and towns implementing commute trip reduction plans. If state funds for the purposes of this chapter are provided to those jurisdictions implementing voluntary commute trip reduction plans, the funds shall be disbursed based on criteria established by the commute trip reduction board under RCW 70.94.537. [2006 c 329 § 9; 2001 c 74 § 1; 1991 c 202 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **70.94.547 Transportation demand management—**

**Intent—State leadership.** The legislature hereby recognizes the state's crucial leadership role in establishing and implementing effective commute trip reduction programs. Therefore, it is the policy of the state that the department of transportation and other state agencies, including institutions of higher education, shall aggressively develop substantive programs to reduce commute trips by state employees. Implementation of these programs will reduce energy consumption, congestion in urban areas, and air and water pollution associated with automobile travel. [2009 c 427 § 2; 2006 c 329 § 10; 1991 c 202 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2016 Ed.)

#### **70.94.551 Transportation demand management— State agencies—Joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan—Reports.**

(1) The secretary of the department of transportation may coordinate an interagency board or other interested parties for the purpose of developing policies or guidelines that promote consistency among state agency commute trip reduction programs required by RCW 70.94.527 and 70.94.531 or developed under the joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan described in this section. The board shall include representatives of the departments of transportation, enterprise services, ecology, and commerce and such other departments and interested groups as the secretary of the department of transportation determines to be necessary. Policies and guidelines shall be applicable to all state agencies including but not limited to policies and guidelines regarding parking and parking charges, employee incentives for commuting by other than single-occupant automobiles, flexible and alternative work schedules, alternative worksites, and the use of state-owned vehicles for car and van pools and guaranteed rides home. The policies and guidelines shall also consider the costs and benefits to state agencies of achieving commute trip reductions and consider mechanisms for funding state agency commute trip reduction programs.

(2) State agencies sharing a common location in affected urban growth areas where the total number of state employees is one hundred or more shall, with assistance from the department of transportation, develop and implement a joint commute trip reduction program. The worksite must be treated as specified in RCW 70.94.531 and 70.94.534.

(3) The department of transportation shall develop a joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan for all state agencies, including institutions of higher education, located in the Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater urban growth areas.

(a) In developing the joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan, the department of transportation shall work with applicable state agencies, including institutions of higher education, and shall collaborate with the following entities: Local jurisdictions; regional transportation planning organizations as described in chapter 47.80 RCW; transit agencies, including regional transit authorities as described in chapter 81.112 RCW and transit agencies that serve areas within twenty-five miles of the Olympia, Lacey, or Tumwater urban growth areas; and the capitol campus design advisory committee established in RCW 43.34.080.

(b) The joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan must build on existing commute trip reduction programs and policies. At a minimum, the joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan must include strategies for telework and flexible work schedules, parking management, and consideration of the impacts of worksite location and design on multimodal transportation options.

(c) The joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan must include performance measures and reporting methods and requirements.

(d) The joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan may include strategies to accommodate differences in worksite size and location.

(e) The joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan must be consistent with jurisdictional and regional transportation, land use, and commute trip reduction plans, the

state six-year facilities plan, and the master plan for the capitol of the state of Washington.

(f) Not more than ninety days after the adoption of the joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan, state agencies within the three urban growth areas must implement a commute trip reduction program consistent with the objectives and strategies of the joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan.

(4) The department of transportation shall review the initial commute trip reduction program of each state agency subject to the commute trip reduction plan for state agencies to determine if the program is likely to meet the applicable commute trip reduction goals and notify the agency of any deficiencies. If it is found that the program is not likely to meet the applicable commute trip reduction goals, the department of transportation will work with the agency to modify the program as necessary.

(5) Each state agency implementing a commute trip reduction plan shall report at least once per year to its agency director on the performance of the agency's commute trip reduction program as part of the agency's quality management, accountability, and performance system as defined by RCW 43.17.385. The reports shall assess the performance of the program, progress toward state goals established under RCW 70.94.537, and recommendations for improving the program.

(6) The department of transportation shall review the agency performance reports defined in subsection (5) of this section and submit a biennial report for state agencies subject to this chapter to the governor and incorporate the report in the commute trip reduction board report to the legislature as directed in RCW 70.94.537(6). The report shall include, but is not limited to, an evaluation of the most recent measurement results, progress toward state goals established under RCW 70.94.537, and recommendations for improving the performance of state agency commute trip reduction programs. The information shall be reported in a form established by the commute trip reduction board. [2015 c 225 § 105; 2009 c 427 § 3; 2006 c 329 § 11; 1997 c 250 § 6; 1996 c 186 § 516; 1991 c 202 § 19.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 186:** See notes following RCW 43.330.904.

*State vehicle parking account:* RCW 43.01.225.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.555 Transportation demand management—Collective bargaining powers unaffected.** Nothing in chapter 329, Laws of 2006 preempts the ability of state employees to collectively bargain over commute trip reduction issues, including parking fees under chapter 41.80 RCW, or the ability of private sector employees to collectively bargain over commute trip reduction issues if previously such issues were mandatory subjects of collective bargaining. [2006 c 329 § 3.]

**70.94.600 Reports of authorities to department of ecology—Contents.** All authorities in the state shall submit quarterly reports to the department of ecology detailing the current status of air pollution control regulations in the authority and, by county, the progress made toward bringing

all sources in the authority into compliance with authority standards. [1979 ex.s. c 30 § 14; 1969 ex.s. c 168 § 52.]

**70.94.605 Report to the legislature—Achieving attainment for areas of nonattainment. (Expires January 1, 2019.)** (1) The department of ecology and local air pollution control authorities shall report back to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature by December 31, 2014, and every two years thereafter, on progress toward achieving attainment for areas of nonattainment that the revised burn ban and prohibition requirements contained in RCW 70.94.473 and 70.94.477 were enacted to address, as well as whether other implementation tools are necessary to achieve attainment.

(2) This section expires January 1, 2019. [2012 c 219 § 3.]

**70.94.610 Burning used oil fuel in land-based facilities.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a person may not burn used oil as fuel in a land-based facility or in state waters unless the used oil meets the following standards:

- (a) Cadmium: 2 ppm maximum
- (b) Chromium: 10 ppm maximum
- (c) Lead: 100 ppm maximum
- (d) Arsenic: 5 ppm maximum
- (e) Total halogens: 1000 ppm maximum
- (f) Polychlorinated biphenyls: 2 ppm maximum
- (g) Ash: .1 percent maximum
- (h) Sulfur: 1.0 percent maximum
- (i) Flash point: 100 degrees Fahrenheit minimum.

(2) This section shall not apply to: (a) Used oil burned in space heaters if the space heater has a maximum heat output of not greater than 0.5 million btu's per hour or used oil burned in facilities permitted by the department or a local air pollution control authority; or (b) ocean-going vessels.

(3) This section shall not apply to persons in the business of collecting used oil from residences when under authorization by a city, county, or the utilities and transportation commission. [1991 c 319 § 311.]

**70.94.620 Metals mining and milling operations permits—Inspections by department of ecology.** If a metals mining and milling operation is issued a permit pursuant to this chapter, then it will be subject to special inspection requirements. The department of ecology shall inspect these mining operations at least quarterly in order to ensure that the operation is in compliance with the conditions of any permit issued to it pursuant to this chapter. The department shall conduct additional inspections during the construction phase of the mining and milling operation in order to ensure compliance with this chapter. [1994 c 232 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.640 Odors or fugitive dust caused by agricultural activities consistent with good agricultural practices exempt from chapter.** (1) Odors or fugitive dust caused by agricultural activity consistent with good agricultural practices on agricultural land are exempt from the requirements of this chapter unless they have a substantial adverse effect on public health. In determining whether agricultural activity

is consistent with good agricultural practices, the department of ecology or board of any authority shall consult with a recognized third-party expert in the activity prior to issuing any notice of violation.

(2) Any notice of violation issued under this chapter pertaining to odors or fugitive dust caused by agricultural activity shall include a statement as to why the activity is inconsistent with good agricultural practices, or a statement that the odors or fugitive dust have substantial adverse effect on public health.

(3) In any appeal to the pollution control hearings board or any judicial appeal, the agency issuing a final order pertaining to odors or fugitive dust caused by agricultural activity shall prove the activity is inconsistent with good agricultural practices or that the odors or fugitive dust have a substantial adverse impact on public health.

(4) If a person engaged in agricultural activity on a contiguous piece of agricultural land sells or has sold a portion of that land for residential purposes, the exemption of this section shall not apply.

(5) As used in this section:

(a) "Agricultural activity" means the growing, raising, or production of horticultural or viticultural crops, berries, poultry, livestock, shellfish, grain, mint, hay, and dairy products.

(b) "Good agricultural practices" means economically feasible practices which are customary among or appropriate to farms and ranches of a similar nature in the local area.

(c) "Agricultural land" means at least five acres of land devoted primarily to the commercial production of livestock, agricultural commodities, or cultured aquatic products.

(d) "Fugitive dust" means a particulate emission made airborne by human activity, forces of wind, or both, and which do not pass through a stack, chimney, vent, or other functionally equivalent opening.

(6) The exemption for fugitive dust provided in subsection (1) of this section does not apply to facilities subject to RCW 70.94.151 as specified in WAC 173-400-100 as of July 24, 2005, 70.94.152, or 70.94.161. [2005 c 511 § 4; 1981 c 297 § 30.]

**Legislative finding, intent—1981 c 297:** "The legislature finds that agricultural land is essential to providing citizens with food and fiber and to insuring aesthetic values through the preservation of open spaces in our state. The legislature further finds that government regulations can cause agricultural land to be converted to nonagricultural uses. The legislature intends that agricultural activity consistent with good practices be protected from government over-regulation." [1981 c 297 § 29.]

**Reviser's note:** The above legislative finding and intent section apparently applies to sections 30 and 31 of chapter 297, Laws of 1981, which sections have been codified pursuant to legislative direction as RCW 70.94.640 and 90.48.450, respectively.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.645 Ammonia emissions from use as agricultural or silvicultural fertilizer—Regulation prohibited.** The department shall not regulate ammonia emissions resulting from the storage, distribution, transport, or application of ammonia for use as an agricultural or silvicultural fertilizer. [1996 c 204 § 2.]

(2016 Ed.)

## OUTDOOR BURNING

**70.94.6511 Definition of "outdoor burning."** As used in this subchapter, "outdoor burning" means the combustion of material of any type in an open fire or in an outdoor container without providing for the control of combustion or the control of emissions from the combustion. [2009 c 118 § 101.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** "The purpose of this act is to make technical, nonsubstantive changes to outdoor burning provisions of the Washington clean air act, chapter 70.94 RCW, to improve clarity. No provision of this act may be construed as a substantive change to the Washington clean air act." [2009 c 118 § 1.]

**70.94.6512 Outdoor burning—Fires prohibited—Exceptions.** Except as provided in RCW 70.94.6546, no person shall cause or allow any outdoor fire:

(1) Containing garbage, dead animals, asphalt, petroleum products, paints, rubber products, plastics, or any substance other than natural vegetation that normally emits dense smoke or obnoxious odors. Agricultural heating devices that otherwise meet the requirements of this chapter shall not be considered outdoor fires under this section;

(2) During a forecast, alert, warning or emergency condition as defined in RCW 70.94.715 or impaired air quality condition as defined in RCW 70.94.473. [2009 c 118 § 102; 1995 c 362 § 2; 1991 c 199 § 410; 1974 ex.s. c 164 § 1; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 11 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 193 § 9. Formerly RCW 70.94.775.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.6514 Outdoor burning—Areas where prohibited—Exceptions—Use for management of storm or flood-related debris—Silvicultural burning.** (1) Consistent with the policy of the state to reduce outdoor burning to the greatest extent practical, outdoor burning shall not be allowed in:

(a) Any area of the state where federal or state ambient air quality standards are exceeded for pollutants emitted by outdoor burning; or

(b) Any urban growth area as defined by RCW 36.70A.030, or any city of the state having a population greater than ten thousand people if such cities are threatened to exceed state or federal air quality standards, and alternative disposal practices consistent with good solid waste management are reasonably available or practices eliminating production of organic refuse are reasonably available.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, outdoor burning may be allowed for the exclusive purpose of managing storm or flood-related debris. The decision to allow burning shall be made by the entity with permitting jurisdiction as determined under RCW 70.94.6534 or 70.94.6518. If outdoor burning is allowed in areas subject to subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section, a permit shall be required, and a fee may be collected to cover the expenses of administering and enforcing the permit. All conditions and restrictions pursuant to RCW 70.94.6526(1) and 70.94.6512 apply to outdoor burning allowed under this section.

(3)(a) Outdoor burning that is normal, necessary, and customary to ongoing agricultural activities, that is consistent

with agricultural burning authorized under RCW 70.94.6528 and 70.94.6532, is allowed within the urban growth area in accordance with RCW 70.94.6528(8)(a).

(b) Outdoor burning of cultivated orchard trees shall be allowed as an ongoing agricultural activity under this section in accordance with RCW 70.94.6528(8)(b).

(4) This section shall not apply to silvicultural burning used to improve or maintain fire dependent ecosystems for rare plants or animals within state, federal, and private natural area preserves, natural resource conservation areas, parks, and other wildlife areas. [2009 c 118 § 103; 2004 c 213 § 1; 2001 1st sp.s. c 12 § 1; 1998 c 68 § 1; 1997 c 225 § 1; 1991 c 199 § 402. Formerly RCW 70.94.743.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.6516 Outdoor burning—Permits issued by political subdivisions.** In addition to any other powers granted to them by law, the fire protection agency, county, or conservation district issuing burning permits shall regulate or prohibit outdoor burning as necessary to prevent or abate the nuisances caused by such burning. No fire protection agency, county, or conservation district may issue a burning permit in an area where the department or local board has declared any stage of impaired air quality per RCW 70.94.473 or any stage of an air pollution episode. All burning permits issued shall be subject to all applicable fee, permitting, penalty, and enforcement provisions of this chapter. The permitted burning shall not cause damage to public health or the environment.

Any entity issuing a permit under this section may charge a fee at the level necessary to recover the costs of administering and enforcing the permit program. [1991 c 199 § 411; 1973 1st ex.s. c 193 § 10. Formerly RCW 70.94.780.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.6518 Limited outdoor burning—Establishment of program.** Each activated air pollution control authority, and the department of ecology in those areas outside the jurisdictional boundaries of an activated air pollution control authority, shall establish, through regulations, ordinances, or policy, a program implementing the limited burning policy authorized by RCW 70.94.6514, 70.94.6518, 70.94.6520, 70.94.6522, 70.94.6524, and 70.94.6526. [2009 c 118 § 201; 1997 c 225 § 2; 1972 ex.s. c 136 § 4. Formerly RCW 70.94.755.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**70.94.6520 Limited outdoor burning—Construction.** Nothing contained in RCW 70.94.6514, 70.94.6518, 70.94.6520, 70.94.6522, 70.94.6524, and 70.94.6526 is intended to alter or change the provisions of RCW 70.94.6534, 70.94.710 through 70.94.730, and 76.04.205. [2009 c 118 § 202; 1986 c 100 § 55; 1972 ex.s. c 136 § 5. Formerly RCW 70.94.760.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**70.94.6522 Limited outdoor burning—Authority of local air pollution control authority or department of ecology to allow outdoor fires not restricted.** Nothing in RCW 70.94.6514, 70.94.6518, 70.94.6520, 70.94.6522,

70.94.6524, and 70.94.6526 shall be construed as prohibiting a local air pollution control authority or the department of ecology in those areas outside the jurisdictional boundaries of an activated pollution control authority from allowing the burning of outdoor fires. [2009 c 118 § 203; 1972 ex.s. c 136 § 6. Formerly RCW 70.94.765.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**70.94.6524 Limited outdoor burning—Program—Exceptions.** (1) It shall be the responsibility and duty of the department of natural resources, department of ecology, department of agriculture, fire districts, and local air pollution control authorities to establish, through regulations, ordinances, or policy, a limited burning permit program.

(2) The permit program shall apply to residential and land clearing burning in the following areas:

(a) In the nonurban areas of any county with an unincorporated population of greater than fifty thousand; and

(b) In any city and urban growth area that is not otherwise prohibited from burning pursuant to RCW 70.94.6514.

(3) The permit program shall apply only to land clearing burning in the nonurban areas of any county with an unincorporated population of less than fifty thousand.

(4) The permit program may be limited to a general permit by rule, or by verbal, written, or electronic approval by the permitting entity.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, neither a permit nor the payment of a fee shall be required for outdoor burning for the purpose of disposal of tumbleweeds blown by wind. Such burning shall not be conducted during an air pollution episode or any stage of impaired air quality declared under RCW 70.94.715. This subsection (5) shall only apply within counties with a population less than two hundred fifty thousand.

(6) Burning shall be prohibited in an area when an alternate technology or method of disposing of the organic refuse is available, reasonably economical, and less harmful to the environment. It is the policy of this state to foster and encourage development of alternate methods or technology for disposing of or reducing the amount of organic refuse.

(7) Incidental agricultural burning must be allowed without applying for any permit and without the payment of any fee if:

(a) The burning is incidental to commercial agricultural activities;

(b) The operator notifies the local fire department within the area where the burning is to be conducted;

(c) The burning does not occur during an air pollution episode or any stage of impaired air quality declared under RCW 70.94.715; and

(d) Only the following items are burned:

(i) Orchard prunings;

(ii) Organic debris along fence lines or irrigation or drainage ditches; or

(iii) Organic debris blown by wind.

(8) As used in this section, "nonurban areas" are unincorporated areas within a county that are not designated as urban growth areas under chapter 36.70A RCW.

(9) Nothing in this section shall require fire districts to enforce air quality requirements related to outdoor burning, unless the fire district enters into an agreement with the

department of ecology, department of natural resources, a local air pollution control authority, or other appropriate entity to provide such enforcement. [2009 c 118 § 301; 1995 c 206 § 1; 1991 c 199 § 401; 1972 ex.s. c 136 § 2. Formerly RCW 70.94.745.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.6526 Limited outdoor burning—Permits issued by political subdivisions—Types of fires permitted.**

The following outdoor fires described in this section may be burned subject to the provisions of this chapter and also subject to city ordinances, county resolutions, rules of fire districts and laws, and rules enforced by the department of natural resources if a permit has been issued by a fire protection agency, county, or conservation district:

(1) Fires consisting of leaves, clippings, prunings and other yard and gardening refuse originating on lands immediately adjacent and in close proximity to a human dwelling and burned on such lands by the property owner or his or her designee.

(2) Fires consisting of residue of a natural character such as trees, stumps, shrubbery or other natural vegetation arising from land clearing projects or agricultural pursuits for pest or disease control; except that the fires described in this subsection may be prohibited in those areas having a general population density of one thousand or more persons per square mile. [2009 c 118 § 302; 1991 c 199 § 412; 1972 ex.s. c 136 § 3. Formerly RCW 70.94.750.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.6528 Permits—Issuance—Conditioning of permits—Fees—Agricultural burning practices and research task force—Development of public education materials—Agricultural activities.**

(1) Any person who proposes to set fires in the course of agricultural activities shall obtain a permit from an air pollution control authority, the department of ecology, or a local entity delegated permitting authority under RCW 70.94.6530. General permit criteria of statewide applicability shall be established by the department, by rule, after consultation with the various air pollution control authorities.

(a) Permits shall be issued under this section based on seasonal operations or by individual operations, or both.

(b) Incidental agricultural burning consistent with provisions established in RCW 70.94.6524 is allowed without applying for any permit and without the payment of any fee.

(2) The department of ecology, local air authorities, or a local entity with delegated permit authority shall:

(a) Condition all permits to ensure that the public interest in air, water, and land pollution and safety to life and property is fully considered;

(b) Condition all burning permits to minimize air pollution insofar as practical;

(c) Act upon, within seven days from the date an application is filed under this section, an application for a permit to set fires in the course of agricultural burning for controlling diseases, insects, weed abatement, or development of physiological conditions conducive to increased crop yield;

(d) Provide convenient methods for issuance and oversight of agricultural burning permits; and

(e) Work, through agreement, with counties and cities to provide convenient methods for granting permission for agricultural burning, including telephone, facsimile transmission, issuance from local city or county offices, or other methods.

(3) A local air authority administering the permit program under subsection (2) of this section shall not limit the number of days of allowable agricultural burning, but may consider the time of year, meteorological conditions, and other criteria specified in rules adopted by the department to implement subsection (2) of this section.

(4) In addition to following any other requirements established by the department to protect air quality pursuant to other laws, applicants for permits must show that the setting of fires as requested is the most reasonable procedure to follow in safeguarding life or property under all circumstances or is otherwise reasonably necessary to successfully carry out the enterprise in which the applicant is engaged, or both. Nothing in this section relieves the applicant from obtaining permits, licenses, or other approvals required by any other law.

(5) The department of ecology, the appropriate local air authority, or a local entity with delegated permitting authority pursuant to RCW 70.94.6530 at the time the permit is issued shall assess and collect permit fees for burning under this section. All fees collected shall be deposited in the air pollution control account created in RCW 70.94.015, except for that portion of the fee necessary to cover local costs of administering a permit issued under this section. Fees shall be set by rule by the permitting agency at the level determined by the task force created by subsection (6) of this section, but fees for field burning shall not exceed three dollars and seventy-five cents per acre to be burned, or in the case of pile burning shall not exceed one dollar per ton of material burned.

(6) An agricultural burning practices and research task force shall be established under the direction of the department. The task force shall be composed of a representative from the department who shall serve as chair; one representative of eastern Washington local air authorities; three representatives of the agricultural community from different agricultural pursuits; one representative of the department of agriculture; two representatives from universities or colleges knowledgeable in agricultural issues; one representative of the public health or medical community; and one representative of the conservation districts. The task force shall:

(a) Identify best management practices for reducing air contaminant emissions from agricultural activities and provide such information to the department and local air authorities;

(b) Determine the level of fees to be assessed by the permitting agency pursuant to subsection (5) of this section, based upon the level necessary to cover the costs of administering and enforcing the permit programs, to provide funds for research into alternative methods to reduce emissions from such burning, and to the extent possible be consistent with fees charged for such burning permits in neighboring states. The fee level shall provide, to the extent possible, for lesser fees for permittees who use best management practices to minimize air contaminant emissions;

(c) Identify research needs related to minimizing emissions from agricultural burning and alternatives to such burning; and

(d) Make recommendations to the department on priorities for spending funds provided through this chapter for research into alternative methods to reduce emissions from agricultural burning.

(7) Conservation districts and the Washington State University agricultural extension program in conjunction with the department shall develop public education material for the agricultural community identifying the health and environmental effects of agricultural outdoor burning and providing technical assistance in alternatives to agricultural outdoor burning.

(8)(a) Outdoor burning that is normal, necessary, and customary to ongoing agricultural activities, that is consistent with agricultural burning authorized under this section and RCW 70.94.6532, is allowed within the urban growth area as described in RCW 70.94.6514 if the burning is not conducted during air quality episodes, or where a determination of impaired air quality has been made as provided in RCW 70.94.473, and the agricultural activities preceded the designation as an urban growth area.

(b) Outdoor burning of cultivated orchard trees, whether or not agricultural crops will be replanted on the land, shall be allowed as an ongoing agricultural activity under this section if a local horticultural pest and disease board formed under chapter 15.09 RCW, an extension office agent with Washington State University that has horticultural experience, or an entomologist employed by the department of agriculture, has determined in writing that burning is an appropriate method to prevent or control the spread of horticultural pests or diseases. [2010 c 70 § 1; 2009 c 118 § 401; 1998 c 43 § 1. Prior: 1995 c 362 § 1; 1995 c 58 § 1; 1994 c 28 § 2; 1993 c 353 § 1; 1991 c 199 § 408; 1971 ex.s. c 232 § 1. Formerly RCW 70.94.650.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.6530 Delegation of permit issuance and enforcement to political subdivisions.** Whenever an air pollution control authority, or the department of ecology for areas outside the jurisdictional boundaries of an activated air pollution control authority, shall find that any fire protection agency, county, or conservation district is capable of effectively administering the issuance and enforcement of permits for any or all of the kinds of burning identified in RCW 70.94.6528, 70.94.6546, and 70.94.6552 and desirous of doing so, the authority or the department of ecology, as appropriate, may delegate powers necessary for the issuance or enforcement, or both, of permits for any or all of the kinds of burning to the fire protection agency, county, or conservation district. Such delegation may be withdrawn by the authority or the department of ecology upon finding that the fire protection agency, county, or conservation district is not effectively administering the permit program. [2009 c 118 § 402; 1993 c 353 § 2; 1991 c 199 § 409; 1973 1st ex.s. c 193 § 6. Formerly RCW 70.94.654.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.6532 Open burning of grasses grown for seed—Alternatives—Studies—Deposit of permit fees in special grass seed burning account—Procedures—Limitations—Report.** It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that strong efforts should be made to minimize adverse effects on air quality from the open burning of field and turf grasses grown for seed. To such end this section is intended to promote the development of economical and practical alternate agricultural practices to such burning, and to provide for interim regulation of such burning until practical alternates are found.

(1) The department shall approve of a study or studies for the exploration and identification of economical and practical alternate agricultural practices to the open burning of field and turf grasses grown for seed. Any study conducted pursuant to this section shall be conducted by Washington State University. The university may not charge more than eight percent for administrative overhead. Prior to the issuance of any permit for such burning under RCW 70.94.6528, there shall be collected a fee not to exceed one dollar per acre of crop to be burned. Any such fees received by any authority shall be transferred to the department of ecology. The department of ecology shall deposit all such acreage fees in the general fund.

(2) The department shall allocate moneys annually for the support of any approved study or studies as provided for in subsection (1) of this section. The fee collected under subsection (1) of this section shall constitute the research portion of fees required under RCW 70.94.6528 for open burning of grass grown for seed.

(3) Whenever on the basis of information available to it, the department after public hearings have been conducted wherein testimony will be received and considered from interested parties wishing to testify shall conclude that any procedure, program, technique, or device constitutes a practical alternate agricultural practice to the open burning of field or turf grasses grown for seed, the department shall, by order, certify approval of such alternate. Thereafter, in any case which any such approved alternate is reasonably available, the open burning of field and turf grasses grown for seed shall be disallowed and no permit shall issue therefor.

(4) Until approved alternates become available, the department or the authority may limit the number of acres on a pro rata basis among those affected for which permits to burn will be issued in order to effectively control emissions from this source.

(5) Permits issued for burning of field and turf grasses may be conditioned to minimize emissions insofar as practical, including denial of permission to burn during periods of adverse meteorological conditions.

(6) Every two years until grass seed burning is prohibited, Washington State University may prepare a brief report assessing the potential of the university's research to result in economical and practical alternatives to grass seed burning. [2012 c 198 § 1; 2009 c 118 § 403; 1998 c 245 § 130; 1995 c 261 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 28; 1991 c 199 § 413; 1990 c 113 § 1; 1985 c 57 § 69; 1973 1st ex.s. c 193 § 7. Formerly RCW 70.94.656.]

**Effective date—2012 c 198:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2012." [2012 c 198 § 29.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

*Grass burning research advisory committee: Chapter 43.21E RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.94.6534 Burning permits for abating or prevention of forest fire hazards, management of ecosystems, instruction or silvicultural operations—Issuance.** (1) The department of natural resources shall have the responsibility for issuing and regulating burning permits required by it relating to the following activities for the protection of life or property and/or for the public health, safety, and welfare:

- (a) Abating a forest fire hazard;
- (b) Prevention of a fire hazard;
- (c) Instruction of public officials in methods of forest firefighting;
- (d) Any silvicultural operation to improve the forestlands of the state; and
- (e) Silvicultural burning used to improve or maintain fire dependent ecosystems for rare plants or animals within state, federal, and private natural area preserves, natural resource conservation areas, parks, and other wildlife areas.

(2) The department of natural resources shall not retain such authority, but it shall be the responsibility of the appropriate fire protection agency for permitting and regulating outdoor burning on lands where the department of natural resources does not have fire protection responsibility.

(3) Permit fees shall be assessed for silvicultural burning under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources and collected by the department of natural resources as provided for in this section. All fees shall be deposited in the air pollution control account, created in RCW 70.94.015. The legislature shall appropriate to the department of natural resources funds from the air pollution control account to enforce and administer the program under this section and RCW 70.94.6536, 70.94.6538, and 70.94.6540. Fees shall be set by rule by the department of natural resources at the level necessary to cover the costs of the program after receiving recommendations on such fees from the public. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 128; 2009 c 118 § 501; 1991 c 199 § 404; 1971 ex.s. c 232 § 2. Formerly RCW 70.94.660.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

*Burning permits, issuance, air pollution a factor: RCW 76.04.205.*

*Disposal of forest debris: RCW 76.04.650.*

**70.94.6536 Silvicultural forest burning—Reduce statewide emissions—Exemption—Monitoring program.** (1) The department of natural resources shall administer a program to reduce statewide emissions from silvicultural forest burning so as to achieve the following minimum objectives:

- (a) Twenty percent reduction by December 31, 1994 providing a ceiling for emissions until December 31, 2000; and
- (b) Fifty percent reduction by December 31, 2000 providing a ceiling for emissions thereafter.

Reductions shall be calculated from the average annual emissions level from calendar years 1985 to 1989, using the same methodology for both reduction and base year calculations.

(2016 Ed.)

(2) The department of natural resources, within twelve months after May 15, 1991, shall develop a plan, based upon the existing smoke management agreement to carry out the programs as described in this section in the most efficient, cost-effective manner possible. The plan shall be developed in consultation with the department of ecology, public and private landowners engaged in silvicultural forest burning, and representatives of the public.

The plan shall recognize the variations in silvicultural forest burning including, but not limited to, a landowner's responsibility to abate an extreme fire hazard under chapter 76.04 RCW and other objectives of burning, including abating and preventing a fire hazard, geographic region, climate, elevation and slope, proximity to populated areas, and diversity of land ownership. The plan shall establish priorities that the department of natural resources shall use to allocate allowable emissions, including but not limited to, silvicultural burning used to improve or maintain fire dependent ecosystems for rare plants or animals within state, federal, and private natural area preserves, natural resource conservation areas, parks, and other wildlife areas. The plan shall also recognize the real costs of the emissions program and recommend equitable fees to cover the costs of the program.

The emission reductions in this section are to apply to all forestlands including those owned and managed by the United States. If the United States does not participate in implementing the plan, the departments of natural resources and ecology shall use all appropriate and available methods or enforcement powers to ensure participation.

The plan shall include a tracking system designed to measure the degree of progress toward the emission reductions goals set in this section. The department of natural resources shall report annually to the department of ecology and the legislature on the status of the plan, emission reductions and progress toward meeting the objectives specified in this section, and the goals of this chapter and chapter 76.04 RCW.

(3) If the December 31, 1994, emission reductions targets in this section are not met, the department of natural resources, in consultation with the department of ecology, shall use its authority granted in this chapter and chapter 76.04 RCW to immediately limit emissions from such burning to the 1994 target levels and limit silvicultural forest burning in subsequent years to achieve equal annual incremental reductions so as to achieve the December 31, 2000, target level. If, as a result of the program established in this section, the emission reductions are met in 1994, but are not met by December 31, 2000, the department of natural resources in consultation with the department of ecology shall immediately limit silvicultural forest burning to reduce emissions from such burning to the December 31, 2000, target level in all subsequent years.

(4) Emissions from silvicultural burning in eastern Washington that is conducted for the purpose of restoring forest health or preventing the additional deterioration of forest health are exempt from the reduction targets and calculations in this section if the following conditions are met:

(a) The landowner submits a written request to the department identifying the location of the proposed burning and the nature of the forest health problem to be corrected. The request shall include a brief description of alternatives to

silvicultural burning and reasons why the landowner believes the alternatives not to be appropriate.

(b) The department determines that the proposed silvicultural burning operation is being conducted to restore forest health or prevent additional deterioration to forest health; meets the requirements of the state smoke management plan to protect public health, visibility, and the environment; and will not be conducted during an air pollution episode or during periods of impaired air quality in the vicinity of the proposed burn.

(c) Upon approval of the request by the department and before burning, the landowner is encouraged to notify the public in the vicinity of the burn of the general location and approximate time of ignition.

(5) The department of ecology may conduct a limited, seasonal ambient air quality monitoring program to measure the effects of forest health burning conducted under subsection (4) of this section. The monitoring program may be developed in consultation with the department of natural resources, private and public forest landowners, academic experts in forest health issues, and the general public. [1995 c 143 § 1; 1991 c 199 § 403. Formerly RCW 70.94.665.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.6538 Burning permits for abating or prevention of forest fire hazards, management of ecosystems, instruction or silvicultural operations—Conditions for issuance and use of permits—Air quality standards to be met—Alternate methods to lessen forest debris.** The department of natural resources in granting burning permits for fires for the purposes set forth in RCW 70.94.6534 shall condition the issuance and use of such permits to comply with air quality standards established by the department of ecology after full consultation with the department of natural resources. Such burning shall not cause the state air quality standards to be exceeded in the ambient air up to two thousand feet above ground level over critical areas designated by the department of ecology, otherwise subject to air pollution from other sources. Air quality standards shall be established and published by the department of ecology which shall also establish a procedure for advising the department of natural resources when and where air contaminant levels exceed or threaten to exceed the ambient air standards over such critical areas. The air quality shall be quantitatively measured by the department of ecology or the appropriate local air pollution control authority at established monitoring stations over such designated areas. Further, such permitted burning shall not cause damage to public health or the environment. All permits issued under this section shall be subject to all applicable fees, permitting, penalty, and enforcement provisions of this chapter. The department of natural resources shall set forth smoke dispersal objectives designed consistent with this section to minimize any air pollution from such burning and the procedures necessary to meet those objectives.

The department of natural resources shall encourage more intense utilization in logging and alternative silviculture practices to reduce the need for burning. The department of natural resources shall, whenever practical, encourage landowners to develop and use alternative acceptable disposal methods subject to the following priorities: (1) Slash production minimization, (2) slash utilization, (3) nonburning dis-

posal, (4) silvicultural burning. Such alternative methods shall be evaluated as to the relative impact on air, water, and land pollution, public health, and their financial feasibility.

The department of natural resources shall not issue burning permits and shall revoke previously issued permits at any time in any area where the department of ecology or local board has declared a stage of impaired air quality as defined in RCW 70.94.473. [2009 c 118 § 502; 1991 c 199 § 405; 1971 ex.s. c 232 § 3. Formerly RCW 70.94.670.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.6540 Cooperation between department of natural resources and state, local, or regional air pollution authorities—Withholding of permits.** In the regulation of outdoor burning not included in RCW 70.94.6534 requiring permits from the department of natural resources, said department and the state, local, or regional air pollution control authorities will cooperate in regulating such burning so as to minimize insofar as possible duplicate inspections and separate permits while still accomplishing the objectives and responsibilities of the respective agencies. The department of natural resources shall include any local authority's burning regulations with permits issued where applicable pursuant to RCW 70.94.6512, 70.94.6514, 70.94.6518, 70.94.6520, 70.94.6522, 70.94.6524, and 70.94.6526. The department shall develop agreements with all local authorities to coordinate regulations.

Permits shall be withheld by the department of natural resources when so requested by the department of ecology if a forecast, alert, warning, or emergency condition exists as defined in the episode criteria of the department of ecology. [2009 c 118 § 503; 1991 c 199 § 406; 1971 ex.s. c 232 § 5. Formerly RCW 70.94.690.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.6542 Adoption of rules.** The department of natural resources and the department of ecology may adopt rules necessary to implement their respective responsibilities under the provisions of RCW 70.94.6528, 70.94.6530, 70.94.6532, 70.94.6534, 70.94.6536, 70.94.6538, 70.94.6540, 70.94.6542, and 70.94.6544. [2009 c 118 § 504; 1971 ex.s. c 232 § 6. Formerly RCW 70.94.700.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**70.94.6544 Burning permits for regeneration of rare and endangered plants.** Nothing in this chapter prohibits fires necessary to promote the regeneration of rare and endangered plants found within natural area preserves as identified under chapter 79.70 RCW. Permits issued for burning under this section shall be drafted to minimize emissions including denial of permission to burn during periods of adverse meteorological conditions. [2009 c 118 § 703; 1991 c 199 § 407. Formerly RCW 70.94.651.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.6546 Aircraft crash rescue fire training—Training to fight structural fires—Training to fight forest fires—Other firefighter instruction.** (1) Aircraft crash rescue fire training activities meeting the following conditions do not require a permit under this section, or under RCW 70.94.6512, 70.94.6514, 70.94.6516, 70.94.6518, 70.94.6520, 70.94.6522, 70.94.6524, and 70.94.6526, from an air pollution control authority, the department, or any local entity with delegated permit authority:

(a) Firefighters participating in the training fires must be limited to those who provide firefighting support to an airport that is either certified by the federal aviation administration or operated in support of military or governmental activities;

(b) The fire training may not be conducted during an air pollution episode or any stage of impaired air quality declared under RCW 70.94.715 for the area where training is to be conducted;

(c) The number of training fires allowed per year without a permit shall be the minimum number necessary to meet federal aviation administration or other federal safety requirements;

(d) The facility shall use current technology and be operated in a manner that will minimize, to the extent possible, the air contaminants generated during operation; and

(e) The organization conducting training shall notify both the: (i) Local fire district or fire department; and (ii) air pollution control authority, department of ecology, or local entity delegated permitting authority under RCW 70.94.6530, having jurisdiction within the area where training is to be conducted before the commencement of aircraft fire training. Written approval from the department or a local air pollution control authority shall be obtained prior to the initial operation of aircraft crash rescue fire training. Such approval will be granted to fire training activities meeting the conditions in this subsection.

(2) Aircraft crash rescue fire training activities conducted in compliance with subsection (1) of this section are not subject to the prohibition, in RCW 70.94.6512(1), of outdoor fires containing petroleum products and are not considered outdoor burning under RCW 70.94.6512, 70.94.6514, 70.94.6516, 70.94.6518, 70.94.6520, 70.94.6522, 70.94.6524, and 70.94.6526.

(3) Training to fight structural fires located outside urban growth areas in counties that plan under the requirements of RCW 36.70A.040 and outside of any city with a population of ten thousand or more in all other counties does not need a permit under this section from an air pollution control authority or the department of ecology, but must be conducted in accordance with RCW 52.12.150.

(4) Training to fight forest fires does not require a permit from an air pollution control authority or the department of ecology.

(5) To provide for firefighting instruction in instances not governed by subsections (1) through (3) of this section, or other actions to protect public health and safety, the department or a local air pollution control authority may issue permits that allow limited burning of prohibited materials listed in RCW 70.94.6512(1). [2009 c 118 § 601.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

(2016 Ed.)

**70.94.6548 Outdoor burning allowed for managing storm or flood-related debris.** Consistent with RCW 70.94.6514, outdoor burning may be allowed anywhere in the state for the exclusive purpose of managing storm or flood-related debris. [2009 c 118 § 701.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**70.94.6550 Fires necessary for Indian ceremonies or smoke signals.** Nothing in this chapter prohibits fires necessary for Indian ceremonies or for the sending of smoke signals if part of a religious ritual. Permits issued for burning under this section shall be drafted to minimize emissions including denial of permission to burn during periods of adverse meteorological conditions. [2009 c 118 § 702.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**70.94.6552 Permit to set fires for weed abatement.** Any person who proposes to set fires in the course of weed abatement shall obtain a permit from an air pollution control authority, the department of ecology, or a local entity delegated permitting authority under RCW 70.94.6530. General permit criteria of statewide applicability shall be established by the department, by rule, after consultation with the various air pollution control authorities. Permits shall be issued under this section based on seasonal operations or by individual operations, or both. All permits shall be conditioned to insure that the public interest in air, water, and land pollution and safety to life and property is fully considered. In addition to any other requirements established by the department to protect air quality pursuant to other laws, applicants for permits must show that the setting of fires as requested is the most reasonable procedure to follow in safeguarding life or property under all circumstances or is otherwise reasonably necessary to successfully carry out the enterprise in which the applicant is engaged, or both. All burning permits will be designed to minimize air pollution insofar as practical. Nothing in this section relieves the applicant from obtaining permits, licenses, or other approvals required by any other law. An application for a permit to set fires in the course of weed abatement shall be acted upon within seven days from the date such application is filed. [2009 c 118 § 704.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**70.94.6554 Disposal of tumbleweeds.** Consistent with RCW 70.94.6524, neither a permit nor the payment of a fee shall be required for outdoor burning for the purpose of disposal of tumbleweeds blown by wind. Such burning shall not be conducted during an air pollution episode or any stage of impaired air quality declared under RCW 70.94.715. This section shall only apply within counties with a population less than two hundred fifty thousand. [2009 c 118 § 705.]

**Purpose—2009 c 118:** See note following RCW 70.94.6511.

**70.94.710 Air pollution episodes—Legislative finding—Declaration of policy.** The legislature finds that whenever meteorological conditions occur which reduce the effective volume of air into which air contaminants are introduced, there is a high danger that normal operations at air contaminant sources in the area affected will be detrimental to public health or safety. Whenever such conditions, herein denominated as air pollution episodes, are forecast, there is a need

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for rapid short-term emission reduction in order to avoid adverse health or safety consequences.

Therefore, it is declared to be the policy of this state that an episode avoidance plan should be developed and implemented for the temporary reduction of emissions during air pollution episodes.

It is further declared that power should be vested in the governor to issue emergency orders for the reduction or discontinuance of emissions when such emissions and weather combine to create conditions imminently dangerous to public health and safety. [1971 ex.s. c 194 § 1.]

**70.94.715 Air pollution episodes—Episode avoidance plan—Contents—Source emission reduction plans—Authority—Considered orders.** The department of ecology is hereby authorized to develop an episode avoidance plan providing for the phased reduction of emissions wherever and whenever an air pollution episode is forecast. Such an episode avoidance plan shall conform with any applicable federal standards and shall be effective statewide. The episode avoidance plan may be implemented on an area basis in accordance with the occurrence of air pollution episodes in any given area.

The department of ecology may delegate authority to adopt source emission reduction plans and authority to implement all stages of occurrence up to and including the warning stage, and all intermediate stages up to the warning stage, in any area of the state, to the air pollution control authority with jurisdiction therein.

The episode avoidance plan, which shall be established by regulation in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) The designation of episode criteria and stages, the occurrence of which will require the carrying out of pre-planned episode avoidance procedures. The stages of occurrence shall be (a) forecast, (b) alert, (c) warning, (d) emergency, and such intermediate stages as the department shall designate. "Forecast" means the presence of meteorological conditions that are conducive to accumulation of air contaminants and is the first stage of an episode. The department shall not call a forecast episode prior to the department or an authority calling a first stage impaired air quality condition as provided by RCW 70.94.473(1)(b) or calling a single-stage impaired air quality condition as provided by \*RCW 70.94.473(2). "Alert" means concentration of air contaminants at levels at which short-term health effects may occur, and is the second stage of an episode. "Warning" means concentrations are continuing to degrade, contaminant concentrations have reached a level which, if maintained, can result in damage to health, and additional control actions are needed and is the third level of an episode. "Emergency" means the air quality is posing an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health and is the fourth level of an episode;

(2) The requirement that persons responsible for the operation of air contaminant sources prepare and obtain approval from the director of source emission reduction plans, consistent with good operating practice and safe operating procedures, for reducing emissions during designated episode stages;

(3) Provision for the director of the department of ecology or his or her authorized representative, or the air pollu-

tion control officer if implementation has been delegated, on the satisfaction of applicable criteria, to declare and terminate the forecast, alert, warning and all intermediate stages, up to the warning episode stage, such declarations constituting orders for action in accordance with applicable source emission reduction plans;

(4) Provision for the governor to declare and terminate the emergency stage and all intermediate stages above the warning episode stage, such declarations constituting orders in accordance with applicable source emission reduction plans;

(5) Provisions for enforcement by state and local police, personnel of the departments of ecology and social and health services, and personnel of local air pollution control agencies; and

(6) Provisions for reduction or discontinuance of emissions immediately, consistent with good operating practice and safe operating procedures, under an air pollution emergency as provided in RCW 70.94.720.

Source emission reduction plans shall be considered orders of the department and shall be subject to appeal to the pollution control hearings board according to the procedure in chapter 43.21B RCW. [2012 c 117 § 409; 1990 c 128 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 194 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.94.473 was amended by 1995 c 205 § 1, which deleted subsection (2).

**70.94.720 Air pollution episodes—Declaration of air pollution emergency by governor.** Whenever the governor finds that emissions from the operation of one or more air contaminant sources is causing imminent danger to public health or safety, he or she may declare an air pollution emergency and may order the person or persons responsible for the operation of such air contaminant source or sources to reduce or discontinue emissions consistent with good operating practice, safe operating procedures, and source emission reduction plans, if any, adopted by the department of ecology or any local air pollution control authority to which the department of ecology has delegated authority to adopt emission reduction plans. Orders authorized by this section shall be in writing and may be issued without prior notice or hearing. In the absence of the governor, any findings, declarations, and orders authorized by this section may be made and issued by his or her authorized representative. [2012 c 117 § 410; 1971 ex.s. c 194 § 3.]

**70.94.725 Air pollution episodes—Restraining orders, temporary injunctions to enforce orders—Procedure.** Whenever any order has been issued pursuant to RCW 70.94.710 through 70.94.730, the attorney general, upon request from the governor, the director of the department of ecology, an authorized representative of either, or the attorney for a local air pollution control authority upon request of the control officer, shall petition the superior court of the county in which is located the air contaminant source for which such order was issued for a temporary restraining order requiring the immediate reduction or discontinuance of emissions from such source.

Upon request of the party to whom a temporary restraining order is directed, the court shall schedule a hearing thereon at its earliest convenience, at which time the court

may withdraw the restraining order or grant such temporary injunction as is reasonably necessary to prevent injury to the public health or safety. [1971 ex.s. c 194 § 4.]

**70.94.730 Air pollution episodes—Orders to be effective immediately.** Orders issued to declare any stage of an air pollution episode avoidance plan under RCW 70.94.715, and to declare an air pollution emergency, under RCW 70.94.720, and orders to persons responsible for the operation of an air contaminant source to reduce or discontinue emissions, according to RCW 70.94.715 and 70.94.720 shall be effective immediately and shall not be stayed pending completion of review. [1971 ex.s. c 194 § 5.]

**70.94.785 Plans approved pursuant to federal clean air act—Enforcement authority.** Notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, except \*RCW 70.94.660 through 70.94.690, the department of ecology, upon its approval of any plan (or part thereof) required or permitted under the federal clean air act, shall have the authority to enforce all regulatory provisions within such plan (or part thereof): PROVIDED, That departmental enforcement of any such provision which is within the power of an activated authority to enforce shall be initiated only, when with respect to any source, the authority is not enforcing the provisions and then only after written notice is given the authority. [1973 1st ex.s. c 193 § 11.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.94.660 through 70.94.690 were recodified as RCW 70.94.6534 through 70.94.6540 respectively pursuant to 2009 c 118 § 802.

**70.94.800 Legislative declaration—Intent.** The legislature recognizes that:

(1) Acid deposition resulting from commercial, industrial or other emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides pose a threat to the delicate balance of the state's ecological systems, particularly in alpine lakes that are known to be highly sensitive to acidification;

(2) Failure to act promptly and decisively to mitigate or eliminate this danger may soon result in untold and irreparable damage to the fish, forest, wildlife, agricultural, water, and recreational resources of this state;

(3) There is a direct correlation between emissions of sulphur dioxides and nitrogen oxides and increases in acid deposition;

(4) Acidification is cumulative; and

(5) Once an environment is acidified, it is difficult, if not impossible, to restore the natural balance.

It is therefore the intent of the legislature to provide for early detection of acidification and the resulting environmental degradation through continued monitoring of acid deposition levels and trends, and major source changes, so that the legislature can take any necessary action to prevent environmental degradation resulting from acid deposition. [1985 c 456 § 1; 1984 c 277 § 1.]

**70.94.805 Definitions.** As used in RCW 70.94.800 through \*70.94.825, the following terms have the following meanings.

(2016 Ed.)

(1) "Acid deposition" means wet or dry deposition from the atmosphere of chemical compounds with a pH of less than 5.6.

(2) "Critical level of acid deposition and lake, stream, and soil acidification" means the level at which irreparable damage may occur unless corrective action is taken. [1985 c 456 § 2; 1984 c 277 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.94.810, 70.94.815, and 70.94.825 were repealed by 1991 c 199 § 718.

**70.94.820 Monitoring by department of ecology.** The department of ecology shall maintain a program of periodic monitoring of acid rain deposition and lake, stream, and soil acidification to ensure early detection of acidification and environmental degradation. [1987 c 505 § 61; 1985 c 456 § 5; 1984 c 277 § 6.]

**70.94.850 Emission credits banking program—Amount of credit.** The department of ecology and the local boards may implement an emission credits banking program. For the purposes of this section, an emission credits banking program means a program whereby an air contaminant source which reduces emissions of a given air contaminant by an amount greater than that required by applicable law, regulation, or order is granted credit for a given amount, which credit shall be administered by a credit bank operated by the appropriate agency. The amount of the credit shall be determined by the department or local board with jurisdiction, but it shall be less than the amount of the emissions reduction. The credit may be used, traded, sold, or otherwise expended for purposes established by regulation of state or local agencies consistent with the provisions of the prevention of significant deterioration program under RCW 70.94.860, the bubble program under RCW 70.94.155, and the new source review program under RCW 70.94.152, if there will be no net adverse impact on air quality. [1984 c 164 § 1.]

**70.94.860 Department of ecology may accept delegation of programs.** The department of ecology may accept delegation of programs as provided for in the federal clean air act. Subject to federal approval, the department may, in turn, delegate such programs to the local authority with jurisdiction in a given area. [1991 c 199 § 312; 1984 c 164 § 2.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.875 Evaluation of information on acid deposition in Pacific Northwest—Establishment of critical levels—Notification of legislature.** The department of ecology, in consultation with the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and of the senate, shall:

(1) Continue evaluation of information and research on acid deposition in the Pacific Northwest region;

(2) Establish critical levels of acid deposition and lake, stream, and soil acidification; and

(3) Notify the legislature if acid deposition or lake, stream, and soil acidification reaches the levels established under subsection (2) of this section. [1991 c 199 § 313; 1985 c 456 § 3.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.880 Establishment of critical deposition and acidification levels—Considerations.** In establishing critical levels of acid deposition and lake, stream, and soil acidification, the department of ecology shall consider:

- (1) Current acid deposition and lake, stream, and soil acidification levels;
- (2) Changes in acid deposition and lake, stream, and soil acidification levels;
- (3) Effects of acid deposition and lake, stream, and soil acidification on the environment; and
- (4) The need to prevent environmental degradation. [1985 c 456 § 4.]

**70.94.892 Carbon dioxide mitigation—Fees.** (1) For fossil-fueled electric generation facilities having more than twenty-five thousand kilowatts station generating capability but less than three hundred fifty thousand kilowatts station generating capability, except for fossil-fueled floating thermal electric generation facilities under the jurisdiction of the energy facility site evaluation council pursuant to RCW 80.50.010, the department or authority shall implement a carbon dioxide mitigation program consistent with the requirements of chapter 80.70 RCW.

(2) For mitigation projects conducted directly by or under the control of the applicant, the department or local air authority shall approve or deny the mitigation plans, as part of its action to approve or deny an application submitted under RCW 70.94.152 based upon whether or not the mitigation plan is consistent with the requirements of chapter 80.70 RCW.

(3) The department or authority may determine, assess, and collect fees sufficient to cover the costs to review and approve or deny the carbon dioxide mitigation plan components of an order of approval issued under RCW 70.94.152. The department or authority may also collect fees sufficient to cover its additional costs to monitor conformance with the carbon dioxide mitigation plan components of the registration and air operating permit programs authorized in RCW 70.94.151 and 70.94.161. The department or authority shall track its costs related to review, approval, and monitoring conformance with carbon dioxide mitigation plans. [2004 c 224 § 8.]

**70.94.901 Construction—1967 c 238.** This 1967 amendatory act shall not be construed to create in any way nor to enlarge, diminish or otherwise affect in any way any private rights in any civil action for damages. Any determination that there has been a violation of the provisions of this 1967 amendatory act or of any ordinance, rule, regulation or order issued pursuant thereto, shall not create by reason thereof any presumption or finding of fact or of law for use in any lawsuit brought by a private citizen. [1967 c 238 § 65.]

**70.94.902 Construction, repeal of RCW 70.94.061 through 70.94.066—Saving.** The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:

- (1) Section 7, chapter 238, Laws of 1967, and RCW 70.94.061;
- (2) Section 8, chapter 238, Laws of 1967, and RCW 70.94.062;

[Title 70 RCW—page 262]

(3) Section 9, chapter 238, Laws of 1967, and RCW 70.94.064; and

(4) Section 10, chapter 238, Laws of 1967, and RCW 70.94.066.

Such repeals shall not be construed as affecting any authority in existence on April 24, 1969, nor as affecting any action, activities or proceedings initiated by such authority prior hereto, nor as affecting any civil or criminal proceedings instituted by such authority, nor any rule, regulation, resolution, ordinance, or order promulgated by such authority, nor any administrative action taken by such authority, nor the term of office, or appointment or employment of any person appointed or employed by such authority. [1969 ex.s. c 168 § 46.]

**70.94.904 Effective dates—1991 c 199.** Sections 602 and 603 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1992. Sections 202 through 209 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1993. Sections 210 and 505 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1992.

The remainder of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately. [1991 c 199 § 717.]

**70.94.911 Severability—1967 c 238.** If any phrase, clause, subsection or section of this 1967 amendatory act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall be conclusively presumed that the legislature would have enacted this act without the phrase, clause, subsection or section so held unconstitutional or invalid and the remainder of the act shall not be affected as a result of said part being held unconstitutional or invalid. [1967 c 238 § 64.]

**70.94.960 Clean fuel matching grants for public transit, vehicle mechanics, and refueling infrastructure.** The department may disburse matching grants from funds provided by the legislature from the air pollution control account, created in RCW 70.94.015, to units of local government to partially offset the additional cost of purchasing "clean fuel" and/or operating "clean-fuel vehicles" provided that such vehicles are used for public transit. Publicly owned school buses are considered public transit for the purposes of this section. The department may also disburse grants to vocational-technical institutes for the purpose of establishing programs to certify clean-fuel vehicle mechanics. The department may also distribute grants to Washington State University for the purpose of furthering the establishment of clean fuel refueling infrastructure. [1996 c 186 § 517; 1991 c 199 § 218.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 186:** See notes following RCW 43.330.904.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

*Clean fuel:* RCW 70.120.210.

*Refueling:* RCW 80.28.280.

*State vehicles:* RCW 43.19.637.

**70.94.970 Chlorofluorocarbons—Ozone—Refrigerants regulated.** (1) Regulated refrigerant means a class I or class II substance as listed in Title VI of section 602 of the federal clean air act amendments of November 15, 1990.

(2) A person who services or repairs or disposes of a motor vehicle air conditioning system; commercial or industrial air conditioning, heating, or refrigeration system; or consumer appliance shall use refrigerant extraction equipment to recover regulated refrigerant that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere. This subsection does not apply to off-road commercial equipment.

(3) Upon request, the department shall provide information and assistance to persons interested in collecting, transporting, or recycling regulated refrigerants.

(4) The willful release of regulated refrigerant from a source listed in subsection (2) of this section is prohibited. [1991 c 199 § 602.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) The release of chlorofluorocarbons and other ozone-depleting chemicals into the atmosphere contributes to the destruction of stratospheric ozone and threatens plant and animal life with harmful overexposure to ultraviolet radiation;

(2) The technology and equipment to extract and recover chlorofluorocarbons and other ozone-depleting chemicals from air conditioners, refrigerators, and other appliances are available;

(3) A number of nonessential consumer products contain ozone-depleting chemicals; and

(4) Unnecessary releases of chlorofluorocarbons and other ozone-depleting chemicals from these sources should be eliminated." [1991 c 199 § 601.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.980 Refrigerants—Unlawful acts.** No person may sell, offer for sale, or purchase any of the following:

(1) A regulated refrigerant in a container designed for consumer recharge of a motor vehicle air conditioning system or consumer appliance during repair or service. This subsection does not apply to a regulated refrigerant purchased for the recharge of the air conditioning system of off-road commercial or agricultural equipment and sold or offered for sale at an establishment which specializes in the sale of off-road commercial or agricultural equipment or parts or service for such equipment;

(2) Nonessential consumer products that contain chlorofluorocarbons or other ozone-depleting chemicals, and for which substitutes are readily available. Products affected under this subsection shall include, but are not limited to, party streamers, tire inflators, air horns, noise makers, and chlorofluorocarbon-containing cleaning sprays designed for noncommercial or nonindustrial cleaning of electronic or photographic equipment. [1991 c 199 § 603.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**70.94.990 Refrigerants—Rules—Enforcement provisions, limitations.** The department shall adopt rules to implement RCW 70.94.970 and 70.94.980. Rules shall include but not be limited to minimum performance specifications for refrigerant extraction equipment, as well as procedures for enforcing RCW 70.94.970 and 70.94.980.

Enforcement provisions adopted by the department shall not include penalties or fines in areas where equipment to collect or recycle regulated refrigerants is not readily available. [1991 c 199 § 604.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

(2016 Ed.)

**70.94.991 Stationary natural gas engines used in combined heat and power systems—Permitting process—Emission limits.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature for a general permit or permit by rule adopted by the department under this section to streamline the permitting process for a stationary natural gas engine used in a combined heat and power system. It is the further intent of the legislature that a general permit or permit by rule be adopted and implemented as the permitting mechanism for the new construction of a combined heat and power system.

(2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Natural gas" includes: Naturally occurring mixtures of hydrocarbon gases and vapors consisting principally of methane, whether in gaseous or liquid form; and biogas derived from landfills, wastewater treatment facilities, anaerobic digesters, and other sources of organic decomposition that have been purified to meet standards for natural gas derived from fossil fuel sources.

(b) "Stationary natural gas engine" includes any stationary, natural gas internal combustion engine, whether it is an internal combustion reciprocating engine or a gas turbine. The term does not include a natural gas engine that powers a motor vehicle or other mobile source.

(3) This section applies only to a stationary natural gas engine used in a combined heat and power system.

(4) The department shall issue a general permit or permit by rule for new stationary natural gas engines used in a combined heat and power system that establishes emission limits for air contaminants released by the engines.

(5) In adopting a general permit or permit by rule under this section, the department may consider:

(a) The geographic location in which a stationary natural gas engine may be used, including the proximity to an area designated as a nonattainment area;

(b) The total annual operating hours of a stationary natural gas engine;

(c) The technology used by a stationary natural gas engine;

(d) Whether the stationary natural gas engine will be a major stationary source or part of a new or modified major stationary source as those terms are utilized in Title I of the federal clean air act; and

(e) Other relevant emission control or clean air policies of the state.

(6) In addition to emission limits required by federal and state laws, the department must provide for the emission limits for stationary natural gas engines subject to this section to be measured in terms of air contaminant emissions per United States environmental protection agency unit of energy output. The department shall consider both the primary and secondary functions when determining the engine's emissions per unit of energy output. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 19 § 13.]

**Finding—Intent—2015 3rd sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

**70.94.992 Boiler or process heaters—Assessment and reporting requirements.** (1) An owner or operator of an industrial, commercial, or institutional boiler or process heater required to complete an energy assessment under 40 C.F.R. Part 63 subpart DDDDD shall:

[Title 70 RCW—page 263]

(a) By January 31, 2018, submit nonproprietary information reported in the energy assessment electronically to the department or air pollution control authority that issues the air operating permit for the source, following completion of the assessment; and

(b) By January 31, 2018, submit a report electronically to the Washington State University extension energy program that identifies, if applicable, the economic, technical, and other barriers to implementing thermal efficiency opportunities identified in the energy assessment.

(2) An owner or operator of an industrial, commercial, or institutional boiler or process heater who has not completed an energy assessment under 40 C.F.R. Part 63 subpart DDDDD must request a free combined heat and power site qualification screening from the United States department of energy.

(3) The requirements established in this section shall not apply to an owner or operator of an industrial, commercial, or institutional boiler or process heater if:

(a) The owner or operator is not required to complete an energy assessment under 40 C.F.R. Part 63 subpart DDDDD as it existed on October 9, 2015; or

(b) Prior to the dates in subsection (1) of this section, the owner or operator is no longer required to complete an energy assessment under 40 C.F.R. Part 63 subpart DDDDD. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 19 § 14.]

**Finding—Intent—2015 3rd sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

### Chapter 70.95 RCW

## SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT—REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

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- 70.95.810 Composting food and yard wastes—Grants and study.
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*Airports: RCW 70.93.095.*

*Commercial fertilizer: Chapter 15.54 RCW.*

*Environmental certification programs—Fees—Rules—Liability: RCW 43.21A.175.*

*Marinas: RCW 70.93.095.*

*Solid waste collection tax: Chapter 82.18 RCW.*

*State parks: RCW 79A.05.045.*

*Waste reduction, recycling, litter control: Chapter 70.93 RCW.*

### **70.95.010 Legislative finding—Priorities—Goals.**

The legislature finds:

(1) Continuing technological changes in methods of manufacture, packaging, and marketing of consumer products, together with the economic and population growth of this state, the rising affluence of its citizens, and its expanding industrial activity have created new and ever-mounting problems involving disposal of garbage, refuse, and solid waste materials resulting from domestic, agricultural, and industrial activities.

(2) Traditional methods of disposing of solid wastes in this state are no longer adequate to meet the ever-increasing problem. Improper methods and practices of handling and disposal of solid wastes pollute our land, air and water resources, blight our countryside, adversely affect land values, and damage the overall quality of our environment.

(3) Considerations of natural resource limitations, energy shortages, economics and the environment make necessary the development and implementation of solid waste recovery and/or recycling plans and programs.

(4) Waste reduction must become a fundamental strategy of solid waste management. It is therefore necessary to change manufacturing and purchasing practices and waste generation behaviors to reduce the amount of waste that becomes a governmental responsibility.

(5) Source separation of waste must become a fundamental strategy of solid waste management. Collection and handling strategies should have, as an ultimate goal, the source separation of all materials with resource value or environmental hazard.

(6)(a) It should be the goal of every person and business to minimize their production of wastes and to separate recyclable or hazardous materials from mixed waste.

(b) It is the responsibility of state, county, and city governments to provide for a waste management infrastructure to fully implement waste reduction and source separation strategies and to process and dispose of remaining wastes in a manner that is environmentally safe and economically sound. It is further the responsibility of state, county, and city governments to monitor the cost-effectiveness and environmental safety of combusting separated waste, processing mixed municipal solid waste, and recycling programs.

(c) It is the responsibility of county and city governments to assume primary responsibility for solid waste management and to develop and implement aggressive and effective waste reduction and source separation strategies.

(d) It is the responsibility of state government to ensure that local governments are providing adequate source reduction and separation opportunities and incentives to all, including persons in both rural and urban areas, and nonresidential waste generators such as commercial, industrial, and institutional entities, recognizing the need to provide flexibility to accommodate differing population densities, distances to and availability of recycling markets, and collection and disposal costs in each community; and to provide county and city governments with adequate technical resources to accomplish this responsibility.

(7) Environmental and economic considerations in solving the state's solid waste management problems requires strong consideration by local governments of regional solutions and intergovernmental cooperation.

(8) The following priorities for the collection, handling, and management of solid waste are necessary and should be followed in descending order as applicable:

(a) Waste reduction;

(b) Recycling, with source separation of recyclable materials as the preferred method;

(c) Energy recovery, incineration, or landfill of separated waste;

(d) Energy recovery, incineration, or landfill of mixed municipal solid wastes.

(9) It is the state's goal to achieve a fifty percent recycling rate by 2007.

(10) It is the state's goal that programs be established to eliminate residential or commercial yard debris in landfills by 2012 in those areas where alternatives to disposal are readily available and effective.

(11) Steps should be taken to make recycling at least as affordable and convenient to the ratepayer as mixed waste disposal.

(12) It is necessary to compile and maintain adequate data on the types and quantities of solid waste that are being generated and to monitor how the various types of solid waste are being managed.

(13) Vehicle batteries should be recycled and the disposal of vehicle batteries into landfills or incinerators should be discontinued.

(14) Excessive and nonrecyclable packaging of products should be avoided.

(15) Comprehensive education should be conducted throughout the state so that people are informed of the need to reduce, source separate, and recycle solid waste.

(16) All governmental entities in the state should set an example by implementing aggressive waste reduction and recycling programs at their workplaces and by purchasing products that are made from recycled materials and are recyclable.

(17) To ensure the safe and efficient operations of solid waste disposal facilities, it is necessary for operators and regulators of landfills and incinerators to receive training and certification.

(18) It is necessary to provide adequate funding to all levels of government so that successful waste reduction and recycling programs can be implemented.

(19) The development of stable and expanding markets for recyclable materials is critical to the long-term success of the state's recycling goals. Market development must be encouraged on a state, regional, and national basis to maximize its effectiveness. The state shall assume primary responsibility for the development of a multifaceted market development program to carry out the purposes of this act.

(20) There is an imperative need to anticipate, plan for, and accomplish effective storage, control, recovery, and recycling of discarded tires and other problem wastes with the subsequent conservation of resources and energy. [2002 c 299 § 3; 1989 c 431 § 1; 1985 c 345 § 1; 1984 c 123 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 41 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 1.]

**70.95.020 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish a comprehensive statewide program for solid waste handling, and solid waste recovery and/or recycling which will prevent land, air, and water pollution and conserve the natural, economic, and energy resources of this state. To this end it is the purpose of this chapter:

(1) To assign primary responsibility for adequate solid waste handling to local government, reserving to the state, however, those functions necessary to assure effective programs throughout the state;

(2) To provide for adequate planning for solid waste handling by local government;

(3) To provide for the adoption and enforcement of basic minimum performance standards for solid waste handling, including that all sites where recyclable materials are generated and transported from shall provide a separate container for solid waste;

(4) To encourage the development and operation of waste recycling facilities needed to accomplish the management priority of waste recycling, to promote consistency in the requirements for such facilities throughout the state, and to ensure that recyclable materials diverted from the waste stream for recycling are routed to facilities in which recycling occurs;

(5) To provide technical and financial assistance to local governments in the planning, development, and conduct of solid waste handling programs;

(6) To encourage storage, proper disposal, and recycling of discarded vehicle tires and to stimulate private recycling programs throughout the state; and

(7) To encourage the development and operation of waste recycling facilities and activities needed to accomplish the management priority of waste recycling and to promote consistency in the permitting requirements for such facilities and activities throughout the state.

It is the intent of the legislature that local governments be encouraged to use the expertise of private industry and to contract with private industry to the fullest extent possible to carry out solid waste recovery and/or recycling programs. [2005 c 394 § 2. Prior: 1998 c 156 § 1; 1998 c 90 § 1; 1985 c 345 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 41 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 2.]

**Intent—Severability—2005 c 394:** See notes following RCW 70.95.400.

**70.95.030 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise:

(1) "City" means every incorporated city and town.

(2) "Commission" means the utilities and transportation commission.

(3) "Composted material" means organic solid waste that has been subjected to controlled aerobic degradation at a solid waste facility in compliance with the requirements of this chapter. Natural decay of organic solid waste under uncontrolled conditions does not result in composted material.

(4) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(5) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology.

(6) "Disposal site" means the location where any final treatment, utilization, processing, or deposit of solid waste occurs.

(7) "Energy recovery" means a process operating under federal and state environmental laws and regulations for converting solid waste into usable energy and for reducing the volume of solid waste.

(8) "Functional standards" means criteria for solid waste handling expressed in terms of expected performance or solid waste handling functions.

(9) "Incineration" means a process of reducing the volume of solid waste operating under federal and state environmental laws and regulations by use of an enclosed device using controlled flame combustion.

(10) "Inert waste landfill" means a landfill that receives only inert waste, as determined under RCW 70.95.065, and includes facilities that use inert wastes as a component of fill.

(11) "Jurisdictional health department" means city, county, city-county, or district public health department.

(12) "Landfill" means a disposal facility or part of a facility at which solid waste is placed in or on land and which is not a land treatment facility.

(13) "Local government" means a city, town, or county.

(14) "Modify" means to substantially change the design or operational plans including, but not limited to, removal of a design element previously set forth in a permit application or the addition of a disposal or processing activity that is not approved in the permit.

(15) "Multiple-family residence" means any structure housing two or more dwelling units.

(16) "Person" means individual, firm, association, copartnership, political subdivision, government agency, municipality, industry, public or private corporation, or any other entity whatsoever.

(17) "Recyclable materials" means those solid wastes that are separated for recycling or reuse, such as papers, metals, and glass, that are identified as recyclable material pursuant to a local comprehensive solid waste plan. Prior to the adoption of the local comprehensive solid waste plan, adopted pursuant to RCW 70.95.110(2), local governments may identify recyclable materials by ordinance from July 23, 1989.

(18) "Recycling" means transforming or remanufacturing waste materials into usable or marketable materials for use other than landfill disposal or incineration.

(19) "Residence" means the regular dwelling place of an individual or individuals.

(20) "Sewage sludge" means a semisolid substance consisting of settled sewage solids combined with varying amounts of water and dissolved materials, generated from a wastewater treatment system, that does not meet the requirements of chapter 70.95J RCW.

(21) "Soil amendment" means any substance that is intended to improve the physical characteristics of the soil, except composted material, commercial fertilizers, agricultural liming agents, unmanipulated animal manures, unmanipulated vegetable manures, food wastes, food processing wastes, and materials exempted by rule of the department, such as biosolids as defined in chapter 70.95J RCW and wastewater as regulated in chapter 90.48 RCW.

(22) "Solid waste" or "wastes" means all putrescible and nonputrescible solid and semisolid wastes including, but not limited to, garbage, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, swill, sewage sludge, demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, and recyclable materials.

(23) "Solid waste handling" means the management, storage, collection, transportation, treatment, utilization, processing, and final disposal of solid wastes, including the recovery and recycling of materials from solid wastes, the recovery of energy resources from solid wastes or the conversion of the energy in solid wastes to more useful forms or combinations thereof.

(24) "Source separation" means the separation of different kinds of solid waste at the place where the waste originates.

(25) "Vehicle" includes every device physically capable of being moved upon a public or private highway, road, street, or watercourse and in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public or private highway, road, street, or watercourse, except devices moved by human or animal power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

(26) "Waste-derived soil amendment" means any soil amendment as defined in this chapter that is derived from solid waste as defined in this section, but does not include biosolids or biosolids products regulated under chapter 70.95J RCW or wastewaters regulated under chapter 90.48 RCW.

(27) "Waste reduction" means reducing the amount or toxicity of waste generated or reusing materials.

(28) "Yard debris" means plant material commonly created in the course of maintaining yards and gardens, and through horticulture, gardening, landscaping, or similar activities. Yard debris includes but is not limited to grass clippings, leaves, branches, brush, weeds, flowers, roots, windfall fruit, vegetable garden debris, holiday trees, and tree prunings four inches or less in diameter. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 86; 2004 c 101 § 1; 2002 c 299 § 4; 1998 c 36 § 17; 1997 c 213 § 1; 1992 c 174 § 16; 1991 c 298 § 2; 1989 c 431 § 2; 1985 c 345 § 3; 1984 c 123 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 41 § 3; 1970 ex.s. c 62 § 60; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

**Intent—1998 c 36:** See RCW 15.54.265.

**Finding—1991 c 298:** "The legislature finds that curbside recycling services should be provided in multiple-family residences. The county and city comprehensive solid waste management plans should include provisions for such service." [1991 c 298 § 1.]

*Solid waste disposal—Powers and duties of state board of health as to environmental contaminants:* RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.055 Environmental excellence program agreements—Effect on chapter.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any legal requirement under this chapter, including any standard, limitation, rule, or order is superseded and replaced in accordance with the terms and provisions of an environmental excellence program agreement, entered into under chapter 43.21K RCW. [1997 c 381 § 22.]

**Purpose—1997 c 381:** See RCW 43.21K.005.

**70.95.060 Standards for solid waste handling—Areas—Landfill location.** (1) The department shall adopt rules establishing minimum functional standards for solid waste handling, consistent with the standards specified in this section. The department may classify areas of the state with respect to population density, climate, geology, status under a quarantine as defined in RCW 17.24.007, and other relevant factors bearing on solid waste disposal standards.

(2) In addition to the minimum functional standards adopted by the department under subsection (1) of this section, each landfill facility whose area at its design capacity will exceed one hundred acres and whose horizontal height at design capacity will average one hundred feet or more above existing site elevations shall comply with the standards of this subsection. This subsection applies only to wholly new solid waste landfill facilities, no part or unit of which has had construction commence before April 27, 1999.

(a) No landfill specified in this subsection may be located:

(i) So that the active area is closer than five miles to any national park or a public or private nonprofit zoological park displaying native animals in their native habitats; or

(ii) Over a sole source aquifer designated under the federal safe drinking water act, if such designation was effective before January 1, 1999.

(b) Each landfill specified in this subsection (2) shall be constructed with an impermeable berm around the entire perimeter of the active area of the landfill of such height, thickness, and design as will be sufficient to contain all material disposed in the event of a complete failure of the struc-

tural integrity of the landfill. [2016 c 119 § 1; 1999 c 116 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.065 Inert waste landfills.** (1) The department shall, as part of the minimum functional standards for solid waste handling required under RCW 70.95.060, develop specific criteria for the types of solid wastes that are allowed to be received by inert waste landfills that seek to continue operation after February 10, 2003.

(2) The criteria for inert waste developed under this section must, at a minimum, contain a list of substances that an inert waste landfill located in a county with fewer than forty-five thousand residents is permitted to receive if it was operational before February 10, 2003, and is located at a site with a five-year annual rainfall of twenty-five inches or less. The substances permitted for the inert waste landfills satisfying the criteria listed in this subsection must include the following types of solid waste if the waste has not been tainted, through exposure from chemical, physical, biological, or radiological substances, such that it presents a threat to human health or the environment greater than that inherent to the material:

- (a) Cured concrete, including any embedded steel reinforcing and wood;
- (b) Asphaltic materials, including road construction asphalt;
- (c) Brick and masonry;
- (d) Ceramic materials produced from fired clay or porcelain;
- (e) Glass;
- (f) Stainless steel and aluminum; and
- (g) Other materials as defined in chapter 173-350 WAC.

(3) The department shall work with the owner or operators of landfills that do not meet the minimum functional standards for inert waste landfills to explore and implement appropriate means of transition into a limited purpose landfill that is able to accept additional materials as specified in WAC 173-350-400. [2004 c 101 § 2.]

**70.95.075 Implementation of standards—Assessment—Analyses—Proposals.** In order to implement the minimum functional standards for solid waste handling, evaluate the effectiveness of the minimum functional standards, evaluate the cost of implementation, and develop a mechanism to finance the implementation, the department shall prepare:

(1) An assessment of local health agencies' information on all existing permitted landfill sites, including (a) measures taken and facilities installed at each landfill to mitigate surface water and groundwater contamination, (b) proposed measures taken and facilities to be constructed at each landfill to mitigate surface water and groundwater contamination, and (c) the costs of such measures and facilities;

(2) An analysis of the effectiveness of the minimum functional standards for new landfills in lessening surface water and groundwater contamination, and a comparison with the effectiveness of the prior standards;

(3) An analysis of the costs of conforming with the new functional standards for new landfills compared with the costs of conforming to the prior standards; and

(4) Proposals for methods of financing the costs of conforming with the new functional standards. [1986 c 81 § 1.]

**70.95.080 County comprehensive solid waste management plan—Joint plans—Requirements when updating—Duties of cities.** (1) Each county within the state, in cooperation with the various cities located within such county, shall prepare a coordinated, comprehensive solid waste management plan. Such plan may cover two or more counties. The purpose is to plan for solid waste and materials reduction, collection, and handling and management services and programs throughout the state, as designed to meet the unique needs of each county and city in the state. When updating a solid waste management plan developed under this chapter, after June 10, 2010, local comprehensive plans must consider and plan for the following handling methods or services:

- (a) Source separation of recyclable materials and products, organic materials, and wastes by generators;
- (b) Collection of source separated materials;
- (c) Handling and proper preparation of materials for reuse or recycling;
- (d) Handling and proper preparation of organic materials for composting or anaerobic digestion; and
- (e) Handling and proper disposal of nonrecyclable wastes.

(2) When updating a solid waste management plan developed under this chapter, after June 10, 2010, each local comprehensive plan must, at a minimum, consider methods that will be used to address the following:

- (a) Construction and demolition waste for recycling or reuse;
- (b) Organic material including yard debris, food waste, and food contaminated paper products for composting or anaerobic digestion;
- (c) Recoverable paper products for recycling;
- (d) Metals, glass, and plastics for recycling; and
- (e) Waste reduction strategies.

(3) Each city shall:

(a) Prepare and deliver to the county auditor of the county in which it is located its plan for its own solid waste management for integration into the comprehensive county plan;

(b) Enter into an agreement with the county pursuant to which the city shall participate in preparing a joint city-county plan for solid waste management; or

(c) Authorize the county to prepare a plan for the city's solid waste management for inclusion in the comprehensive county plan.

(4) Two or more cities may prepare a plan for inclusion in the county plan. With prior notification of its home county of its intent, a city in one county may enter into an agreement with a city in an adjoining county, or with an adjoining county, or both, to prepare a joint plan for solid waste management to become part of the comprehensive plan of both counties.

(5) After consultation with representatives of the cities and counties, the department shall establish a schedule for the development of the comprehensive plans for solid waste management. In preparing such a schedule, the department

shall take into account the probable cost of such plans to the cities and counties.

(6) Local governments shall not be required to include a hazardous waste element in their solid waste management plans. [2010 c 154 § 2; 1985 c 448 § 17; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 8.]

**Intent—2010 c 154:** "Increasing available residential curbside service for solid waste, recyclable, and compostable materials provides enumerable public benefits for all of Washington. Not only will increased service provide better system-wide efficiency, but it will also result in job creation, pollution reduction, and energy conservation, all of which serve to improve the quality of life in Washington communities.

It is therefore the intent of the legislature that Washington strive[s] to significantly increase current residential recycling rates by 2020." [2010 c 154 § 1.]

**Scope of authority—2010 c 154:** "Nothing in this act changes or limits the authority of the Washington utilities and transportation commission to regulate collection of solid waste, including curbside collection of residential recyclable materials, nor does this act change or limit the authority of a city or town to provide such service itself or by contract under RCW 81.77.020." [2010 c 154 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.090 County and city comprehensive solid waste management plans—Contents.** Each county and city comprehensive solid waste management plan shall include the following:

(1) A detailed inventory and description of all existing solid waste handling facilities including an inventory of any deficiencies in meeting current solid waste handling needs.

(2) The estimated long-range needs for solid waste handling facilities projected twenty years into the future.

(3) A program for the orderly development of solid waste handling facilities in a manner consistent with the plans for the entire county which shall:

(a) Meet the minimum functional standards for solid waste handling adopted by the department and all laws and regulations relating to air and water pollution, fire prevention, flood control, and protection of public health;

(b) Take into account the comprehensive land use plan of each jurisdiction;

(c) Contain a six year construction and capital acquisition program for solid waste handling facilities; and

(d) Contain a plan for financing both capital costs and operational expenditures of the proposed solid waste management system.

(4) A program for surveillance and control.

(5) A current inventory and description of solid waste collection needs and operations within each respective jurisdiction which shall include:

(a) Any franchise for solid waste collection granted by the utilities and transportation commission in the respective jurisdictions including the name of the holder of the franchise and the address of his or her place of business and the area covered by the franchise;

(b) Any city solid waste operation within the county and the boundaries of such operation;

(c) The population density of each area serviced by a city operation or by a franchised operation within the respective jurisdictions;

(d) The projected solid waste collection needs for the respective jurisdictions for the next six years.

(2016 Ed.)

(6) A comprehensive waste reduction and recycling element that, in accordance with the priorities established in RCW 70.95.010, provides programs that (a) reduce the amount of waste generated, (b) provide incentives and mechanisms for source separation, and (c) establish recycling opportunities for the source separated waste.

(7) The waste reduction and recycling element shall include the following:

(a) Waste reduction strategies;

(b) Source separation strategies, including:

(i) Programs for the collection of source separated materials from residences in urban and rural areas. In urban areas, these programs shall include collection of source separated recyclable materials from single and multiple-family residences, unless the department approves an alternative program, according to the criteria in the planning guidelines. Such criteria shall include: Anticipated recovery rates and levels of public participation, availability of environmentally sound disposal capacity, access to markets for recyclable materials, unreasonable cost impacts on the ratepayer over the six-year planning period, utilization of environmentally sound waste reduction and recycling technologies, and other factors as appropriate. In rural areas, these programs shall include but not be limited to drop-off boxes, buy-back centers, or a combination of both, at each solid waste transfer, processing, or disposal site, or at locations convenient to the residents of the county. The drop-off boxes and buy-back centers may be owned or operated by public, nonprofit, or private persons;

(ii) Programs to monitor the collection of source separated waste at nonresidential sites where there is sufficient density to sustain a program;

(iii) Programs to collect yard waste, if the county or city submitting the plan finds that there are adequate markets or capacity for composted yard waste within or near the service area to consume the majority of the material collected; and

(iv) Programs to educate and promote the concepts of waste reduction and recycling;

(c) Recycling strategies, including a description of markets for recyclables, a review of waste generation trends, a description of waste composition, a discussion and description of existing programs and any additional programs needed to assist public and private sector recycling, and an implementation schedule for the designation of specific materials to be collected for recycling, and for the provision of recycling collection services;

(d) Other information the county or city submitting the plan determines is necessary.

(8) An assessment of the plan's impact on the costs of solid waste collection. The assessment shall be prepared in conformance with guidelines established by the utilities and transportation commission. The commission shall cooperate with the Washington state association of counties and the association of Washington cities in establishing such guidelines.

(9) A review of potential areas that meet the criteria as outlined in RCW 70.95.165. [1991 c 298 § 3; 1989 c 431 § 3; 1984 c 123 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 293 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 9.]

**Finding—1991 c 298:** See note following RCW 70.95.030.

*Certain provisions not to detract from utilities and transportation commission powers, duties, and functions: RCW 80.01.300.*

**70.95.092 County and city comprehensive solid waste management plans—Levels of service, reduction and recycling.** Levels of service shall be defined in the waste reduction and recycling element of each local comprehensive solid waste management plan and shall include the services set forth in RCW 70.95.090. In determining which service level is provided to residential and nonresidential waste generators in each community, counties and cities shall develop clear criteria for designating areas as urban or rural. In designating urban areas, local governments shall consider the planning guidelines adopted by the department, total population, population density, and any applicable land use or utility service plans. [1989 c 431 § 4.]

**70.95.094 County and city comprehensive solid waste management plans—Review and approval process.** (1) The department and local governments preparing plans are encouraged to work cooperatively during plan development. Each county and city preparing a comprehensive solid waste management plan shall submit a preliminary draft plan to the department for technical review. The department shall review and comment on the draft plan within one hundred twenty days of receipt. The department's comments shall state specific actions or revisions that must be completed for plan approval.

(2) Each final draft solid waste management plan shall be submitted to the department for approval. The department will limit its comments on the final draft plans to those issues identified during its review of the draft plan and any other changes made between submittal of the preliminary draft and final draft plans. Disapproval of the local comprehensive solid waste management plan shall be supported by specific findings. A final draft plan shall be deemed approved if the department does not disapprove it within forty-five days of receipt.

(3) If the department disapproves a plan or any plan amendments, the submitting entity may appeal the decision to the pollution control hearings board as provided in RCW 43.21B.230. The appeal shall be limited to review of the specific findings which supported the disapproval under subsection (2) of this section. [2010 c 210 § 17; 1989 c 431 § 8.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.95.095 County and city comprehensive solid waste management plans—Review by department of agriculture.** Upon receipt by the department of a preliminary draft plan as provided in RCW 70.95.094, the department shall immediately provide a copy of the preliminary draft plan to the department of agriculture. Within forty-five days after receiving the preliminary draft plan, the department of agriculture shall review the preliminary draft plan for compliance with chapter 17.24 RCW and the rules adopted under that chapter. The department of agriculture shall advise the local government submitting the preliminary draft plan and the department of the result of the review. [2016 c 119 § 3.]

**70.95.096 Utilities and transportation commission to review local plan's assessment of cost impacts on rates.** Upon receipt, the department shall immediately provide the utilities and transportation commission with a copy of each

preliminary draft local comprehensive solid waste management plan. Within forty-five days after receiving a plan, the commission shall have reviewed the plan's assessment of solid waste collection cost impacts on rates charged by solid waste collection companies regulated under chapter 81.77 RCW and shall advise the county or city submitting the plan and the department of the probable effect of the plan's recommendations on those rates. [1989 c 431 § 12.]

**70.95.100 Technical assistance for plan preparation—Guidelines—Informational materials and programs.** (1) The department or the commission, as appropriate, shall provide to counties and cities technical assistance including, but not limited to, planning guidelines, in the preparation, review, and revision of solid waste management plans required by this chapter. Guidelines prepared under this section shall be consistent with the provisions of this chapter. Guidelines for the preparation of the waste reduction and recycling element of the comprehensive solid waste management plan shall be completed by the department by March 15, 1990. These guidelines shall provide recommendations to local government on materials to be considered for designation as recyclable materials. The state solid waste management plan prepared pursuant to RCW 70.95.260 shall be consistent with these guidelines.

(2) The department shall be responsible for development and implementation of a comprehensive statewide public information program designed to encourage waste reduction, source separation, and recycling by the public. The department shall operate a toll free hot line to provide the public information on waste reduction and recycling.

(3) The department shall provide technical assistance to local governments in the development and dissemination of informational materials and related activities to assure recognition of unique local waste reduction and recycling programs.

(4) Local governments shall make all materials and information developed with the assistance grants provided under RCW 70.95.130 available to the department for potential use in other areas of the state. [1989 c 431 § 6; 1984 c 123 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 10.]

**70.95.110 Maintenance of plans—Review, revisions—Implementation of source separation programs.** (1) The comprehensive county solid waste management plans and any comprehensive city solid waste management plans prepared in accordance with RCW 70.95.080 shall be maintained in a current condition and reviewed and revised periodically by counties and cities as may be required by the department. Upon each review such plans shall be extended to show long-range needs for solid waste handling facilities for twenty years in the future, and a revised construction and capital acquisition program for six years in the future. Each revised solid waste management plan shall be submitted to the department.

Each plan shall be reviewed and revised within five years of July 1, 1984, and thereafter shall be reviewed, and revised if necessary according to the schedule provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Cities and counties preparing solid waste management plans shall submit the waste reduction and recycling

element required in RCW 70.95.090 and any revisions to other elements of its comprehensive solid waste management plan to the department no later than:

(a) July 1, 1991, for class one areas: PROVIDED, That portions relating to multiple-family residences shall be submitted no later than July 1, 1992;

(b) July 1, 1992, for class two areas; and

(c) July 1, 1994, for class three areas.

Thereafter, each plan shall be reviewed and revised, if necessary, at least every five years. Nothing in chapter 431, Laws of 1989 shall prohibit local governments from submitting a plan prior to the dates listed in this subsection.

(3) The classes of areas are defined as follows:

(a) Class one areas are the counties of Spokane, Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Kitsap and all the cities therein.

(b) Class two areas are all other counties located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains and all the cities therein.

(c) Class three areas are the counties east of the crest of the Cascade mountains and all the cities therein, except for Spokane county.

(4) Cities and counties shall begin implementing the programs to collect source separated materials no later than one year following the adoption and approval of the waste reduction and recycling element and these programs shall be fully implemented within two years of approval. [1991 c 298 § 4; 1989 c 431 § 5; 1984 c 123 § 7; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 11.]

**Finding—1991 c 298:** See note following RCW 70.95.030.

**70.95.130 Financial aid to counties and cities.** Any county may apply to the department on a form prescribed thereby for financial aid for the preparation of the comprehensive county plan for solid waste management required by RCW 70.95.080. Any city electing to prepare an independent city plan, a joint city plan, or a joint county-city plan for solid waste management for inclusion in the county comprehensive plan may apply for financial aid for such purpose through the county. Every city application for financial aid for planning shall be filed with the county auditor and shall be included as a part of the county's application for financial aid. Any city preparing an independent plan shall provide for disposal sites wholly within its jurisdiction.

The department shall allocate to the counties and cities applying for financial aid for planning, such funds as may be available pursuant to legislative appropriations or from any federal grants for such purpose.

The department shall determine priorities and allocate available funds among the counties and cities applying for aid according to criteria established by regulations of the department considering population, urban development, environmental effects of waste disposal, existing waste handling practices, and the local justification of their proposed expenditures. [1969 ex.s. c 134 § 13.]

**70.95.140 Matching requirements.** Counties and cities shall match their planning aid allocated by the director by an amount not less than twenty-five percent of the estimated cost of such planning. Any federal planning aid made directly to a county or city shall not be considered either a state or local contribution in determining local matching requirements. Counties and cities may meet their share of planning

costs by cash and contributed services. [1969 ex.s. c 134 § 14.]

**70.95.150 Contracts with counties to assure proper expenditures.** Upon the allocation of planning funds as provided in RCW 70.95.130, the department shall enter into a contract with each county receiving a planning grant. The contract shall include such provisions as the director may deem necessary to assure the proper expenditure of such funds including allocations made to cities. The sum allocated to a county shall be paid to the treasurer of such county. [1969 ex.s. c 134 § 15.]

**70.95.160 Local board of health regulations to implement the comprehensive plan—Section not to be construed to authorize counties to operate system.** Each county, or any city, or jurisdictional board of health shall adopt regulations or ordinances governing solid waste handling implementing the comprehensive solid waste management plan covering storage, collection, transportation, treatment, utilization, processing and final disposal including but not limited to the issuance of permits and the establishment of minimum levels and types of service for any aspect of solid waste handling. County regulations or ordinances adopted regarding levels and types of service shall not apply within the limits of any city where the city has by local ordinance determined that the county shall not exercise such powers within the corporate limits of the city. Such regulations or ordinances shall assure that solid waste storage and disposal facilities are located, maintained, and operated in a manner so as properly to protect the public health, prevent air and water pollution, are consistent with the priorities established in RCW 70.95.010, and avoid the creation of nuisances. Such regulations or ordinances may be more stringent than the minimum functional standards adopted by the department. Regulations or ordinances adopted by counties, cities, or jurisdictional boards of health shall be filed with the department.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the operation of a solid waste collection system by counties. [1989 c 431 § 10; 1988 c 127 § 29; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 16.]

**70.95.163 Local health departments may contract with the department of ecology.** Any jurisdictional health department and the department of ecology may enter into an agreement providing for the exercise by the department of ecology of any power that is specified in the contract and that is granted to the jurisdictional health department under this chapter. However, the jurisdictional health department shall have the approval of the legislative authority or authorities it serves before entering into any such agreement with the department of ecology. [1989 c 431 § 16.]

**70.95.165 Solid waste disposal facility siting—Site review—Local solid waste advisory committees—Membership.** (1) Each county or city siting a solid waste disposal facility shall review each potential site for conformance with the standards as set by the department for:

- (a) Geology;
- (b) Groundwater;
- (c) Soil;

- (d) Flooding;
- (e) Surface water;
- (f) Slope;
- (g) Cover material;
- (h) Capacity;
- (i) Climatic factors;
- (j) Land use;
- (k) Toxic air emissions; and
- (l) Other factors as determined by the department.

(2) The standards in subsection (1) of this section shall be designed to use the best available technology to protect the environment and human health, and shall be revised periodically to reflect new technology and information.

(3) Each county shall establish a local solid waste advisory committee to assist in the development of programs and policies concerning solid waste handling and disposal and to review and comment upon proposed rules, policies, or ordinances prior to their adoption. Such committees shall consist of a minimum of nine members and shall represent a balance of interests including, but not limited to, citizens, public interest groups, business, the waste management industry, agriculture, and local elected public officials. The members shall be appointed by the county legislative authority. A county or city shall not apply for funds from the state and local improvements revolving account, Waste Disposal Facilities, 1980, under RCW 43.83.350, for the preparation, update, or major amendment of a comprehensive solid waste management plan unless the plan or revision has been prepared with the active assistance and participation of a local solid waste advisory committee. [2016 c 119 § 2; 2015 1st sp.s. c 4 § 49; 1989 c 431 § 11; 1984 c 123 § 4.]

**70.95.167 Private businesses involvement in source separated materials—Local solid waste advisory committee to examine.** (1) Each local solid waste advisory committee shall conduct one or more meetings for the purpose of determining how local private recycling and solid waste collection businesses may participate in the development and implementation of programs to collect source separated materials from residences, and to process and market materials collected for recycling. The meetings shall include local private recycling businesses, private solid waste collection companies operating within the jurisdiction, and the local solid waste planning agencies. The meetings shall be held during the development of the waste reduction and recycling element or no later than one year prior to the date that a jurisdiction is required [to] submit the element under RCW 70.95.110(2).

(2) The meeting requirement under subsection (1) of this section shall apply whenever a city or county develops or amends the waste reduction and recycling element required under this chapter. Jurisdictions having approved waste reduction and recycling elements or having initiated a process for the selection of a service provider as of May 21, 1991, do not have to comply with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section until the next revisions to the waste reduction and recycling element are made or required.

(3) After the waste reduction and recycling element is approved by the local legislative authority but before it is submitted to the department for approval, the local solid

waste advisory committee shall hold at least one additional meeting to review the element.

(4) For the purpose of this section, "private recycling business" means any private for-profit or private not-for-profit business that engages in the processing and marketing of recyclable materials. [1991 c 319 § 402.]

**70.95.170 Permit for solid waste handling facility—Required.** Except as provided otherwise in RCW 70.95.300, 70.95.305, 70.95.306, 70.95.310, or 70.95.330, after approval of the comprehensive solid waste plan by the department no solid waste handling facility or facilities shall be maintained, established, or modified until the county, city, or other person operating such site has obtained a permit pursuant to RCW 70.95.180 or 70.95.190. [2009 c 178 § 4; 1998 c 156 § 3; 1997 c 213 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 17.]

**70.95.180 Permit for solid waste handling facility—Applications, fee.** (1) Applications for permits to operate a new or modified solid waste handling facility shall be on forms prescribed by the department and shall contain a description of the proposed facilities and operations at the site, plans and specifications for any new or additional facilities to be constructed, and such other information as the jurisdictional health department may deem necessary in order to determine whether the site and solid waste disposal facilities located thereon will comply with local regulations and state rules.

(2) Upon receipt of an application for a permit to establish or modify a solid waste handling facility, the jurisdictional health department shall refer one copy of the application to the department which shall report its findings to the jurisdictional health department. When the application is for a permit to establish or modify a solid waste handling facility located in an area that is not under a quarantine, as defined in RCW 17.24.007, and when the facility will receive material for composting from an area under a quarantine, the jurisdictional health department shall also provide a copy of the application to the department of agriculture. The department of agriculture shall review the application to determine whether it contains information demonstrating that the proposed facility presents a risk of spreading disease, plant pathogens, or pests to areas that are not under a quarantine. For the purposes of this subsection, "composting" means the biological degradation and transformation of organic solid waste under controlled conditions designed to promote aerobic decomposition.

(3) The jurisdictional health department shall investigate every application as may be necessary to determine whether a proposed or modified site and facilities meet all solid waste, air, and other applicable laws and regulations, and conforms with the approved comprehensive solid waste handling plan, and complies with all zoning requirements.

(4) When the jurisdictional health department finds that the permit should be issued, it shall issue such permit. Every application shall be approved or disapproved within ninety days after its receipt by the jurisdictional health department.

(5) The jurisdictional board of health may establish reasonable fees for permits and renewal of permits. All permit fees collected by the health department shall be deposited in the treasury and to the account from which the health depart-

ment's operating expenses are paid. [2016 c 119 § 4; 1997 c 213 § 3; 1988 c 127 § 30; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 18.]

**70.95.185 Permit for solid waste disposal site or facilities—Review by department—Appeal of issuance—Validity of permits issued after June 7, 1984.** Every permit issued by a jurisdictional health department under RCW 70.95.180 shall be reviewed by the department to ensure that the proposed site or facility conforms with:

(1) All applicable laws and regulations including the minimal functional standards for solid waste handling; and

(2) The approved comprehensive solid waste management plan.

The department shall review the permit within thirty days after the issuance of the permit by the jurisdictional health department. The department may appeal the issuance of the permit by the jurisdictional health department to the pollution control hearings board, as described in chapter 43.21B RCW, for noncompliance with subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

No permit issued pursuant to RCW 70.95.180 after June 7, 1984, shall be considered valid unless it has been reviewed by the department. [1984 c 123 § 8.]

**70.95.190 Permit for solid waste handling facility—Renewal—Appeal—Validity of renewal—Review fees.**

(1) Every permit for an existing solid waste handling facility issued pursuant to RCW 70.95.180 shall be renewed at least every five years on a date established by the jurisdictional health department having jurisdiction of the site and as specified in the permit. If a permit is to be renewed for longer than one year, the local jurisdictional health department may hold a public hearing before making such a decision. Prior to renewing a permit, the health department shall conduct a review as it deems necessary to assure that the solid waste handling facility or facilities located on the site continues to meet minimum functional standards of the department, applicable local regulations, and are not in conflict with the approved solid waste management plan. A jurisdictional health department shall approve or disapprove a permit renewal within forty-five days of conducting its review. The department shall review and may appeal the renewal as set forth for the approval of permits in RCW 70.95.185.

(2) The jurisdictional board of health may establish reasonable fees for permits reviewed under this section. All permit fees collected by the health department shall be deposited in the treasury and to the account from which the health department's operating expenses are paid. [1998 c 156 § 4; 1997 c 213 § 4; 1984 c 123 § 9; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 19.]

**70.95.200 Permit for solid waste disposal site or facilities—Suspension.** Any permit for a solid waste disposal site issued as provided herein shall be subject to suspension at any time the jurisdictional health department determines that the site or the solid waste disposal facilities located on the site are being operated in violation of this chapter, the regulations of the department, the rules of the department of agriculture, or local laws and regulations. [2016 c 119 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 20.]

(2016 Ed.)

**70.95.205 Exemption from solid waste permit requirements—Waste-derived soil amendments—Application—Revocation of exemption—Appeal.** (1) Waste-derived soil amendments that meet the standards and criteria in this section may apply for exemption from solid waste permitting as required under RCW 70.95.170. The application shall be submitted to the department in a format determined by the department or an equivalent format. The application shall include:

(a) Analytical data showing that the waste-derived soil amendments meet standards established under RCW 15.54.800; and

(b) Other information deemed appropriate by the department to protect human health and the environment.

(2) After receipt of an application, the department shall review it to determine whether the application is complete, and forward a copy of the complete application to all interested jurisdictional health departments and the department of agriculture for review and comment. Within forty-five days, the jurisdictional health departments and the department of agriculture shall forward their comments and any other information they deem relevant to the department, which shall then give final approval or disapproval of the application. The department of agriculture's comments must be limited to addressing whether approving the application risks spreading disease, plant pathogens, or pests to areas that are not under a quarantine, as defined in RCW 17.24.007. Every complete application shall be approved or disapproved by the department within ninety days after receipt.

(3) The department, after providing opportunity for comments from the jurisdictional health departments and the department of agriculture, may at any time revoke an exemption granted under this section if the quality or use of the waste-derived soil amendment changes or the management, storage, or end use of the waste-derived soil amendment constitutes a threat to human health or the environment.

(4) Any aggrieved party may appeal the determination by the department in subsection (2) or (3) of this section to the pollution control hearings board. [2016 c 119 § 7; 1998 c 36 § 18.]

**Intent—1998 c 36:** See RCW 15.54.265.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.210 Hearing—Appeal—Denial, suspension—When effective.** Whenever the jurisdictional health department denies a permit or suspends a permit for a solid waste disposal site, it shall, upon request of the applicant or holder of the permit, grant a hearing on such denial or suspension within thirty days after the request therefor is made. Notice of the hearing shall be given to all interested parties, including the county or city having jurisdiction over the site and the department. Within thirty days after the hearing, the health officer shall notify the applicant or the holder of the permit in writing of his or her determination and the reasons therefor. Any party aggrieved by such determination may appeal to the pollution control hearings board by filing with the hearings board a notice of appeal within thirty days after receipt of notice of the determination of the health officer. The hearings board shall hold a hearing in accordance with the provisions of the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. If the jurisdictional health department denies a permit renewal

or suspends a permit for an operating waste recycling facility that receives waste from more than one city or county, and the applicant or holder of the permit requests a hearing or files an appeal under this section, the permit denial or suspension shall not be effective until the completion of the appeal process under this section, unless the jurisdictional health department declares that continued operation of the waste recycling facility poses a very probable threat to human health and the environment. [2012 c 117 § 411; 1998 c 90 § 3; 1987 c 109 § 21; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 21.]

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Capitions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**70.95.212 Solid waste collection companies—Notice of changes in tipping fees and disposal rate schedules.** To provide solid waste collection companies with sufficient time to prepare and submit tariffs and rate filings for public comment and commission approval, the owner or operator of a transfer station, landfill, or facility used to burn solid waste shall provide seventy-five days' notice to solid waste collection companies of any change in tipping fees and disposal rate schedules. The notice period shall begin on the date individual notice to a collection company is delivered to the company or is postmarked.

A collection company may agree to a shorter notice period: PROVIDED, That such agreement by a company shall not affect the notice requirements for rate filings under RCW 81.28.050.

The owner of a transfer station, landfill or facility used to burn solid waste may agree to provide companies with a longer notice period.

"Solid waste collection companies" as used in this section means the companies regulated by the commission pursuant to chapter 81.77 RCW. [1993 c 300 § 3.]

**70.95.215 Landfill disposal facilities—Reserve accounts required by July 1, 1987—Exception—Rules.** (1) By July 1, 1987, each holder or applicant of a permit for a landfill disposal facility issued under this chapter shall establish a reserve account to cover the costs of closing the facility in accordance with state and federal regulations. The account shall be designed to ensure that there will be adequate revenue available by the projected date of closure. A landfill disposal facility maintained on private property for the sole use of the entity owning the site and a landfill disposal facility operated and maintained by a government shall not be required to establish a reserve account if, to the satisfaction of the department, the entity or government provides another form of financial assurance adequate to comply with the requirements of this section.

(2) By July 1, 1986, the department shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW to implement subsection (1) of this section. The department is not required to adopt rules pertaining to other approved forms of financial assurance to cover the costs of closing a landfill disposal facility. The rules shall include but not be limited to:

(a) Methods to estimate closure costs, including postclosure monitoring, pollution prevention measures, and any other procedures required under state and federal regulations;

(b) Methods to ensure that reserve accounts receive adequate funds, including:

(i) Requirements that the reserve account be generated by user fees. However, the department may waive this requirement for existing landfills if user fees would be prohibitively high;

(ii) Requirements that moneys be placed in the reserve account on a regular basis and that the reserve account be kept separate from all other accounts; and

(iii) Procedures for the department to verify that adequate sums are deposited in the reserve account; and

(c) Methods to ensure that other types of financial assurance provided in accordance with subsection (1) of this section are adequate to cover the costs of closing the facility. [2000 c 114 § 1; 1985 c 436 § 1.]

**70.95.217 Waste generated outside the state—Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) The state of Washington has responded to the increasing challenges of safe, affordable disposal of solid waste by an ambitious program of waste reduction, recycling and reuse, as well as strict standards to ensure the safe handling, transportation, and disposal of solid waste;

(2) All communities in Washington participate in these programs through locally available recycling services, increased source separation and material recovery requirements, programs for waste reduction and product reuse, and performance standards that apply to all solid waste disposal facilities in the state;

(3) New requirements for the siting and performance of disposal facilities have greatly decreased the number of such facilities in Washington, and the state has a significant interest in ensuring adequate disposal capacity within the state;

(4) The landfilling, incineration, and other disposal of solid waste may adversely impact public health and environmental quality, and the state has a significant interest in decreasing volumes of the waste stream destined for disposal;

(5) Because of the decreasing number of disposal facilities and other reasons, solid waste is being transported greater distances, often beyond the community where generated and is increasingly being transported between states;

(6) Washington's waste management priorities and programs are a balanced approach of increased reuse, recycling and waste reduction, the strengthening of markets for recycled content products, and the safe disposal of the remaining waste stream, with the costs of these programs shared equitably by all persons generating waste in the state;

(7) Those residing in other states who generate waste destined for disposal within Washington should also share the costs of waste diversion and management of Washington's disposal facilities, so that the risks of waste disposal and the costs of mitigating those risks are shared equitably by all waste generators, regardless of their location;

(8) Because Washington state may not directly regulate waste handling, reduction, and recycling activities beyond its state boundaries, the only reasonable alternative to ensure this equitable treatment of waste being disposed within Washington is to implement a program of reviewing such activities as to waste originating outside of Washington, and to assign the additional costs, when necessary, to ensure that the waste meets standards substantially equivalent to those applicable to waste generated within the state, and, in some cases, to prohibit disposal of waste where its generation and

management is not subject to standards substantially equivalent to those applicable to waste generated within the state. [1993 c 286 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.218 Waste generated outside the state—Solid waste disposal site facility reporting requirements—Fees.**

(1) At least sixty days prior to receiving solid waste generated from outside of the state, the operator of a solid waste disposal site facility shall report to the department the types and quantities of waste to be received from an out-of-state source. The department shall develop guidelines for reporting this information. The guidelines shall provide for less than sixty days notice for shipments of waste made on a short-term or emergency basis. The requirements of this subsection shall take effect upon completion of the guidelines.

(2) Upon notice under subsection (1) of this section, the department shall identify all activities and costs necessary to ensure that solid waste generated out-of-state meets standards relating to solid waste reduction, recycling, and management substantially equivalent to those required of solid waste generated within the state. The department may assess a fee on the out-of-state waste sufficient to recover the actual costs incurred in ensuring that the out-of-state waste meets equivalent state standards. The department may delegate, to a local health department, authority to implement the activities identified by the department under this subsection. All money received from fees imposed under this subsection shall be deposited into the solid waste management account created by \*RCW 70.95.800, and shall be used solely for the activities required by this section.

(3) The department may prohibit in-state disposal of solid waste generated from outside of the state, unless the generators of the waste meet: (a) Waste reduction and recycling requirements substantially equivalent to those applicable in Washington state; and (b) solid waste handling standards substantially equivalent to those applicable in Washington state.

(4) The department may adopt rules to implement this section. [1993 c 286 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.95.800 was repealed by 2000 c 150 § 2, effective July 1, 2001.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.220 Financial aid to jurisdictional health departments—Applications—Allocations.** Any jurisdictional health department may apply to the department for financial aid for the enforcement of rules and regulations promulgated under this chapter. Such application shall contain such information, including budget and program description, as may be prescribed by regulations of the department.

After receipt of such applications the department may allocate available funds according to criteria established by regulations of the department considering population, urban development, the number of the disposal sites, and geographical area.

The sum allocated to a jurisdictional health department shall be paid to the treasury from which the operating expenses of the health department are paid, and shall be used exclusively for inspections and administrative expenses nec-

essary to enforce applicable regulations. [1969 ex.s. c 134 § 22.]

**70.95.230 Financial aid to jurisdictional health departments—Matching funds requirements.** The jurisdictional health department applying for state assistance for the enforcement of this chapter shall match such aid allocated by the department in an amount not less than twenty-five percent of the total amount spent for such enforcement activity during the year. The local share of enforcement costs may be met by cash and contributed services. [1969 ex.s. c 134 § 23.]

**70.95.235 Diversion of recyclable material—Penalty.**

(1) No person may divert to personal use any recyclable material placed in a container as part of a recycling program, without the consent of the generator of such recyclable material or the solid waste collection company operating under the authority of a town, city, county, or the utilities and transportation commission, and no person may divert to commercial use any recyclable material placed in a container as part of a recycling program, without the consent of the person owning or operating such container.

(2) A violation of subsection (1) of this section is a class 1 civil infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW. Each violation of this section shall be a separate infraction. [1991 c 319 § 407.]

**70.95.240 Unlawful to dump or deposit solid waste without permit—Penalties—Litter cleanup restitution payment.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section or at a solid waste disposal site for which there is a valid permit, after the adoption of regulations or ordinances by any county, city, or jurisdictional board of health providing for the issuance of permits as provided in RCW 70.95.160, it is unlawful for any person to dump or deposit or permit the dumping or depositing of any solid waste onto or under the surface of the ground or into the waters of this state.

(2) This section does not:

(a) Prohibit a person from dumping or depositing solid waste resulting from his or her own activities onto or under the surface of ground owned or leased by him or her when such action does not violate statutes or ordinances, or create a nuisance;

(b) Apply to a person using a waste-derived soil amendment that has been approved by the department under RCW 70.95.205; or

(c) Apply to the application of commercial fertilizer that has been registered with the department of agriculture as provided in RCW 15.54.325, and that is applied in accordance with the standards established in RCW 15.54.800(3).

(3)(a) It is a class 3 civil infraction as defined in RCW 7.80.120 for a person to litter in an amount less than or equal to one cubic foot.

(b)(i) It is a misdemeanor for a person to litter in an amount greater than one cubic foot but less than one cubic yard.

(ii) A person found to have littered in an amount greater than one cubic foot, but less than one cubic yard, shall also pay a litter cleanup restitution payment. This payment must be the greater of twice the actual cost of removing and properly disposing of the litter, or fifty dollars per cubic foot of litter.

(iii) The court shall distribute one-half of the restitution payment to the landowner where the littering occurred and one-half of the restitution payment to the jurisdictional health department investigating the incident. If the landowner provided written permission authorizing the littering on his or her property or assisted a person with littering on the landowner's property, the landowner is not entitled to any restitution ordered by the court and the full litter cleanup restitution payment must be provided to the jurisdictional health department investigating the incident.

(iv) A jurisdictional health department receiving all or a portion of a litter cleanup restitution payment must use the payment as follows:

(A) One-half of the payment may be used by the jurisdictional health department in the fulfillment of its responsibilities under this chapter; and

(B) One-half of the payment must be used to assist property owners located within the jurisdiction of the health department with the removal and proper disposal of litter in instances when the person responsible for the illegal dumping of the solid waste cannot be determined.

(v) The court may, in addition to the litter cleanup restitution payment, order the person to remove and properly dispose of the litter from the property, with prior permission of the legal owner or, in the case of public property, of the agency managing the property. The court may suspend or modify the litter cleanup restitution payment for a first-time offender under this section if the person removes and properly disposes of the litter.

(c)(i) It is a gross misdemeanor for a person to litter in an amount of one cubic yard or more.

(ii) A person found to have littered in an amount greater than one cubic yard shall also pay a litter cleanup restitution payment. This payment must be the greater of twice the actual cost of removing and properly disposing of the litter, or one hundred dollars per cubic foot of litter.

(iii) The court shall distribute one-half of the restitution payment to the landowner where the littering occurred and one-half of the restitution payment to the jurisdictional health department investigating the incident. If the landowner provided written permission authorizing the littering on his or her property or assisted a person with littering on the landowner's property, the landowner is not entitled to any restitution ordered by the court and the full litter cleanup restitution payment must be provided to the jurisdictional health department investigating the incident.

(iv) A jurisdictional health department receiving all or a portion of a litter cleanup restitution payment must use the payment as follows:

(A) One-half of the payment may be used by the jurisdictional health department in the fulfillment of its responsibilities under this chapter; and

(B) One-half of the payment must be used to assist property owners located within the jurisdiction of the health department with the removal and proper disposal of litter in instances when the person responsible for the illegal dumping of the solid waste cannot be determined.

(v) The court may, in addition to the litter cleanup restitution payment, order the person to remove and properly dispose of the litter from the property, with prior permission of the legal owner or, in the case of public property, of the

agency managing the property. The court may suspend or modify the litter cleanup restitution payment for a first-time offender under this section if the person removes and properly disposes of the litter.

(4) If a junk vehicle is abandoned in violation of this chapter, RCW 46.55.230 governs the vehicle's removal, disposal, and sale, and the penalties that may be imposed against the person who abandoned the vehicle.

(5) When enforcing this section, the enforcing authority must take reasonable action to determine and identify the person responsible for illegally dumping solid waste before requiring the owner or lessee of the property where illegal dumping of solid waste has occurred to remove and properly dispose of the litter on the site. [2011 c 279 § 1; 2001 c 139 § 2; 2000 c 154 § 3; 1998 c 36 § 19; 1997 c 427 § 4; 1993 c 292 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 24.]

**Intent—1998 c 36:** See RCW 15.54.265.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.250 Name appearing on waste material—Presumption.** Whenever solid wastes dumped in violation of RCW 70.95.240 contain three or more items bearing the name of one individual, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the individual whose name appears on such items committed the unlawful act of dumping. [1969 ex.s. c 134 § 25.]

**70.95.255 Disposal of sewage sludge or septic tank sludge prohibited—Exemptions—Uses of sludge material permitted.** After January 1, 1988, the department of ecology may prohibit disposal of sewage sludge or septic tank sludge (septage) in landfills for final disposal, except on a temporary, emergency basis, if the jurisdictional health department determines that a potentially unhealthy circumstance exists. Beneficial uses of sludge in landfill reclamation is acceptable utilization and not considered disposal.

The department of ecology shall adopt rules that provide exemptions from this section on a case-by-case basis. Exemptions shall be based on the economic infeasibility of using or disposing of the sludge material other than in a landfill.

The department of ecology, in conjunction with the department of health and the department of agriculture, shall adopt rules establishing labeling and notification requirements for sludge material sold commercially or given away to the public. The department shall specify mandatory wording for labels and notification to warn the public against improper use of the material. [1992 c 174 § 15; 1986 c 297 § 1.]

**70.95.260 Duties of department—State solid waste management plan—Assistance—Coordination—Tire recycling.** The department shall in addition to its other powers and duties:

(1) Cooperate with the appropriate federal, state, interstate and local units of government and with appropriate private organizations in carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

(2) Coordinate the development of a solid waste management plan for all areas of the state in cooperation with local government, the \*department of community, trade, and eco-

conomic development, and other appropriate state and regional agencies. The plan shall relate to solid waste management for twenty years in the future and shall be reviewed biennially, revised as necessary, and extended so that perpetually the plan shall look to the future for twenty years as a guide in carrying out a state coordinated solid waste management program. The plan shall be developed into a single integrated document and shall be adopted no later than October 1990. The plan shall be revised regularly after its initial completion so that local governments revising local comprehensive solid waste management plans can take advantage of the data and analysis in the state plan.

(3) Provide technical assistance to any person as well as to cities, counties, and industries.

(4) Initiate, conduct, and support research, demonstration projects, and investigations, and coordinate research programs pertaining to solid waste management systems.

(5) Develop statewide programs to increase public awareness of and participation in tire recycling, and to stimulate and encourage local private tire recycling centers and public participation in tire recycling.

(6) May, under the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, from time to time promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1995 c 399 § 189; 1989 c 431 § 9. Prior: 1985 c 345 § 8; 1985 c 6 § 23; 1969 ex.s. c 134 § 26.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.263 Additional powers and duties of department.** The department shall in addition to its other duties and powers under this chapter:

(1) Prepare the following:

(a) A management system for recycling waste paper generated by state offices and institutions in cooperation with such offices and institutions;

(b) An evaluation of existing and potential systems for recovery of energy and materials from solid waste with recommendations to affected governmental agencies as to those systems which would be the most appropriate for implementation;

(c) A data management system to evaluate and assist the progress of state and local jurisdictions and private industry in resource recovery;

(d) Identification of potential markets, in cooperation with private industry, for recovered resources and the impact of the distribution of such resources on existing markets;

(e) Studies on methods of transportation, collection, reduction, separation, and packaging which will encourage more efficient utilization of existing waste recovery facilities;

(f) Recommendations on incentives, including state grants, loans, and other assistance, to local governments which will encourage the recovery and recycling of solid wastes.

(2) Provide technical information and assistance to state and local jurisdictions, the public, and private industry on solid waste recovery and/or recycling.

(3) Procure and expend funds available from federal agencies and other sources to assist the implementation by

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local governments of solid waste recovery and/or recycling programs, and projects.

(4) Conduct necessary research and studies to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(5) Encourage and assist local governments and private industry to develop pilot solid waste recovery and/or recycling projects.

(6) Monitor, assist with research, and collect data for use in assessing feasibility for others to develop solid waste recovery and/or recycling projects. [1998 c 245 § 131; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 41 § 5.]

**70.95.265 Department to cooperate with public and private departments, agencies, and associations.** The department shall work closely with the department of commerce, the department of enterprise services, and with other state departments and agencies, the Washington state association of counties, the association of Washington cities, and business associations, to carry out the objectives and purposes of chapter 41, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. [2015 c 225 § 106; 1995 c 399 § 190; 1985 c 466 § 69; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 41 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.267 Department authorized to disburse referendum 26 (RCW 43.83.330) fund for local government solid waste projects.** The department is authorized to use referendum 26 (RCW 43.83.330) funds of the Washington futures account to disburse to local governments in developing solid waste recovery and/or recycling projects. [2015 1st sp.s. c 4 § 50; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 41 § 10.]

**70.95.268 Department authorized to disburse funds under RCW 43.83.350 for local government solid waste projects.** The department is authorized to use funds under RCW 43.83.350 to disburse to local governments in developing solid waste recovery or recycling projects. Priority shall be given to those projects that use incineration of solid waste to produce energy and to recycling projects. [2015 1st sp.s. c 4 § 51; 1984 c 123 § 10.]

**70.95.270 Hazardous substance remedial actions—Procedural requirements not applicable.** The procedural requirements of this chapter shall not apply to any person conducting a remedial action at a facility pursuant to a consent decree, order, or agreed order issued pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW, or to the department of ecology when it conducts a remedial action under chapter 70.105D RCW. The department of ecology shall ensure compliance with the substantive requirements of this chapter through the consent decree, order, or agreed order issued pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW, or during the department-conducted remedial action, through the procedures developed by the department pursuant to RCW 70.105D.090. [1994 c 257 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.280 Determination of best solid waste management practices—Department to develop method to monitor waste stream—Collectors to report quantity and quality of waste—Confidentiality of proprietary information.** The department of ecology shall determine the best manage-

ment practices for categories of solid waste in accordance with the priority solid waste management methods established in RCW 70.95.010. In order to make this determination, the department shall conduct a comprehensive solid waste stream analysis and evaluation. Following establishment of baseline data resulting from an initial in-depth analysis of the waste stream, the department shall develop a less intensive method of monitoring the disposed waste stream including, but not limited to, changes in the amount of waste generated and waste type. The department shall monitor curbside collection programs and other waste segregation and disposal technologies to determine, to the extent possible, the effectiveness of these programs in terms of cost and participation, their applicability to other locations, and their implications regarding rules adopted under this chapter. Persons who collect solid waste shall annually report to the department the types and quantities of solid waste that are collected and where it is delivered. The department shall adopt guidelines for reporting and for keeping proprietary information confidential. [1989 c 431 § 13; 1988 c 184 § 1.]

**70.95.285 Solid waste stream analysis.** The comprehensive, statewide solid waste stream analysis under RCW 70.95.280 shall be based on representative solid waste generation areas and solid waste generation sources within the state. The following information and evaluations shall be included:

- (1) Solid waste generation rates for each category;
- (2) The rate of recycling being achieved within the state for each category of solid waste;
- (3) The current and potential rates of solid waste reduction within the state;
- (4) A technological assessment of current solid waste reduction and recycling methods and systems, including cost/benefit analyses;
- (5) An assessment of the feasibility of segregating solid waste at: (a) The original source, (b) transfer stations, and (c) the point of final disposal;
- (6) A review of methods that will increase the rate of solid waste reduction; and
- (7) An assessment of new and existing technologies that are available for solid waste management including an analysis of the associated environmental risks and costs.

The data required by the analysis under this section shall be kept current and shall be available to local governments and the waste management industry. [1988 c 184 § 2.]

**70.95.290 Solid waste stream evaluation.** (1) The evaluation of the solid waste stream required in RCW 70.95.280 shall include the following elements:

- (a) The department shall determine which management method for each category of solid waste will have the least environmental impact; and
- (b) The department shall evaluate the costs of various management options for each category of solid waste, including a review of market availability, and shall take into consideration the economic impact on affected parties;
- (c) Based on the results of (a) and (b) of this subsection, the department shall determine the best management for each category of solid waste. Different management methods for

the same categories of waste may be developed for different parts of the state.

(2) The department shall give priority to evaluating categories of solid waste that, in relation to other categories of solid waste, comprise a large volume of the solid waste stream or present a high potential of harm to human health. At a minimum the following categories of waste shall be evaluated:

(a) By January 1, 1989, yard waste and other biodegradable materials, paper products, disposable diapers, and batteries; and

(b) By January 1, 1990, metals, glass, plastics, styrofoam or rigid lightweight cellular polystyrene, and tires. [1988 c 184 § 3.]

**70.95.295 Analysis and evaluation to be incorporated in state solid waste management plan.** The department shall incorporate the information from the analysis and evaluation conducted under RCW 70.95.280 through 70.95.290 to the state solid waste management plan under RCW 70.95.260. The plan shall be revised periodically as the evaluation and analysis is updated. [1988 c 184 § 4.]

**70.95.300 Solid waste—Beneficial uses—Permitting requirement exemptions.** (1) The department may by rule exempt a solid waste from the permitting requirements of this chapter for one or more beneficial uses. In adopting such rules, the department shall specify both the solid waste that is exempted from the permitting requirements and the beneficial use or uses for which the solid waste is so exempted. The department shall consider: (a) Whether the material will be beneficially used or reused; and (b) whether the beneficial use or reuse of the material will present threats to human health or the environment.

(2) The department may also exempt a solid waste from the permitting requirements of this chapter for one or more beneficial uses by approving an application for such an exemption. The department shall establish by rule procedures under which a person may apply to the department for such an exemption. The rules shall establish criteria for providing such an exemption, which shall include, but not be limited to: (a) The material will be beneficially used or reused; and (b) the beneficial use or reuse of the material will not present threats to human health or the environment. Rules adopted under this subsection shall identify the information that an application shall contain. Persons seeking such an exemption shall apply to the department under the procedures established by the rules adopted under this subsection.

(3) After receipt of an application filed under rules adopted under subsection (2) of this section, the department shall review the application to determine whether it is complete, and forward a copy of the completed application to all jurisdictional health departments and the department of agriculture for review and comment. Within forty-five days, the jurisdictional health departments and the department of agriculture shall forward to the department their comments and any other information they deem relevant to the department's decision to approve or disapprove the application. The department of agriculture's comments must be limited to addressing whether approving the application risks spreading disease, plant pathogens, or pests to areas that are not under a

quarantine, as defined in RCW 17.24.007. Every complete application shall be approved or disapproved by the department within ninety days of receipt. If the application is approved by the department, the solid waste is exempt from the permitting requirements of this chapter when used anywhere in the state in the manner approved by the department. If the composition, use, or reuse of the solid waste is not consistent with the terms and conditions of the department's approval of the application, the use of the solid waste remains subject to the permitting requirements of this chapter.

(4) The department shall establish procedures by rule for providing to the public and the solid waste industry notice of and an opportunity to comment on each application for an exemption under subsection (2) of this section.

(5) Any jurisdictional health department or applicant may appeal the decision of the department to approve or disapprove an application under subsection (3) of this section. The appeal shall be made to the pollution control hearings board by filing with the hearings board a notice of appeal within thirty days of the decision of the department. The hearings board's review of the decision shall be made in accordance with chapter 43.21B RCW and any subsequent appeal of a decision of the board shall be made in accordance with RCW 43.21B.180.

(6) This section shall not be deemed to invalidate the exemptions or determinations of nonapplicability in the department's solid waste rules as they exist on June 11, 1998, which exemptions and determinations are recognized and confirmed subject to the department's continuing authority to modify or revoke those exemptions or determinations by rule. [2016 c 119 § 6; 1998 c 156 § 2.]

**70.95.305 Solid waste handling permit—Exemption from requirements—Application of section—Rules.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the department may by rule exempt from the requirements to obtain a solid waste handling permit any category of solid waste handling facility that it determines to:

- (a) Present little or no environmental risk; and
- (b) Meet the environmental protection and performance requirements required for other similar solid waste facilities.

(2) This section does not apply to any facility or category of facilities that:

(a) Receives municipal solid waste destined for final disposal, including but not limited to transfer stations, landfills, and incinerators;

(b) Applies putrescible solid waste on land for final disposal purposes;

(c) Handles mixed solid wastes that have not been processed to segregate solid waste materials destined for disposal from other solid waste materials destined for a beneficial use or recycling;

(d) Receives or processes organic waste materials into compost in volumes that generally far exceed those handled by municipal park departments, master gardening programs, and households; or

(e) Receives solid waste destined for recycling or reuse, the operation of which is determined by the department to present risks to human health and the environment.

(3) Rules adopted under this section shall contain such terms and conditions as the department deems necessary to

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ensure compliance with applicable statutes and rules. If a facility does not operate in compliance with the terms and conditions established for an exemption under subsection (1) of this section, the facility is subject to the permitting requirements for solid waste handling under this chapter.

(4) This section shall not be deemed to invalidate the exemptions or determinations of nonapplicability in the department's solid waste rules as they exist on June 11, 1998, which exemptions and determinations are recognized and confirmed subject to the department's continuing authority to modify or revoke those exemptions or determinations by rule. [2005 c 394 § 3; 1998 c 156 § 5.]

**Intent—Severability—2005 c 394:** See notes following RCW 70.95.400.

**70.95.306 Composting of bovine and equine carcasses—Guidelines—Exemption from solid waste handling rules.** (1) By July 1, 2005, the department of ecology and the department of agriculture, in consultation with the department of health, shall make available to livestock producers clearly written guidelines for the composting of bovine and equine carcasses for routine animal disposal.

(2) Composters of bovine and equine carcasses are exempt from the metals testing and permit requirements under the solid waste handling rules for compost that is distributed off-site if the following conditions are met:

(a) The carcasses to be composted are not known or suspected to be affected with a prion-protein disease such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, a spore-forming disease such as anthrax or other diseases designated by the state veterinarian;

(b) The composter follows the written guidelines provided for in subsection (1) of this section;

(c) The composter does not accept for composting animal mortalities from other sources not directly affiliated with the composter's operation;

(d) The composter provides information to the end user that includes the source of the material; the quality of the compost as to its nutrient content, pathogens, and stability; and the restrictions on use of the compost as stated in (f) of this subsection;

(e) The composter reports annually to the department the number of bovines and equines and the amounts of other material composted, including the composter's best estimate of the tonnage or yardage involved; and

(f) The end user applies the compost only to agricultural lands that are not used for the production of root crops except as prescribed in the guidelines and ensures no compost comes into contact with the crops harvested from the lands where the compost is applied.

(3) If a compost production facility does not operate in compliance with the terms and conditions established for an exemption in this section, the facility shall be subject to the permitting requirements for solid waste handling under this chapter. [2005 c 510 § 6.]

**70.95.310 Rules—Department "deferring" to other permits—Application of section.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the department shall adopt rules:

(a) Describing when a jurisdictional health department may, at its discretion, waive the requirement that a permit be issued for a facility under this chapter if other air, water, or environmental permits are issued for the same facility. As used in this section, a jurisdictional health department's waiving the requirement that a permit be issued for a facility under this chapter based on the issuance of such other permits for the facility is the health department's "deferring" to the other permits; and

(b) Allowing deferral only if the applicant and the jurisdictional health department demonstrate that other permits for the facility will provide a comparable level of protection for human health and the environment that would be provided by a solid waste handling permit.

(2) This section does not apply to any transfer station, landfill, or incinerator that receives municipal solid waste destined for final disposal.

(3) If, before June 11, 1998, either the department or a jurisdictional health department has deferred solid waste permitting or regulation of a solid waste facility to permitting or regulation under other environmental permits for the same facility, such deferral is valid and shall not be affected by the rules developed under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) Rules adopted under this section shall contain such terms and conditions as the department deems necessary to ensure compliance with applicable statutes and rules. [1998 c 156 § 6.]

**70.95.315 Penalty.** (1) The department may assess a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars per day per violation to any person exempt from solid waste permitting in accordance with RCW 70.95.205, 70.95.300, 70.95.305, 70.95.306, or 70.95.330 who fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption. Each such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense, and in the case of a continuing violation, each day's continuance shall be a separate and distinct violation. The penalty provided in this section shall be imposed pursuant to RCW 43.21B.300.

(2) If a person violates a provision of any of the sections referenced in subsection (1) of this section, the department may issue an appropriate order to ensure compliance with the conditions of the exemption. The order may be appealed pursuant to RCW 43.21B.310. [2016 c 119 § 8; 2009 c 178 § 5; 2005 c 510 § 7; 1998 c 156 § 7.]

**70.95.320 Construction.** Nothing in chapter 156, Laws of 1998 may be construed to affect chapter 81.77 RCW and the authority of the utilities and transportation commission. [1998 c 156 § 9.]

**70.95.330 Qualified anaerobic digesters exempt from permitting requirements of chapter—Definitions.** (1) An anaerobic digester that complies with the conditions specified in this section is exempt from the permitting requirements of this chapter. To qualify for the exemption, an anaerobic digester must meet the following conditions:

(a) The owner or operator must provide the department or the jurisdictional health department with at least thirty days' notice of intent to operate under the conditions specified in this section and comply with any guidelines issued under subsection (2) of this section;

(b) The anaerobic digester must process at least fifty percent livestock manure by volume;

(c) The anaerobic digester may process no more than thirty percent imported organic waste-derived material by volume, and must comply with subsection (3) of this section;

(d) The anaerobic digester must comply with design and operating standards in the natural resources conservation service's conservation practice standard code 366 in effect as of July 26, 2009;

(e) Digestate must:

(i) Be managed in accordance with a dairy nutrient management plan under chapter 90.64 RCW that includes elements addressing management and use of digestate;

(ii) Meet compost quality standards concerning pathogens, stability, nutrient testing, and metals before it is distributed for off-site use, or be sent to an off-site permitted compost facility for further treatment to meet compost quality standards; or

(iii) Be processed or managed in an alternate manner approved by the department;

(f) The owner or operator must allow inspection by the department or jurisdictional health department at reasonable times to verify compliance with the conditions specified in this section; and

(g) The owner or operator must submit an annual report to the department or the jurisdictional health department concerning use of nonmanure material in the anaerobic digester and any required compliance testing.

(2) By August 1, 2009, the department and the department of agriculture, in consultation with the department of health, shall make available to anaerobic digester owners and operators clearly written guidelines for the anaerobic codigestion of livestock manure and organic waste-derived material. The guidelines must explain the steps necessary for an owner or operator to meet the conditions specified in this section for an exemption from the permitting requirements of this chapter.

(3) Any imported organic waste-derived material must:

(a) Be preconsumer in nature;

(b) Be fed into the anaerobic digester within thirty-six hours of receipt at the anaerobic digester;

(c) If it is likely to contain animal by-products, be previously source-separated at a facility licensed to process food by the United States department of agriculture, the United States food and drug administration, the Washington state department of agriculture, or other applicable regulatory agency;

(d) If it contains bovine processing waste, be derived from animals approved by the United States department of agriculture food safety and inspection service and not contain any specified risk material;

(e) If it contains sheep carcasses or sheep processing waste, not be fed into the anaerobic digester;

(f) Be stored and handled in a manner that protects surface water and groundwater and complies with best management practices;

(g) Be received or stored in structures that:

(i) Comply with the natural resources conservation service's conservation practice standard code 313 in effect as of July 26, 2009;

(ii) Are certified to be effective by a representative of the natural resources conservation service; or

(iii) Meet applicable construction industry standards adopted by the American concrete institute or the American institute of steel construction and in effect as of July 26, 2009; and

(h) Be managed to prevent migration of nuisance odors beyond property boundaries and minimize attraction of flies, rodents, and other vectors.

(4) Digestate that is managed in accordance with a dairy nutrient management plan under chapter 90.64 RCW that includes elements addressing management and use of digestate shall no longer be considered a solid waste. Use of digestate from an anaerobic digester that complies with the conditions specified in this section is exempt from the permitting requirements of this chapter.

(5) An anaerobic digester that does not comply with the conditions specified in this section may be subject to the permitting requirements of this chapter. In addition, violations of the conditions specified in this section are subject to provisions in RCW 70.95.315.

(6) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(a) "Anaerobic digester" means a vessel that processes organic material into biogas and digestate using microorganisms in a decomposition process within a closed, oxygen-free container.

(b) "Best management practices" means managerial practices that prevent or reduce water pollution.

(c) "Digestate" means both solid and liquid substances that remain following anaerobic digestion of organic material in an anaerobic digester.

(d) "Imported" means originating off of the farm or other site where the anaerobic digester is being operated.

(e) "Organic waste-derived material" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 15.54.270 and any other organic wastes approved by the department, except for organic waste-derived material collected through municipal commercial and residential solid waste collection programs. [2009 c 178 § 1.]

**70.95.400 Transporters—Definition—Registration required—Penalties.** (1) For the purposes of this section and RCW 70.95.410, "transporter" means any person or entity that transports recyclable materials from commercial or industrial generators over the public highways of the state of Washington for compensation, and who are required to possess a permit to operate from the Washington utilities and transportation commission under chapter 81.80 RCW. "Transporter" includes commercial recycling operations of certificated solid waste collection companies as provided in chapter 81.77 RCW. "Transporter" does not include:

(a) Carriers of commercial recyclable materials, when such materials are owned or being bought or sold by the entity or person, and being carried in their own vehicle, when such activity is incidental to the conduct of an entity or person's primary business;

(b) Entities or persons hauling their own recyclables or hauling recyclables they generated or purchased and transported in their own vehicles;

(c) Nonprofit or charitable organizations collecting and transporting recyclable materials from a buyback center, drop box, or from a commercial or industrial generator of recyclable materials;

(d) City municipal solid waste departments or city solid waste contractors; or

(e) Common carriers under chapter 81.80 RCW whose primary business is not the transportation of recyclable materials.

(2) All transporters shall register with the department prior to the transportation of recyclable materials. The department shall supply forms for registration.

(3) A transporter who transports recyclable materials within the state without a transporter registration required by this section is subject to a civil penalty in an amount up to one thousand dollars per violation. [2005 c 394 § 4.]

**Intent—2005 c 394:** "It is the intent of the legislature to improve recycling, eliminate illegal disposal of recyclable materials, protect consumers from sham recycling, and to further the purposes of RCW 70.95.020 and the goal of consistency in jurisdictional treatment of the statewide solid waste management plan adopted by the department of ecology." [2005 c 394 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.410 Transporters—Delivery of recyclable materials to transfer station or landfill prohibited—Records—Penalty.** (1) A transporter may not deliver any recyclable materials for disposal to a transfer station or landfill.

(2) A transporter shall keep records of locations and quantities specifically identified in relation to a generator's name, service date, address, and invoice, documenting where recyclables have been sold, delivered for processing, or otherwise marketed. These records must be retained for two years from the date of collection, and must be made accessible for inspection by the department and the local health department.

(3) A transporter who violates the provisions of this section is subject to a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars per violation. [2005 c 394 § 5.]

**Intent—Severability—2005 c 394:** See notes following RCW 70.95.400.

**70.95.420 Damages.** Any person damaged by a violation of RCW 70.95.400 through 70.95.440 may bring a civil action for such a violation by seeking either injunctive relief or damages, or both, in the superior court of the county in which the violation took place or in Thurston county. The prevailing party in such an action is entitled to reasonable costs and attorneys' fees, including those on appeal. [2005 c 394 § 6.]

**Intent—Severability—2005 c 394:** See notes following RCW 70.95.400.

**70.95.430 Solid waste recyclers—Notice—Report—Penalty.** (1) All facilities that recycle solid waste, except for those facilities with a current solid waste handling permit issued under RCW 70.95.170, must notify the department in writing within thirty days prior to operation, or ninety days from July 24, 2005, for existing recycling operations, of the intent to conduct recycling in accordance with this section. Notification must be in writing, and include:

(a) Contact information for the person conducting the recycling activity;

(b) A general description of the recycling activity;

(c) A description of the types of solid waste being recycled; and

(d) A general explanation of the recycling processes and methods.

(2) Each facility that recycles solid waste, except those facilities with a current solid waste handling permit issued under RCW 70.95.170, shall prepare and submit an annual report to the department by April 1st on forms supplied by the department. The annual report must detail recycling activities during the previous calendar year and include the following information:

(a) The name and address of the recycling operation;

(b) The calendar year covered by the report;

(c) The annual quantities and types of waste received, recycled, and disposed, in tons, for purposes of determining progress towards achieving the goals of waste reduction, waste recycling, and treatment in accordance with RCW 70.95.010(4); and

(d) Any additional information required by written notification of the department that is needed to determine progress towards achieving the goals of waste reduction, waste recycling, and treatment in accordance with RCW 70.95.010(4).

(3) Any facility, except for product take-back centers, that recycles solid waste materials within the state without first obtaining a solid waste handling permit under RCW 70.95.170 or completing a notification under this section is subject to a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars per violation. [2005 c 394 § 7.]

**Intent—Severability—2005 c 394:** See notes following RCW 70.95.400.

**70.95.440 Financial assurance requirements.** (1) The department may adopt rules that establish financial assurance requirements for recycling facilities that do not already have financial assurance requirements under this chapter, or are not already specifically exempted from financial assurance requirements under this chapter. The financial assurance requirements must take into consideration the amounts and types of recyclable materials recycled at the facility, and the potential closure and postclosure costs associated with the recycling facility; which assurance may consist of posting of a surety bond in an amount sufficient to meet these requirements or other financial instrument, but in no case less than ten thousand dollars.

(2) A recycling facility is required to meet financial assurance requirements adopted by the department by rule, unless the facility is already required to provide financial assurance under other provisions of this chapter.

(3) Facilities that collect, recover, process, or otherwise recycle scrap metal, processed scrap metal, unprocessed home scrap metal, and unprocessed prompt scrap metal are exempt from the requirements of this section. [2005 c 394 § 8.]

**Intent—Severability—2005 c 394:** See notes following RCW 70.95.400.

**70.95.500 Disposal of vehicle tires outside designated area prohibited—Penalty—Exemption.** (1) No person may drop, deposit, discard, or otherwise dispose of vehicle tires on any public property or private property in this state or in the waters of this state whether from a vehicle or otherwise, including, but not limited to, any public highway, public park, beach, campground, forestland, recreational area, trailer park, highway, road, street, or alley unless:

(a) The property is designated by the state, or by any of its agencies or political subdivisions, for the disposal of discarded vehicle tires; and

(b) The person is authorized to use the property for such purpose.

(2) A violation of this section is punishable by a civil penalty, which shall not be less than two hundred dollars nor more than two thousand dollars for each offense.

(3) This section does not apply to the storage or deposit of vehicle tires in quantities deemed exempt under rules adopted by the department of ecology under its functional standards for solid waste. [1985 c 345 § 4.]

**70.95.510 Fee on the retail sale of new replacement vehicle tires.** (1) There is levied a one dollar per tire fee on the retail sale of new replacement vehicle tires. The fee imposed in this section must be paid by the buyer to the seller, and each seller shall collect from the buyer the full amount of the fee. The fee collected from the buyer by the seller less the ten percent amount retained by the seller as provided in RCW 70.95.535(1) must be paid to the department of revenue in accordance with RCW 82.32.045.

(2) The department of revenue shall incorporate into the agency's regular audit cycle a reconciliation of the number of tires sold and the amount of revenue collected by the businesses selling new replacement vehicle tires at retail. The department of revenue shall collect on the business excise tax return from the businesses selling new replacement vehicle tires at retail:

(a) The number of tires sold; and

(b) The fee levied in this section.

(3) All other applicable provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW have full force and application with respect to the fee imposed under this section. The department of revenue shall administer this section.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "new replacement vehicle tires" means tires that are newly manufactured for vehicle purposes and does not include retreaded vehicle tires. [2009 c 261 § 2; 2005 c 354 § 2; 1989 c 431 § 92; 1985 c 345 § 5.]

**Intent—2009 c 261:** "The legislature restates its goal to fully clean up unauthorized waste tire piles in Washington state in an expeditious fashion. In partnership with local governments and the private sector, the legislature encourages ongoing efforts to prevent the creation of future unauthorized waste tire piles. The legislature notes a positive trend in tire recycling in recent years and encourages all parties to continue these strong recycling efforts." [2009 c 261 § 1.]

**Finding—Intent—2005 c 354:** "The legislature finds that discarded tires in unauthorized dump sites pose a health and safety risk to the public. Many of these tire piles have been in existence for a significant amount of time and are a continuing challenge to state and local officials responsible for cleaning up unauthorized dump sites and preventing further accumulation of waste tires. Therefore it is the intent of the legislature to document the extent of the problem, create and fund an effective program to eliminate unauthorized tire piles, and minimize potential future problems and costs." [2005 c 354 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.515 Fee on the retail sale of new replacement vehicle tires—Failure to collect, pay to department—Penalties.** (1) The fee required by this chapter, to be collected by the seller, shall be deemed to be held in trust by the seller until paid to the department of revenue, and any seller who appropriates or converts the fee collected to his or her own use or to any use other than the payment of the fee to the extent that the money required to be collected is not available for payment on the due date as prescribed in this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2) In case any seller fails to collect the fee imposed in this chapter or, having collected the fee, fails to pay it to the department of revenue in the manner prescribed by this chapter, whether such failure is the result of his or her own acts or the result of acts or conditions beyond his or her control, he or she shall, nevertheless, be personally liable to the state for the amount of the fee.

(3) The amount of the fee, until paid by the buyer to the seller or to the department of revenue, shall constitute a debt from the buyer to the seller and any seller who fails or refuses to collect the fee as required with intent to violate the provisions of this chapter or to gain some advantage or benefit, either direct or indirect, and any buyer who refuses to pay any fee due under this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2005 c 354 § 4.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 354:** See notes following RCW 70.95.510.

**70.95.521 Waste tire removal account.** The waste tire removal account is created in the state treasury. Expenditures from the account may be used for the cleanup of unauthorized waste tire piles, measures that prevent future accumulation of unauthorized waste tire piles, and road wear related maintenance on state and local public highways. During the 2007-2009 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the waste tire removal account to the motor vehicle fund such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance of the waste tire removal account. [2009 c 261 § 3; 2007 c 518 § 708; 2005 c 354 § 3.]

**Intent—2009 c 261:** See note following RCW 70.95.510.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 518:** See notes following RCW 46.68.170.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 354:** See notes following RCW 70.95.510.

**70.95.530 Waste tire removal account—Use—Information required to be posted to department's web site.** (1) Moneys in the waste tire removal account may be appropriated to the department of ecology:

(a) To provide for funding to state and local governments for the removal of discarded vehicle tires from unauthorized tire dump sites; and

(b) To accomplish the other purposes of RCW 70.95.020 as they relate to waste tire cleanup under this chapter.

(2) In spending funds in the account under this section, the department shall identify communities with the most severe problems with waste tires and provide funds first to those communities to remove accumulations of waste tires.

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(3) The department shall provide on its web site a summary of state and local government efforts funded using the waste tire removal account, a list of authorized waste tire storage sites and transporters, and tire recycling and reuse rates in the state for each calendar year. [2014 c 76 § 6; 2009 c 261 § 5; 2005 c 354 § 5; 1988 c 250 § 1; 1985 c 345 § 7.]

**Intent—2009 c 261:** See note following RCW 70.95.510.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 354:** See notes following RCW 70.95.510.

**70.95.532 Waste tire removal account—Use of moneys—Transfer of any balance in excess of one million dollars to the motor vehicle account.** (1) All receipts from tire fees imposed under RCW 70.95.510, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, must be deposited in the waste tire removal account created under RCW 70.95.521. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used for the cleanup of unauthorized waste tire piles and measures that prevent future accumulation of unauthorized waste tire piles.

(2) On September 1st of odd-numbered years, the state treasurer must transfer any cash balance in excess of one million dollars from the waste tire removal account created under RCW 70.95.521 to the motor vehicle account for the purpose of road wear related maintenance on state and local public highways.

(3) During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer any cash balance in excess of one million dollars from the waste tire removal account to the motor vehicle account for the purpose of road wear-related maintenance on state and local public highways. [2010 c 247 § 704; 2009 c 261 § 4.]

**Effective date—2010 c 247:** See note following RCW 43.19.642.

**Intent—2009 c 261:** See note following RCW 70.95.510.

**70.95.535 Disposition of fee.** (1) Every person engaged in making retail sales of new replacement vehicle tires in this state shall retain ten percent of the collected one dollar fee. The moneys retained may be used for costs associated with the proper management of the waste vehicle tires by the retailer.

(2) The department of ecology will administer the funds for the purposes specified in \*RCW 70.95.020(5) including, but not limited to:

(a) Making grants to local governments for pilot demonstration projects for on-site shredding and recycling of tires from unauthorized dump sites;

(b) Grants to local government for enforcement programs;

(c) Implementation of a public information and education program to include posters, signs, and informational materials to be distributed to retail tire sales and tire service outlets;

(d) Product marketing studies for recycled tires and alternatives to land disposal. [1989 c 431 § 93.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 70.95.020 was amended by 1998 c 90 § 1, changing subsection (5) to subsection (6).

**70.95.540 Cooperation with department to aid tire recycling.** To aid in the statewide tire recycling campaign, the legislature strongly encourages various industry organi-

zations which are active in resource recycling efforts to provide active cooperation with the department of ecology so that additional technology can be developed for the tire recycling campaign. [1985 c 345 § 9.]

**70.95.550 Waste tires—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 70.95.555 through 70.95.565.

(1) "Storage" or "storing" means the placing of more than eight hundred waste tires in a manner that does not constitute final disposal of the waste tires.

(2) "Transportation" or "transporting" means picking up or transporting waste tires for the purpose of storage or final disposal.

(3) "Waste tires" means tires that are no longer suitable for their original intended purpose because of wear, damage, or defect. [1988 c 250 § 3.]

**70.95.555 Waste tires—License for transport or storage business—Requirements.** Any person engaged in the business of transporting or storing waste tires shall be licensed by the department. To obtain a license, each applicant must:

(1) Provide assurances that the applicant is in compliance with this chapter and the rules regarding waste tire storage and transportation;

(2) Accept liability for and authorize the department to recover any costs incurred in any cleanup of waste tires transported or newly stored by the applicant in violation of this section, or RCW 70.95.560, 70.95.515, or 70.95.570, or rules adopted thereunder, after July 1, 2005;

(3) After January 1, 2006, for waste tires transported or stored before July 1, 2005, or for waste tires transported or stored after July 1, 2005, post a bond in an amount to be determined by the department sufficient to cover the liability for the cost of cleanup of the transported or stored waste tires, in favor of the state of Washington. In lieu of the bond, the applicant may submit financial assurances acceptable to the department;

(4) Be registered in the state of Washington as a business and be in compliance with all state laws, rules, and local ordinances;

(5) Have a federal tax identification number and be in compliance with all applicable federal codes and regulations; and

(6) Report annually to the department the amount of tires transported and their disposition. Failure to report shall result in revocation of the license. [2009 c 261 § 6; 2005 c 354 § 6; 1988 c 250 § 4.]

**Intent—2009 c 261:** See note following RCW 70.95.510.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 354:** See notes following RCW 70.95.510.

**70.95.560 Waste tires—Violation of RCW 70.95.555—Penalty.** (1) Any person who transports or stores waste tires without a license in violation of RCW 70.95.555 shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished under RCW 9A.20.021(2).

(2) Any person who transports or stores waste tires without a license in violation of RCW 70.95.555 is liable for the costs of cleanup of any and all waste tires transported or

stored. This subsection does not apply to the storage of waste tires when the storage of the tires occurred before July 1, 2005, and the storage was licensed in accordance with RCW 70.95.555 at the time the tires were stored. [2005 c 354 § 7; 1989 c 431 § 95; 1988 c 250 § 5.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 354:** See notes following RCW 70.95.510.

**70.95.565 Waste tires—Contracts with unlicensed persons prohibited.** No business may enter into a contract for:

(1) Transportation of waste tires with an unlicensed waste tire transporter; or

(2) Waste tire storage with an unlicensed owner or operator of a waste tire storage site. [1988 c 250 § 6.]

**70.95.570 Limitations on liability.** No person or business, having documented proof that it legally transferred possession of waste tires to a validly licensed transporter or storer of waste tires or to a validly permitted recycler, has any further liability related to the waste tires legally transferred. [2005 c 354 § 8.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 354:** See notes following RCW 70.95.510.

**70.95.600 Educational material promoting household waste reduction and recycling.** The department of ecology, at the request of a local government jurisdiction, may periodically provide educational material promoting household waste reduction and recycling to public and private refuse haulers. The educational material shall be distributed to households receiving refuse collection service by local governments or the refuse hauler providing service. The refuse hauler may distribute the educational material by any means that assures timely delivery.

Reasonable expenses incurred in the distribution of this material shall be considered, for rate-making purposes, as legitimate operating expenses of garbage and refuse haulers regulated under chapter 81.77 RCW. [1988 c 175 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95.610 Battery disposal—Restrictions—Violators subject to fine—"Vehicle battery" defined.** (1) No person may knowingly dispose of a vehicle battery except by delivery to: A person or entity selling lead acid batteries, a person or entity authorized by the department to accept the battery, or to a secondary lead smelter.

(2) No owner or operator of a solid waste disposal site shall knowingly accept for disposal used vehicle batteries except when authorized to do so by the department or by the federal government.

(3) Any person who violates this section shall be subject to a fine of up to one thousand dollars. Each battery will constitute a separate violation. Nothing in this section and RCW 70.95.620 through 70.95.660 shall supersede the provisions under chapter 70.105 RCW.

(4) For purposes of this section and RCW 70.95.620 through 70.95.660, "vehicle battery" means batteries capable for use in any vehicle, having a core consisting of elemental lead, and a capacity of six or more volts. [1989 c 431 § 37.]

**70.95.620 Identification procedure for persons accepting used vehicle batteries.** The department shall establish a procedure to identify, on an annual basis, those persons accepting used vehicle batteries from retail establishments. [1989 c 431 § 38.]

**70.95.630 Requirements for accepting used batteries by retailers of vehicle batteries—Notice.** A person selling vehicle batteries at retail in the state shall:

(1) Accept, at the time of purchase of a replacement battery, in the place where the new batteries are physically transferred to the purchasers, and in a quantity at least equal to the number of new batteries purchased, used vehicle batteries from the purchasers, if offered by the purchasers. When a purchaser fails to provide an equivalent used battery or batteries, the purchaser may reclaim the core charge paid under RCW 70.95.640 by returning, to the point of purchase within thirty days, a used battery or batteries and a receipt showing proof of purchase from the establishment where the replacement battery or batteries were purchased; and

(2) Post written notice which must be at least eight and one-half inches by eleven inches in size and must contain the universal recycling symbol and the following language:

(a) "It is illegal to put a motor vehicle battery or other vehicle battery in your garbage."

(b) "State law requires us to accept used motor vehicle batteries or other vehicle batteries for recycling, in exchange for new batteries purchased."

(c) "When you buy a battery, state law also requires us to include a core charge of five dollars or more if you do not return your old battery for exchange." [1989 c 431 § 39.]

**70.95.640 Retail core charge.** Each retail sale of a vehicle battery shall include, in the price of the battery for sale, a core charge of not less than five dollars. When a purchaser offers the seller a used battery of equivalent size, the seller shall omit the core charge from the price of the battery. [1989 c 431 § 40.]

**70.95.650 Vehicle battery wholesalers—Obligations regarding used batteries—Noncompliance procedure.** (1) A person selling vehicle batteries at wholesale to a retail establishment in this state shall accept, at the time and place of transfer, used vehicle batteries in a quantity at least equal to the number of new batteries purchased, if offered by the purchaser.

(2) When a battery wholesaler, or agent of the wholesaler, fails to accept used vehicle batteries as provided in this section, a retailer may file a complaint with the department and the department shall investigate any such complaint.

(3)(a) The department shall issue an order suspending any of the provisions of RCW 70.95.630 through 70.95.660 whenever it finds that the market price of lead has fallen to the extent that new battery wholesalers' estimated statewide average cost of transporting used batteries to a smelter or other person or entity in the business of purchasing used batteries is clearly greater than the market price paid for used lead batteries by such smelter or person or entity.

(b) The order of suspension shall only apply to batteries that are sold at retail during the period in which the suspension order is effective.

(c) The department shall limit its suspension order to a definite period not exceeding six months, but shall revoke the order prior to its expiration date should it find that the reasons for its issuance are no longer valid. [1989 c 431 § 41.]

**70.95.660 Department to distribute printed notice—Issuance of warnings and citations—Fines.** The department shall produce, print, and distribute the notices required by RCW 70.95.630 to all places where vehicle batteries are offered for sale at retail and in performing its duties under this section the department may inspect any place, building, or premise governed by RCW 70.95.640. Authorized employees of the agency may issue warnings and citations to persons who fail to comply with the requirements of RCW 70.95.610 through 70.95.670. Failure to conform to the notice requirements of RCW 70.95.630 shall subject the violator to a fine imposed by the department not to exceed one thousand dollars. However, no such fine shall be imposed unless the department has issued a warning of infraction for the first offense. Each day that a violator does not comply with the requirements of chapter 431, Laws of 1989 following the issuance of an initial warning of infraction shall constitute a separate offense. [1989 c 431 § 42.]

**70.95.670 Rules.** The department shall adopt rules providing for the implementation and enforcement of RCW 70.95.610 through 70.95.660. [1989 c 431 § 43.]

**70.95.700 Solid waste incineration or energy recovery facility—Environmental impact statement requirements.** No solid waste incineration or energy recovery facility shall be operated prior to the completion of an environmental impact statement containing the considerations required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and prepared pursuant to the procedures of chapter 43.21C RCW. This section does not apply to a facility operated prior to January 1, 1989, as a solid waste incineration facility or energy recovery facility burning solid waste. [1989 c 431 § 55.]

**70.95.710 Incineration of medical waste.** Incineration of medical waste shall be conducted under sufficient burning conditions to reduce all combustible material to a form such that no portion of the combustible material is visible in its uncombusted state. [1989 c 431 § 77.]

**70.95.715 Sharps waste—Drop-off sites—Pharmacy return program.** (1) A solid waste planning jurisdiction may designate sharps waste container drop-off sites.

(2) A pharmacy return program shall not be considered a solid waste handling facility and shall not be required to obtain a solid waste permit. A pharmacy return program is required to register, at no cost, with the department. To facilitate designation of sharps waste drop-off sites, the department shall share the name and location of registered pharmacy return programs with jurisdictional health departments and local solid waste management officials.

(3) A public or private provider of solid waste collection service may provide a program to collect source separated residential sharps waste containers as provided in chapter 70.95K RCW.

(4) For the purpose of this section, "sharps waste," "sharps waste container," and "pharmacy return program" shall have the same meanings as provided in RCW 70.95K.010. [1994 c 165 § 5.]

**Findings—Purposes—Intent—1994 c 165:** See note following RCW 70.95K.010.

**70.95.720 Closure of energy recovery and incineration facilities—Recordkeeping requirements.** The department shall require energy recovery and incineration facilities to retain records of monitoring and operation data for a minimum of ten years after permanent closure of the facility. [1990 c 114 § 4.]

**70.95.725 Paper conservation program—Paper recycling program.** By July 1, 2010, each state agency shall develop and implement:

(1) A paper conservation program. Each state agency shall endeavor to conserve paper by at least thirty percent of their current paper use.

(2) A paper recycling program to encourage recycling of all paper products with the goal of recycling one hundred percent of all copy and printing paper in all buildings with twenty-five employees or more.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "state agencies" include, but are not limited to, colleges, universities, offices of elected and appointed officers, the supreme court, court of appeals, and administrative departments of state government. [2009 c 356 § 1.]

**70.95.805 Develop and establish objectives and strategies for the reuse and recycling of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials.** (1) The department of transportation and its implementation partners must collaboratively develop and establish objectives and strategies for the reuse and recycling of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials. This process must include the development of criteria for the successful and sustainable long-term recycling of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials in Washington state transportation, roadway, street, highway, and other transportation infrastructure projects.

(2) The department of transportation must, unless construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials are not readily available and cost-effective, specify and annually use a minimum of twenty-five percent construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials on its cumulative transportation, roadway, street, highway, and other transportation infrastructure projects.

(3)(a) All local governmental entities with a population of one hundred thousand residents or more must, as part of their contracting process, request and accept bids that include the use of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials for each transportation, roadway, street, highway, or other transportation infrastructure project.

(b) Prior to awarding a contract for a transportation, roadway, street, highway, or other transportation infrastructure project, the local governmental entity must compare the lowest responsible bid proposing to use construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials with the lowest responsible bid not proposing to use construction aggregate and

recycled concrete materials, and award the contract to the bidder proposing to use the highest percentage of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials if that bid is the same as, or less than, a bidder not proposing to use construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials or proposing to use a lower percentage of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials.

(4) Any local governmental entity with a population of less than one hundred thousand residents must:

(a) Review and determine the capacity for recycling and reuse of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials for roadway, street, highway, and other transportation infrastructure projects in its jurisdiction;

(b) Establish practical and applicable strategies to recycle and reuse construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials for roadway, street, highway, and other transportation infrastructure projects in its jurisdiction; and

(c) Upon the completion of the review and strategy development, begin implementing the strategies to achieve the recycling and reuse objectives established for its jurisdiction.

(5) The applications and related specification standards for state and local transportation and infrastructure projects that reuse and recycle construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials to be used in the implementation of this section are outlined in the department of transportation's standard specifications for road, bridge, and municipal construction, section 9-03.21, table 9-03.21(1)E.

(6) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials" means reclaimed coarse and fine aggregate cement and concrete mixtures as commonly defined by the American public works association, the federal highway administration, and department of transportation specifications.

(b) "Implementation partners" means local governmental entities and interested Washington-based associations representing the appropriate sectors of the construction industry.

(c) "Local governmental entities" means cities or counties. [2015 c 142 § 2.]

**Findings—2015 c 142:** "(1) The legislature finds that the Washington state highway system is extensive, with over one hundred seventy-five thousand miles of public, city, county, and state highway pavements and over eight thousand seven hundred built structures, built using large quantities of construction aggregates, asphalt, concrete, steel, and cement. Much of our transportation and infrastructure system is in need of major rehabilitation or total reconstruction. These natural resource construction materials used to build our existing system are too valuable to be wasted and landfilled. Some of the best natural construction materials produced in Washington state are already in use for highways, bridges, and building construction. Effective and responsible recycling is an effective life-cycle strategy to reuse these construction materials in the construction of new state and local transportation and infrastructure projects as well as to repair, reconstruct, and maintain them.

(2) The legislature further finds that the recycling of aggregates and other transportation construction materials makes sound economic, environmental, and engineering sense and is in keeping with meeting Washington state's greenhouse gas reduction priorities. The economic benefits from the reuse and recycling of these valuable, finite, and nonrenewable materials can be very effective in reducing the cost of designing, engineering, and construction of new transportation projects and will make greater use of limited state and local transportation funds for additional highway construction, rehabilitation, preservation, or maintenance projects.

(3) The legislature further finds that the reuse of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials into new transportation and infrastructure structure projects is known to:

(a) Promote the conservation and protection of permitted and unpermitted construction aggregate resources;

(b) Reduce the need for the consumption of new construction aggregate materials;

(c) Encourage the reuse and recycling of currently classified waste materials and discourage landfilling of valuable natural resources;

(d) Reduce waste, preserve finite landfill space, and reduce illegal dumping by encouraging reuse and recycling through sound and practical environmental best management and handling practices;

(e) Reduce truck trips and related transportation emissions;

(f) Reduce greenhouse gases related to the construction of new transportation projects, reduce embodied energy, and improve and advance the sustainable principles and practices of the state of Washington and its transportation system;

(g) Reduce project material and construction costs for state and local level projects; and

(h) Be consistent with the governor's executive order No. 13-04 (September 2013), the state department of transportation sustainability executive order No. E1082.00 (August 2012), and presidential executive order No. 13423 (January 2007)." [2015 c 142 § 1.]

**Effective date—2015 c 142:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2016." [2015 c 142 § 4.]

**70.95.807 Report to the legislature. (Expires July 1, 2021.)** (1) The department of transportation, together with its implementation partners, as that term is defined in RCW 70.95.805, must report annually to the legislature on the implementation of RCW 70.95.805. The annual report must be submitted to the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, by January 2nd of each year from 2017 through 2020.

(2) This section expires July 1, 2021. [2015 c 142 § 3.]

**Findings—Effective date—2015 c 142:** See notes following RCW 70.95.805.

**70.95.810 Composting food and yard wastes—Grants and study.** (1) In order to establish the feasibility of composting food and yard wastes, the department shall provide funds, as available, to local governments submitting a proposal to compost such wastes.

(2) The department, in cooperation with the \*department of community, trade, and economic development, may approve an application if the project can demonstrate the essential parameters for successful composting, including, but not limited to, cost-effectiveness, handling and safety requirements, and current and potential markets. [1998 c 245 § 132; 1995 c 399 § 191; 1989 c 431 § 97.]

\***Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**70.95.900 Authority and responsibility of utilities and transportation commission not changed.** Nothing in this act shall be deemed to change the authority or responsibility of the Washington utilities and transportation commission to regulate all intrastate carriers. [1969 ex.s. c 134 § 27.]

**70.95.903 Application of chapter—Collection and transportation of recyclable materials by recycling companies or nonprofit entities—Reuse or reclamation.** Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a recycling company or nonprofit entity from collecting and transporting recyclable materials from a buy-back center, drop-box, or from a commercial or industrial generator of recyclable materials, or upon agreement with a solid waste collection company.

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Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting a commercial or industrial generator of commercial recyclable materials from selling, conveying, or arranging for transportation of such material to a recycler for reuse or reclamation. [1989 c 431 § 32.]

**70.95.904 Application of chapter—Steel slag.** Nothing in this chapter is applicable to steel slag that is a primary product of production in the electric arc steel-making process, produced to specification, managed as an item of commercial value, and placed in commerce for general public consumption, provided that such steel slag material is not abandoned, discarded, or placed in the solid waste stream. [2016 c 165 § 1.]

## Chapter 70.95A RCW

### POLLUTION CONTROL—MUNICIPAL BONDING AUTHORITY

#### Sections

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70.95A.930	Acquisitions by port districts under RCW 53.08.040—Prior rights or obligations.

**70.95A.010 Legislative declaration—Liberal construction.** The legislature finds:

(1) That environmental damage seriously endangers the public health and welfare;

(2) That such environmental damage results from air, water, and other resources pollution and from solid waste disposal, noise and other environmental problems;

(3) That to abate or control such environmental damage antipollution devices, equipment, and facilities must be acquired, constructed and installed;

(4) That the tax exempt financing permitted by Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and authorized by this chapter results in lower costs of installation of pollution control facilities;

(5) That such lower costs benefit the public with no measurable cost impact;

(6) That the method of financing provided in this chapter is in the public interest and its use serves a public purpose in (a) protecting and promoting the health and welfare of the citizens of the cities, towns, counties, and port districts and of this state by encouraging and accelerating the installation of facilities for abating or controlling and preventing environmental damage and (b) in attracting and retaining environ-

mentally sound industry in this state which reduces unemployment and provides a more diversified tax base.

(7) For the reasons set forth in subsection (6) of this section, the provisions of this chapter relating to port districts and all proceedings heretofore or hereafter taken by port districts pursuant thereto are, and shall be deemed to be, for industrial development as authorized by Article 8, section 8 of the Washington state Constitution.

This chapter shall be liberally construed to accomplish the intentions expressed in this section. [1975 c 6 § 1; 1973 c 132 § 2.]

**70.95A.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Municipality" shall mean any city, town, county, or port district in the state;

(2) "Facility" or "facilities" shall mean any land, building, structure, machinery, system, fixture, appurtenance, equipment or any combination thereof, or any interest therein, and all real and personal properties deemed necessary in connection therewith whether or not now in existence, which is used or to be used by any person, corporation or municipality in furtherance of the purpose of abating, controlling or preventing pollution;

(3) "Pollution" shall mean any form of environmental pollution, including but not limited to water pollution, air pollution, land pollution, solid waste disposal, thermal pollution, radiation contamination, or noise pollution;

(4) "Governing body" shall mean the body or bodies in which the legislative powers of the municipality are vested;

(5) "Mortgage" shall mean a mortgage or a mortgage and deed of trust or other security device; and

(6) "Department" shall mean the state department of ecology. [1973 c 132 § 3.]

**70.95A.030 Municipalities—Powers.** In addition to any other powers which it may now have, each municipality shall have the following powers:

(1) To acquire, whether by construction, purchase, devise, gift or lease, or any one or more of such methods, one or more facilities which shall be located within, or partially within the municipality;

(2) To lease, lease with option to purchase, sell or sell by installment sale, any or all of the facilities upon such terms and conditions as the governing body may deem advisable but which shall at least fully reimburse the municipality for all debt service on any bonds issued to finance the facilities and for all costs incurred by the municipality in financing and operating the facilities and as shall not conflict with the provisions of this chapter;

(3) To issue revenue bonds for the purpose of defraying the cost of acquiring or improving any facility or facilities or refunding any bonds issued for such purpose and to secure the payment of such bonds as provided in this chapter. Revenue bonds may be issued in one or more series or issues where deemed advisable, and each such series or issue may have the same or different maturity dates, interest rates, priorities on revenues available for payment of such bonds and priorities on security available for assuring payment thereof, and such other differing terms and conditions as are deemed

necessary and are not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter. [1973 c 132 § 4.]

**70.95A.035 Actions by municipalities validated.** All actions heretofore taken by any municipality in conformity with the provisions of this chapter and the provisions of chapter 6, Laws of 1975 hereby made applicable thereto relating to pollution control facilities, including but not limited to all bonds issued for such purposes, are hereby declared to be valid, legal and binding in all respects. [1975 c 6 § 4.]

*Port districts—Pollution control facilities or other industrial development—Validation: RCW 53.08.041.*

**70.95A.040 Municipalities—Revenue bonds for pollution control facilities—Authorized—Construction—Sale, conditions—Form, terms.** (1) All bonds issued by a municipality under the authority of this chapter shall be secured solely by revenues derived from the lease or sale of the facility. Bonds and any interest coupons issued under the authority of this chapter shall not constitute nor give rise to a pecuniary liability of the municipality or a charge against its general credit or taxing powers. Such limitation shall be plainly stated upon the face of each of such bonds. The use of the municipality's name on revenue bonds authorized hereunder shall not be construed to be the giving or lending of the municipality's financial guarantee or pledge, i.e. credit to any private person, firm, or corporation as the term credit is used in Article 8, section 7 of the Washington state Constitution.

(2) The bonds referred to in subsection (1) of this section, may (a) be executed and delivered at any time and from time to time, (b) be in such form and denominations, (c) be of such tenor, (d) be in bearer or registered form either as to principal or interest or both, as provided in RCW 39.46.030, and may provide for conversion between registered and coupon bonds of varying denominations, (e) be payable in such installments and at such time or times not exceeding forty years from their date, (f) be payable at such place or places, (g) bear interest at such rate or rates as may be determined by the governing body, payable at such place or places within or without this state and evidenced in such manner, (h) be redeemable prior to maturity, with or without premium, and (i) contain such provisions not inconsistent herewith, as shall be deemed for the best interest of the municipality and provided for in the proceedings of the governing body whereunder the bonds shall be authorized to be issued.

(3) Any bonds issued under the authority of this chapter, may be sold at public or private sale in such manner and at such time or times as may be determined by the governing body to be most advantageous. The municipality may pay all expenses, premiums and commissions which the governing body may deem necessary or advantageous in connection with the authorization, sale and issuance thereof from the proceeds of the sale of said bonds or from the revenues of the facilities.

(4) All bonds issued under the authority of this chapter, and any interest coupons applicable thereto shall be investment securities within the meaning of the uniform commercial code and shall be deemed to be issued by a political subdivision of the state.

(5) The proceeds from any bonds issued under this chapter shall be used only for purposes qualifying under Section

103(c)(4)(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

(6) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 174; 1975 c 6 § 3; 1973 c 132 § 5.]

*Port districts—Pollution control facilities or other industrial development—Validation: RCW 53.08.041.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95A.045 Proceeds of bonds are separate trust funds—Municipal treasurer, compensation.** The proceeds of any bonds heretofore or hereafter issued in conformity with the authority of this chapter, together with interest and premiums thereon, and any revenues used to pay or redeem any of such bonds, together with interest and any premiums thereon, shall be separate trust funds and used only for the purposes permitted herein and shall not be considered to be money of the municipality. The services of the treasurer of a municipality, if such treasurer is or has been used, were and are intended to be for the administrative convenience of receipt and payment of nonpublic moneys only for which reasonable compensation may be charged by such treasurer or municipality. [1975 c 6 § 2.]

*Port districts—Pollution control facilities or other industrial development—Validation: RCW 53.08.041.*

**70.95A.050 Revenue bonds—Security—Scope—Default—Authorization proceedings.** (1) The principal of and interest on any bonds issued under the authority of this chapter (a) shall be secured by a pledge of the revenues derived from the sale or lease of the facilities out of which such bonds shall be made payable, (b) may be secured by a mortgage covering all or any part of the facilities, (c) may be secured by a pledge or assignment of the lease of such facilities, or (d) may be secured by a trust agreement or such other security device as may be deemed most advantageous by the governing body.

(2) The proceedings under which the bonds are authorized to be issued under the provisions of this chapter, and any mortgage given to secure the same may contain any agreements and provisions customarily contained in instruments securing bonds, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, provisions respecting (a) the fixing and collection of rents for any facilities covered by such proceedings or mortgage, (b) the terms to be incorporated in the lease of such facilities, (c) the maintenance and insurance of such facilities, (d) the creation and maintenance of special funds from the revenues of such facilities, and (e) the rights and remedies available in the event of a default to the bond owners or to the trustee under a mortgage or trust agreement, all as the governing body shall deem advisable and as shall not be in conflict with the provisions of this chapter: PROVIDED, That in making any such agreements or provisions a municipality shall not have the power to obligate itself except with respect to the facilities and the application of the revenues therefrom, and shall not have the power to incur a pecuniary liability or a charge upon its general credit or against its taxing powers.

(3) The proceedings authorizing any bonds under the provisions of this chapter and any mortgage securing such

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bonds may provide that, in the event of a default in the payment of the principal of or the interest on such bonds or in the performance of any agreement contained in such proceedings or mortgage, such payment and performance may be enforced by mandamus or by the appointment of a receiver in equity with power to charge and collect rents and to apply the revenues from the facilities in accordance with such proceedings or the provisions of such mortgage.

(4) Any mortgage made under the provisions of this chapter, to secure bonds issued thereunder, may also provide that, in the event of a default in the payment thereof or the violation of any agreement contained in the mortgage, the mortgage may be foreclosed and the mortgaged property sold under proceedings in equity or in any other manner now or hereafter permitted by law. Such mortgage may also provide that any trustee under such mortgage or the owner of any of the bonds secured thereby may become the purchaser at any foreclosure sale if the highest bidder therefor. No breach of any such agreement shall impose any pecuniary liability upon a municipality or any charge upon their general credit or against their taxing powers.

(5) The proceedings authorizing the issuance of bonds hereunder may provide for the appointment of a trustee or trustees for the protection of the owners of the bonds, whether or not a mortgage is entered into as security for such bonds. Any such trustee may be a bank with trust powers or a trust company and shall be located in the United States, within or without the state of Washington, shall have the immunities, powers and duties provided in said proceedings, and may, to the extent permitted by such proceedings, hold and invest funds deposited with it in direct obligations of the United States, obligations guaranteed by the United States or certificates of deposit of a bank (including the trustee) which are continuously secured by such obligations of or guaranteed by the United States. Any bank acting as such trustee may, to the extent permitted by such proceedings, buy bonds issued hereunder to the same extent as if it were not such trustee. Said proceedings may provide for one or more co-trustees, and any co-trustee may be any competent individual over the age of twenty-one years or a bank having trust powers or trust company within or without the state. The proceedings authorizing the bonds may provide that some or all of the proceeds of the sale of the bonds, the revenues of any facilities, the proceeds of the sale of any part of a facility, of any insurance policy or of any condemnation award be deposited with the trustee or a co-trustee and applied as provided in said proceedings. [1983 c 167 § 175; 1973 c 132 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95A.060 Facilities—Leases authorized.** Prior to the issuance of the bonds authorized by this chapter, the municipality may lease the facilities to a lessee or lessees under an agreement providing for payment to the municipality of such rentals as will be sufficient (a) to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds issued to finance the facilities, (b) to pay the taxes on the facilities, (c) to build up and maintain any reserves deemed by the governing body to be advisable in connection therewith, and (d) unless the agreement of lease obligates the lessees to pay for the maintenance and insurance of the facilities, to pay the costs of maintaining the facilities in good repair and keeping the same properly insured.

Subject to the limitations of this chapter, the lease or extensions or modifications thereof may contain such other terms and conditions as may be mutually acceptable to the parties, and notwithstanding any other provisions of law relating to the sale of property owned by municipalities, such lease may contain an option for the lessees to purchase the facilities on such terms and conditions with or without consideration as may be mutually acceptable to the parties. [1973 c 132 § 7.]

**70.95A.070 Facilities—Revenue bonds—Refunding provisions.** Any bonds issued under the provisions of this chapter and at any time outstanding may at any time and from time to time be refunded by a municipality by the issuance of its refunding bonds in such amount as the governing body may deem necessary but not exceeding an amount sufficient to refund the principal of the bonds to be so refunded, together with any unpaid interest thereon and any premiums and commissions necessary to be paid in connection therewith: PROVIDED, That an issue of refunding bonds may be combined with an issue of additional revenue bonds on any facilities. Any such refunding may be effected whether the bonds to be refunded shall have then matured or shall thereafter mature, either by sale of the refunding bonds and the application of the proceeds thereof for the payment of the bonds to be refunded thereby, or by exchange of the refunding bonds for the bonds to be refunded thereby: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the owners of any bonds to be so refunded shall not be compelled without their consent to surrender their bonds for payment or exchange except on the terms expressed on the face thereof. Any refunding bonds issued under the authority of this chapter shall be subject to the provisions contained in RCW 70.95A.040 and may be secured in accordance with the provisions of RCW 70.95A.050. [1983 c 167 § 176; 1973 c 132 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95A.080 Revenue bonds—Disposition of proceeds.** The proceeds from the sale of any bonds issued under authority of this chapter shall be applied only for the purpose for which the bonds were issued: PROVIDED, That any accrued interest and premium received in any such sale shall be applied to the payment of the principal of or the interest on the bonds sold: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That if for any reason any portion of such proceeds shall not be needed for the purpose for which the bonds were issued, then such unneeded portion of said proceeds shall be applied to the payment of the principal of or the interest on said bonds. The cost of acquiring or improving any facilities shall be deemed to include the following: The actual cost of acquiring or improving real estate for any facilities; the actual cost of construction of all or any part of the facilities which may be constructed, including architects' and engineers' fees, all expenses in connection with the authorization, sale and issuance of the bonds to finance such acquisition or improvements; and the interest on such bonds for a reasonable time prior to construction, during construction, and for a time not exceeding six months after completion of construction. [1973 c 132 § 9.]

**70.95A.090 Facilities—Sale or lease—Certain restrictions on municipalities not applicable.** The facilities

shall be constructed, reconstructed, and improved and shall be leased, sold or otherwise disposed of in the manner determined by the governing body in its sole discretion and any requirement of competitive bidding, lease performance bonds or other restriction imposed on the procedure for award of contracts for such purpose or the lease, sale or other disposition of property of a municipality is not applicable to any action taken under authority of this chapter. [1973 c 132 § 10.]

**70.95A.100 Facilities—Department of ecology certification.** Upon request by a municipality or by a user of the facilities the department of ecology may in relation to chapter 54, Laws of 1972 ex. sess. and this chapter issue its certificate stating that the facilities (1) as designed are in furtherance of the purpose of abating, controlling or preventing pollution, and/or (2) as designed or as operated meet state and local requirements for the control of pollution. This section shall not be construed as modifying the provisions of RCW 82.34.030; chapter 70.94 RCW; or chapter 90.48 RCW. [1973 c 132 § 11.]

**70.95A.910 Construction—1973 c 132.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as a restriction or limitation upon any powers which a municipality might otherwise have under any laws of this state, but shall be construed as cumulative. [1973 c 132 § 12.]

**70.95A.912 Construction—1975 c 6.** This 1975 amendatory act shall be liberally construed to accomplish the intention expressed herein. [1975 c 6 § 6.]

*Port districts—Pollution control facilities or other industrial development—Validation: RCW 53.08.041.*

**70.95A.930 Acquisitions by port districts under RCW 53.08.040—Prior rights or obligations.** All acquisitions by port districts pursuant to RCW 53.08.040 may, at the option of a port commission, be deemed to be made under this chapter, or under both: PROVIDED, That nothing contained in this chapter shall impair rights or obligations under contracts entered into before March 19, 1973. [1973 c 132 § 14.]

## Chapter 70.95B RCW DOMESTIC WASTE TREATMENT PLANTS— OPERATORS

### Sections

70.95B.010	Legislative declaration.
70.95B.020	Definitions.
70.95B.030	Wastewater treatment plant operators—Certification required.
70.95B.040	Administration of chapter—Rules and regulations—Director's duties.
70.95B.050	Wastewater treatment plants—Classification.
70.95B.060	Criteria and guidelines.
70.95B.071	Ad hoc advisory committees.
70.95B.080	Certificates—When examination not required.
70.95B.090	Certificates—Issuance and renewal conditions.
70.95B.095	Certificates—Fees.
70.95B.100	Certificates—Revocation procedures.
70.95B.110	Administration of chapter—Powers and duties of director.
70.95B.115	Licenses or certificates—Suspension for noncompliance with support order—Reissuance.
70.95B.120	Violations.
70.95B.130	Certificates—Reciprocity with other states.
70.95B.140	Penalties for violations—Injunctions.

70.95B.150 Administration of chapter—Receipts—Payment to general fund.

70.95B.900 Effective date—1973 c 139.

**Reviser's note:** Chapter 139, Laws of 1973 has been codified as chapter 70.95B RCW to conform with code organization. Section 16 of chapter 139 had directed that the chapter be added to Title 43 RCW.

*Public water supply systems—Certification and regulation of operators: Chapter 70.119 RCW.*

**70.95B.010 Legislative declaration.** The legislature declares that competent operation of waste treatment plants plays an important part in the protection of the environment of the state and therefore it is of vital interest to the public. In order to protect the public health and to conserve and protect the water resources of the state, it is necessary to provide for the classifying of all domestic wastewater treatment plants; to require the examination and certification of the persons responsible for the supervision and operation of such systems; and to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations to carry out this chapter. [1973 c 139 § 1.]

**70.95B.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter unless context requires another meaning:

(1) "Certificate" means a certificate of competency issued by the director stating that the operator has met the requirements for the specified operator classification of the certification program.

(2) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(3) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology.

(4) "Nationally recognized association of certification authorities" shall mean that organization which serves as an information center for certification activities, recommends minimum standards and guidelines for classification of potable water treatment plants, water distribution systems and wastewater facilities and certification of operators, facilitates reciprocity between state programs and assists authorities in establishing new certification programs and updating existing ones.

(5) "Operating experience" means routine performance of duties, on-site in a wastewater treatment plant, that affects plant performance or effluent quality.

(6) "Operator in responsible charge" means an individual who is designated by the owner as the person on-site in responsible charge of the routine operation of a wastewater treatment plant.

(7) "Owner" means in the case of a town or city, the city or town acting through its chief executive officer or the lessee if operated pursuant to a lease or contract; in the case of a county, the chair of the county legislative authority or the chair's designee; in the case of a water-sewer district, board of public utilities, association, municipality, or other public body, the president or chair of the body or the president's or chair's designee; in the case of a privately owned wastewater treatment plant, the legal owner.

(8) "Wastewater certification program coordinator" means an employee of the department who administers the wastewater treatment plant operators' certification program.

(9) "Wastewater collection system" means any system of lines, pipes, manholes, pumps, liftstations, or other facilities used for the purpose of collecting and transporting wastewater.

(10) "Wastewater treatment plant" means a facility used to treat any liquid or waterborne waste of domestic origin or a combination of domestic, commercial, or industrial origin, and which by its design requires the presence of an operator for its operation. It shall not include any facility used exclusively by a single-family residence, septic tanks with subsoil absorption, industrial wastewater treatment plants, or wastewater collection systems. [2012 c 117 § 412; 1999 c 153 § 66; 1995 c 269 § 2901; 1987 c 357 § 1; 1973 c 139 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95B.030 Wastewater treatment plant operators—Certification required.** As provided for in this chapter, the individual on-site at a wastewater treatment plant who is designated by the owner as the operator in responsible charge of the operation and maintenance of the plant on a routine basis shall be certified at a level equal to or higher than the classification rating of the plant being operated.

If a wastewater treatment plant is operated on more than one daily shift, the operator in charge of each shift shall be certified at a level no lower than one level lower than the classification rating of the plant being operated and shall be subordinate to the operator in responsible charge who is certified at a level equal to or higher than the plant. This requirement for shift operator certification shall be met by January 1, 1989.

Operators not required to be certified by this chapter are encouraged to become certified on a voluntary basis. [1987 c 357 § 2; 1973 c 139 § 3.]

**70.95B.040 Administration of chapter—Rules and regulations—Director's duties.** The director shall adopt and enforce such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the administration of this chapter. The rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for the qualification and certification of operators for different classifications of wastewater treatment plants. [1995 c 269 § 2902; 1987 c 357 § 3; 1973 c 139 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95B.050 Wastewater treatment plants—Classification.** The director shall classify all wastewater treatment plants with regard to the size, type, and other conditions affecting the complexity of such treatment plants and the skill, knowledge, and experience required of an operator to operate such facilities to protect the public health and the state's water resources. [1987 c 357 § 4; 1973 c 139 § 5.]

**70.95B.060 Criteria and guidelines.** The director is authorized when taking action pursuant to RCW 70.95B.040 and 70.95B.050 to consider generally applicable criteria and guidelines developed by a nationally recognized association of certification authorities. [1973 c 139 § 6.]

**70.95B.071 Ad hoc advisory committees.** The director, in cooperation with the secretary of health, may establish ad hoc advisory committees, as necessary, to obtain advice and technical assistance regarding the examination and certi-

fication of operators of wastewater treatment plants. [1995 c 269 § 2908.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95B.080 Certificates—When examination not required.** Certificates shall be issued without examination under the following conditions:

(1) Certificates, in appropriate classifications, shall be issued without application fee to operators who, on July 1, 1973, hold certificates of competency attained by examination under the voluntary certification program sponsored jointly by the state department of social and health services, health services division, and the Pacific Northwest pollution control association.

(2) Certificates, in appropriate classifications, shall be issued to persons certified by a governing body or owner to have been the operator in responsible charge of a waste treatment plant on July 1, 1973. A certificate so issued will be valid only for the existing plant.

(3) A nonrenewable certificate, temporary in nature, may be issued for a period not to exceed twelve months, to an operator who fills a vacated position required to be filled by a certified operator. Only one such certificate may be issued subsequent to each instance of vacation of any such position. [1987 c 357 § 5; 1973 c 139 § 8.]

**70.95B.090 Certificates—Issuance and renewal conditions.** The issuance and renewal of a certificate shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) A certificate shall be issued if the operator has satisfactorily passed a written examination, or has met the requirements of RCW 70.95B.080, and has met the requirements specified in the rules and regulations as authorized by this chapter, and has paid the department an application fee. Such application fee shall not exceed fifty dollars.

(2) The term for all certificates shall be from the first of January of the year of issuance until the thirty-first of December of the renewal year. The renewal period, not to exceed three years, shall be set by agency rule. Every certificate shall be renewed upon the payment of a renewal fee and satisfactory evidence presented to the director that the operator demonstrates continued professional growth in the field. Such renewal fee shall not exceed thirty dollars.

(3) Individuals who fail to renew their certificates before December 31 of the renewal year, upon notice by the director shall have their certificates suspended for sixty days. If, during the suspension period, the renewal is not completed, the director shall give notice of revocation to the employer and to the operator and the certificate will be revoked ten days after such notice is given. An operator whose certificate has been revoked must reapply for certification and will be requested to meet the requirements of a new applicant. [1987 c 357 § 6; 1973 c 139 § 9.]

**70.95B.095 Certificates—Fees.** Effective January 1, 1988, the department shall establish rules for the collection of fees for the issuance and renewal of certificates as provided for in RCW 70.95B.090. Beginning January 1, 1992, these fees shall be sufficient to recover the costs of the certification program. [1987 c 357 § 9.]

[Title 70 RCW—page 292]

**70.95B.100 Certificates—Revocation procedures.**

The director may, after conducting a hearing, revoke a certificate found to have been obtained by fraud or deceit, or for gross negligence in the operation of a waste treatment plant, or for violating the requirements of this chapter or any lawful rule, order or regulation of the department. No person whose certificate is revoked under this section shall be eligible to apply for a certificate for one year from the effective date of this final order or revocation. [1995 c 269 § 2903; 1973 c 139 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95B.110 Administration of chapter—Powers and duties of director.** To carry out the provisions and purposes of this chapter, the director is authorized and empowered to:

(1) Enter into agreements, contracts, or cooperative arrangements, under such terms and conditions as the director deems appropriate with other state, federal, or interstate agencies, municipalities, education institutions, or other organizations or individuals.

(2) Receive financial and technical assistance from the federal government and other public or private agencies.

(3) Participate in related programs of the federal government, other states, interstate agencies, or other public or private agencies or organizations.

(4) Upon request, furnish reports, information, and materials relating to the certification program authorized by this chapter to federal, state, or interstate agencies, municipalities, education institutions, and other organizations and individuals.

(5) Establish adequate fiscal controls and accounting procedures to assure proper disbursement of and accounting for funds appropriated or otherwise provided for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter. [1987 c 357 § 7; 1973 c 139 § 11.]

**70.95B.115 Licenses or certificates—Suspension for noncompliance with support order—Reissuance.** The director shall immediately suspend the license or certificate of a person who has been certified pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a person who is not in compliance with a support order or a \*residential or visitation order. If the person has continued to meet all other requirements for reinstatement during the suspension, reissuance of the license or certificate shall be automatic upon the director's receipt of a release issued by the department of social and health services stating that the licensee is in compliance with the order. [1997 c 58 § 876.]

*\*Reviser's note:* 1997 c 58 § 886 requiring a court to order certification of noncompliance with residential provisions of a court-ordered parenting plan was vetoed. Provisions ordering the department of social and health services to certify a responsible parent based on a court order to certify for non-compliance with residential provisions of a parenting plan were vetoed. See RCW 74.20A.320.

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95B.120 Violations.** On and after one year following July 1, 1973, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, or other governmental subdivision or agency to operate a wastewater treatment plant

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unless the individuals identified in RCW 70.95B.030 are duly certified by the director under the provisions of this chapter or any lawful rule, order, or regulation of the department. It shall also be unlawful for any person to perform the duties of an operator as defined in this chapter, or in any lawful rule, order, or regulation of the department, without being duly certified under the provisions of this chapter. [1987 c 357 § 8; 1973 c 139 § 12.]

**70.95B.130 Certificates—Reciprocity with other states.** On or after July 1, 1973, certification of operators by any state which, as determined by the director, accepts certifications made or certification requirements deemed satisfied pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, shall be accorded reciprocal treatment and shall be recognized as valid and sufficient within the purview of this chapter, if in the judgment of the director the certification requirements of such state are substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter or any rules or regulations promulgated hereunder.

In making determinations pursuant to this section, the director shall consult with the \*board and may consider any generally applicable criteria and guidelines developed by the nationally recognized association of certification authorities. [1973 c 139 § 13.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.95B.070, which created the water and wastewater operator certification board of examiners, was repealed by 1995 c 269 § 2907, effective July 1, 1995.

**70.95B.140 Penalties for violations—Injunctions.** Any person, including any firm, corporation, municipal corporation, or other governmental subdivision or agency violating any provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations adopted hereunder, is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day of operation in such violation of this chapter or any rules or regulations adopted hereunder shall constitute a separate offense. Upon conviction, violators shall be fined an amount not exceeding one hundred dollars for each offense. It shall be the duty of the prosecuting attorney or the attorney general, as appropriate, to secure injunctions of continuing violations of any provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations adopted hereunder. [1973 c 139 § 14.]

**70.95B.150 Administration of chapter—Receipts—Payment to general fund.** All receipts realized in the administration of this chapter shall be paid into the general fund. [1973 c 139 § 15.]

**70.95B.900 Effective date—1973 c 139.** This 1973 act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect on July 1, 1973. [1973 c 139 § 17.]

## Chapter 70.95C RCW WASTE REDUCTION

### Sections

70.95C.010	Legislative findings.
70.95C.020	Definitions.
70.95C.030	Office of waste reduction—Duties.
70.95C.040	Waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction consultation program.

70.95C.050	Waste reduction techniques—Workshops and seminars.
70.95C.060	Waste reduction hot line—Database system.
70.95C.070	Waste reduction research and development program—Contracts.
70.95C.080	Director's authority.
70.95C.110	Waste reduction and recycling program to promote activities by state agencies—Recycled paper goal.
70.95C.120	Waste reduction and recycling awards program in K-12 public schools—Encouraging waste reduction and recycling in private schools.
70.95C.200	Hazardous waste generators and users—Voluntary reduction plan.
70.95C.210	Voluntary reduction plan—Exemption.
70.95C.220	Voluntary reduction plan, executive summary, or progress report—Department review.
70.95C.230	Appeal of department order or surcharge.
70.95C.240	Public inspection of plans, summaries, progress reports.
70.95C.250	Multimedia permit pilot program—Air, water, hazardous waste management.

**70.95C.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that land disposal and incineration of solid and hazardous waste can be both harmful to the environment and costly to those who must dispose of the waste. In order to address this problem in the most cost-effective and environmentally sound manner, and to implement the highest waste management priority as articulated in RCW 70.95.010 and 70.105.150, public and private efforts should focus on reducing the generation of waste. Waste reduction can be achieved by encouraging voluntary efforts to redesign industrial, commercial, production, and other processes to result in the reduction or elimination of waste by-products and to maximize the in-process reuse or reclamation of valuable spent material.

In the interest of protecting the public health, safety, and the environment, the legislature declares that it is the policy of the state of Washington to encourage reduction in the use of hazardous substances and reduction in the generation of hazardous waste whenever economically and technically practicable.

The legislature finds that hazardous wastes are generated by numerous different sources including, but not limited to, large and small business, households, and state and local government. The legislature further finds that a goal against which efforts at waste reduction may be measured is essential for an effective hazardous waste reduction program. The Pacific Northwest hazardous waste advisory council has endorsed a goal of reducing, through hazardous substance use reduction and waste reduction techniques, the generation of hazardous waste by fifty percent by 1995. The legislature adopts this as a policy goal for the state of Washington. The legislature recognizes that many individual businesses have already reduced the generation of hazardous waste through appropriate hazardous waste reduction techniques. The legislature also recognizes that there are some basic industrial processes which by their nature have limited potential for significantly reducing the use of certain raw materials or substantially reducing the generation of hazardous wastes. Therefore, the goal of reducing hazardous waste generation by fifty percent cannot be applied as a regulatory requirement. [1990 c 114 § 1; 1988 c 177 § 1.]

**70.95C.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(2) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology or the director's designee.

(3) "Dangerous waste" shall have the same definition as set forth in \*RCW 70.105.010(5) and shall specifically include those wastes designated as dangerous by rules adopted pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW.

(4) "EPA/state identification number" means the number assigned by the EPA (environmental protection agency) or by the department of ecology to each generator and/or transporter and treatment, storage, and/or disposal facility.

(5) "Extremely hazardous waste" shall have the same definition as set forth in \*RCW 70.105.010(6) and shall specifically include those wastes designated as extremely hazardous by rules adopted pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW.

(6) "Fee" means the annual hazardous waste fees imposed under RCW 70.95E.020 and 70.95E.030.

(7) "Generate" means any act or process which produces hazardous waste or first causes a hazardous waste to become subject to regulation.

(8) "Hazardous substance" means any hazardous substance listed as a hazardous substance as of March 21, 1990, pursuant to section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, any other substance determined by the director by rule to present a threat to human health or the environment, and all ozone depleting compounds as defined by the Montreal Protocol of October 1987.

(9)(a) "Hazardous substance use reduction" means the reduction, avoidance, or elimination of the use or production of hazardous substances without creating substantial new risks to human health or the environment.

(b) "Hazardous substance use reduction" includes proportionate changes in the usage of hazardous substances as the usage of a hazardous substance or hazardous substances changes as a result of production changes or other business changes.

(10) "Hazardous substance user" means any facility required to report under section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, except for those facilities which only distribute or use fertilizers or pesticides intended for commercial agricultural applications.

(11) "Hazardous waste" means and includes all dangerous and extremely hazardous wastes, but does not include radioactive wastes or a substance composed of both radioactive and hazardous components and does not include any hazardous waste generated as a result of a remedial action under state or federal law.

(12) "Hazardous waste generator" means any person generating hazardous waste regulated by the department.

(13) "Office" means the office of waste reduction.

(14) "Plan" means the plan provided for in RCW 70.95C.200.

(15) "Person" means an individual, trust, firm, joint stock company, partnership, association, state, public or private or municipal corporation, commission, political subdivision of a state, interstate body, the federal government, including any agency or officer thereof, and any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization.

(16) "Process" means all industrial, commercial, production, and other processes that result in the generation of waste.

(17) "Recycled for beneficial use" means the use of hazardous waste, either before or after reclamation, as a substitute for a commercial product or raw material, but does not include: (a) Use constituting disposal; (b) incineration; or (c) use as a fuel.

(18) "Recycling" means reusing waste materials and extracting valuable materials from a waste stream. Recycling does not include burning for energy recovery.

(19) "Treatment" means the physical, chemical, or biological processing of waste to render it completely innocuous, produce a recyclable by-product, reduce toxicity, or substantially reduce the volume of material requiring disposal as described in the priorities established in RCW 70.105.150. Treatment does not include incineration.

(20) "Used oil" means (a) lubricating fluids that have been removed from an engine crankcase, transmission, gearbox, hydraulic device, or differential of an automobile, bus, truck, vessel, plane, heavy equipment, or machinery powered by an internal combustion engine; (b) any oil that has been refined from crude oil, used, and as a result of use, has been contaminated with physical or chemical impurities; and (c) any oil that has been refined from crude oil and, as a consequence of extended storage, spillage, or contamination, is no longer useful to the original purchaser. "Used oil" does not include used oil to which hazardous wastes have been added.

(21) "Waste" means any solid waste as defined under RCW 70.95.030, any hazardous waste, any air contaminant as defined under RCW 70.94.030, and any organic or inorganic matter that shall cause or tend to cause water pollution as defined under RCW 90.48.020.

(22) "Waste generator" means any individual, business, government agency, or any other organization that generates waste.

(23) "Waste reduction" means all in-plant practices that reduce, avoid, or eliminate the generation of wastes or the toxicity of wastes, prior to generation, without creating substantial new risks to human health or the environment. As used in RCW 70.95C.200 through 70.95C.240, "waste reduction" refers to hazardous waste only. [1991 c 319 § 313; 1990 c 114 § 2; 1988 c 177 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Due to the alphabetization of RCW 70.105.010 pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), subsections (5) and (6) were changed to subsections (1) and (7) respectively.

**70.95C.030 Office of waste reduction—Duties.** (1) There is established in the department an office of waste reduction. The office shall use its authorities to encourage the voluntary reduction of hazardous substance usage and waste generation by waste generators and hazardous substance users. The office shall prepare and submit a quarterly progress report to the director.

(2) The office shall be the coordinating center for all state agency programs that provide technical assistance to waste generators and hazardous substance users and shall serve as the state's lead agency and promoter for such programs. In addition to this coordinating function, the office shall encourage hazardous substance use reduction and waste reduction by:

(a) Providing for the rendering of advice and consultation to waste generators and hazardous substance users on hazardous substance use reduction and waste reduction tech-

niques, including assistance in preparation of plans provided for in RCW 70.95C.200;

(b) Sponsoring or co-sponsoring with public or private organizations technical workshops and seminars on waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction;

(c) Administering a waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction database and hot line providing comprehensive referral services to waste generators and hazardous substance users;

(d) Administering a waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction research and development program;

(e) Coordinating a waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction public education program that includes the utilization of existing publications from public and private sources, as well as publishing necessary new materials on waste reduction;

(f) Recommending to institutions of higher education in the state courses and curricula in areas related to waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction; and

(g) Operating an intern program in cooperation with institutions of higher education and other outside resources to provide technical assistance on hazardous substance use reduction and waste reduction techniques and to carry out research projects as needed within the office. [1998 c 245 § 133; 1990 c 114 § 3; 1988 c 177 § 3.]

**70.95C.040 Waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction consultation program.** (1) The office shall establish a waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction consultation program to be coordinated with other state waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction consultation programs.

(2) The director may grant a request by any waste generator or hazardous substance user for advice and consultation on waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction techniques and assistance in preparation or modification of a plan, executive summary, or annual progress report, or assistance in the implementation of a plan required by RCW 70.95C.200. Pursuant to a request from a facility such as a business, governmental entity, or other process site in the state, the director may visit the facility making the request for the purposes of observing hazardous substance use and the waste-generating process, obtaining information relevant to waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction, rendering advice, and making recommendations. No such visit may be regarded as an inspection or investigation, and no notices or citations may be issued, or civil penalty be assessed, upon such a visit. A representative of the director providing advisory or consultative services under this section may not have any enforcement authority.

(3) Consultation and advice given under this section shall be limited to the matters specified in the request and shall include specific techniques of waste reduction and hazardous substance use reduction tailored to the relevant process. In granting any request for advisory or consultative services, the director may provide for an alternative means of affording consultation and advice other than on-site consultation.

(4) Any proprietary information obtained by the director while carrying out the duties required under this section shall remain confidential and shall not be publicized or become

part of the database established under RCW 70.95C.060 without written permission of the requesting party. [1990 c 114 § 5; 1988 c 177 § 4.]

**70.95C.050 Waste reduction techniques—Workshops and seminars.** The office, in coordination with all other state waste reduction technical assistance programs, shall sponsor technical workshops and seminars on waste reduction techniques that have been successfully used to eliminate or reduce substantially the amount of waste or toxicity of hazardous waste generated, or that use in-process reclamation or reuse of spent material. [1988 c 177 § 5.]

**70.95C.060 Waste reduction hot line—Database system.** (1) The office shall establish a statewide waste reduction hot line with the capacity to refer waste generators and the public to sources of information on specific waste reduction techniques and procedures. The hot line shall coordinate with all other state waste hot lines.

(2) The director shall work with the state library to establish a database system that shall include proven waste reduction techniques and case studies of effective waste reduction. The database system shall be: (a) Coordinated with all other state agency databases on waste reduction; (b) administered in conjunction with the statewide waste reduction hot line; and (c) readily accessible to the public. [1988 c 177 § 6.]

**70.95C.070 Waste reduction research and development program—Contracts.** (1) The office may administer a waste reduction research and development program. The director may contract with any public or private organization for the purpose of developing methods and technologies that achieve waste reduction. All research performed and all methods or technologies developed as a result of a contract entered into under this section shall become the property of the state and shall be incorporated into the database system established under RCW 70.95C.060.

(2) Any contract entered into under this section shall be awarded only after requests for proposals have been circulated to persons, firms, or organizations who have requested that their names be placed on a proposal list. The director shall establish a proposal list and shall review and evaluate all proposals received. [1988 c 177 § 7.]

**70.95C.080 Director's authority.** (1) The director may solicit and accept gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises, in trust or otherwise, to be directed to the office of waste reduction.

(2) The director may enter into contracts with any public or private organization to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1988 c 177 § 8.]

**70.95C.110 Waste reduction and recycling program to promote activities by state agencies—Recycled paper goal.** The legislature finds and declares that the buildings and facilities owned and leased by state government produce significant amounts of solid and hazardous wastes, and actions must be taken to reduce and recycle these wastes and thus reduce the costs associated with their disposal. In order for the operations of state government to provide the citizens of the state an example of positive waste management, the

legislature further finds and declares that state government should undertake an aggressive program designed to reduce and recycle solid and hazardous wastes produced in the operations of state buildings and facilities to the maximum extent possible.

The office of waste reduction, in cooperation with the department of enterprise services, shall establish an intensive waste reduction and recycling program to promote the reduction of waste produced by state agencies and to promote the source separation and recovery of recyclable and reusable materials.

All state agencies, including but not limited to, colleges, community colleges, universities, offices of elected and appointed officers, the supreme court, court of appeals, and administrative departments of state government shall fully cooperate with the office of waste reduction and recycling in all phases of implementing the provisions of this section. The office shall establish a coordinated state plan identifying each agency's participation in waste reduction and recycling. The office shall develop the plan in cooperation with a multi-agency committee on waste reduction and recycling. Appointments to the committee shall be made by the director of the department of enterprise services. The director shall notify each agency of the committee, which shall implement the applicable waste reduction and recycling plan elements. All state agencies are to use maximum efforts to achieve a goal of increasing the use of recycled paper by fifty percent by July 1, 1993. [2015 c 225 § 107; 1989 c 431 § 53.]

**70.95C.120 Waste reduction and recycling awards program in K-12 public schools—Encouraging waste reduction and recycling in private schools.** The office of waste reduction shall develop, in consultation with the superintendent of public instruction, an awards program to achieve waste reduction and recycling in public schools, and to encourage waste reduction and recycling in private schools, grades kindergarten through high school. The office shall develop guidelines for program development and implementation. Each public school shall, and each private school may, implement a waste reduction and recycling program conforming to guidelines developed by the office.

For the purpose of granting awards, the office may group all participating schools into not more than three classes, based upon student population, distance to markets for recyclable materials, and other criteria, as deemed appropriate by the office. Except as otherwise provided, five or more awards may be granted to each of the three classes. Each award shall be no more than five thousand dollars. Awards shall be granted each year to the schools that achieve the greatest levels of waste reduction and recycling. A single award of not less than five thousand dollars may be presented to the school having the best recycling program as measured by the total amount of materials recycled, including materials generated outside of the school. A single award of not less than five thousand dollars may be presented to the school having the best waste reduction program as determined by the office.

The superintendent of public instruction shall distribute guidelines and other materials developed by the office to implement programs to reduce and recycle waste generated in administrative offices, classrooms, laboratories, cafeterias,

and maintenance operations. [2008 c 178 § 1; 1991 c 319 § 114; 1989 c 431 § 54.]

**70.95C.200 Hazardous waste generators and users—Voluntary reduction plan.** (1) Each hazardous waste generator who generates more than two thousand six hundred forty pounds of hazardous waste per year and each hazardous substance user, except for those facilities that are primarily permitted treatment, storage, and disposal facilities or recycling facilities, shall prepare a plan for the voluntary reduction of the use of hazardous substances and the generation of hazardous wastes. Hazardous waste generated and recycled for beneficial use, including initial amount of hazardous substances introduced into a process and subsequently recycled for beneficial use, shall not be used in the calculation of hazardous waste generated for purposes of this section. The department may develop reporting requirements, consistent with existing reporting, to establish recycling for beneficial use under this section. Used oil to be re-refined or burned for energy or heat recovery shall not be used in the calculation of hazardous wastes generated for purposes of this section, and is not required to be addressed by plans prepared under this section. A person with multiple interrelated facilities where the processes in the facilities are substantially similar, may prepare a single plan covering one or more of those facilities.

(2) Each user or generator required to write a plan is encouraged to advise its employees of the planning process and solicit comments or suggestions from its employees on hazardous substance use and waste reduction options.

(3) The department shall adopt by April 1, 1991, rules for preparation of plans. The rules shall require the plan to address the following options, according to the following order of priorities: Hazardous substance use reduction, waste reduction, recycling, and treatment. In the planning process, first consideration shall be given to hazardous substance use reduction and waste reduction options. Consideration shall be given next to recycling options. Recycling options may be considered only after hazardous substance use reduction options and waste reduction options have been thoroughly researched and shown to be inappropriate. Treatment options may be considered only after hazardous substance use reduction, waste reduction, and recycling options have been thoroughly researched and shown to be inappropriate. Documentation of the research shall be available to the department upon request. The rules shall also require the plans to discuss the hazardous substance use reduction, waste reduction, and closed loop recycling options separately from other recycling and treatment options. All plans shall be written in conformance with the format prescribed in the rules adopted under this section. The rules shall require the plans to include, but not be limited to:

(a) A written policy articulating management and corporate support for the plan and a commitment to implementing planned activities and achieving established goals;

(b) The plan scope and objectives;

(c) Analysis of current hazardous substance use and hazardous waste generation, and a description of current hazardous substance use reduction, waste reduction, recycling, and treatment activities;

(d) An identification of further hazardous substance use reduction, waste reduction, recycling, and treatment opportu-

nities, and an analysis of the amount of hazardous substance use reduction and waste reduction that would be achieved, and the costs. The analysis of options shall demonstrate that the priorities provided for in this section have been followed;

(e) A selection of options to be implemented in accordance with the priorities established in this section;

(f) An analysis of impediments to implementing the options. Impediments that shall be considered acceptable include, but are not limited to: Adverse impacts on product quality, legal or contractual obligations, economic practicality, and technical feasibility;

(g) A written policy stating that in implementing the selected options, whenever technically and economically practicable, risks will not be shifted from one part of a process, environmental media, or product to another;

(h) Specific performance goals in each of the following categories, expressed in numeric terms:

(i) Hazardous substances to be reduced or eliminated from use;

(ii) Wastes to be reduced or eliminated through waste reduction techniques;

(iii) Materials or wastes to be recycled; and

(iv) Wastes to be treated;

If the establishment of numeric performance goals is not practicable, the performance goals shall include a clearly stated list of objectives designed to lead to the establishment of numeric goals as soon as is practicable. Goals shall be set for a five-year period from the first reporting date;

(i) A description of how the wastes that are not recycled or treated and the residues from recycling and treatment processes are managed may be included in the plan;

(j) Hazardous substance use and hazardous waste accounting systems that identify hazardous substance use and waste management costs and factor in liability, compliance, and oversight costs;

(k) A financial description of the plan;

(l) Personnel training and employee involvement programs;

(m) A five-year plan implementation schedule;

(n) Documentation of hazardous substance use reduction and waste reduction efforts completed before or in progress at the time of the first reporting date; and

(o) An executive summary of the plan, which shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) The information required by (c), (e), (h), and (n) of this subsection; and

(ii) A summary of the information required by (d) and (f) of this subsection.

(4) Upon completion of a plan, the owner, chief executive officer, or other person with the authority to commit management to the plan shall sign and submit an executive summary of the plan to the department.

(5) Plans shall be completed and executive summaries submitted in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) Hazardous waste generators who generated more than fifty thousand pounds of hazardous waste in calendar year 1991 and hazardous substance users who were required to report in 1991, by September 1, 1992;

(b) Hazardous waste generators who generated between seven thousand and fifty thousand pounds of hazardous waste in calendar year 1992 and hazardous substance users who

were required to report for the first time in 1992, by September 1, 1993;

(c) Hazardous waste generators who generated between two thousand six hundred forty and seven thousand pounds of hazardous waste in 1993 and hazardous substance users who were required to report for the first time in 1993, by September 1, 1994;

(d) Hazardous waste generators who have not been required to complete a plan on or prior to September 1, 1994, must complete a plan by September 1 of the year following the first year that they generate more than two thousand six hundred forty pounds of hazardous waste; and

(e) Hazardous substance users who have not been required to complete a plan on or prior to September 1, 1994, must complete a plan by September 1 of the year following the first year that they are required to report under section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

(6) Annual progress reports, including a description of the progress made toward achieving the specific performance goals established in the plan, shall be prepared and submitted to the department in accordance with rules developed under this section. Upon the request of two or more users or generators belonging to similar industrial classifications, the department may aggregate data contained in their annual progress reports for the purpose of developing a public record.

(7) Every five years, each plan shall be updated, and a new executive summary shall be submitted to the department. [1991 c 319 § 314; 1990 c 114 § 6.]

#### **70.95C.210 Voluntary reduction plan—Exemption.**

A person required to prepare a plan under RCW 70.95C.200 because of the quantity of hazardous waste generated may petition the director to be excused from this requirement. The person must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the director that the quantity of hazardous waste generated was due to unique circumstances not likely to be repeated and that the person is unlikely to generate sufficient hazardous waste to require a plan in the next five years. [1990 c 114 § 7.]

#### **70.95C.220 Voluntary reduction plan, executive summary, or progress report—Department review.**

(1) The department may review a plan, executive summary, or an annual progress report to determine whether the plan, executive summary, or annual progress report is adequate pursuant to the rules developed under this section and with the provisions of RCW 70.95C.200. In determining the adequacy of any plan, executive summary, or annual progress report, the department shall base its determination solely on whether the plan, executive summary, or annual progress report is complete and prepared in accordance with the provisions of RCW 70.95C.200.

(2) Plans developed under RCW 70.95C.200 shall be retained at the facility of the hazardous substance user or hazardous waste generator preparing a plan. The plan is not a public record under the public records act, chapter 42.56 RCW. A user or generator required to prepare a plan shall permit the director or a representative of the director to review the plan to determine its adequacy. No visit made by the director or a representative of the director to a facility for

the purposes of this subsection may be regarded as an inspection or investigation, and no notices or citations may be issued, nor any civil penalty assessed, upon such a visit.

(3) If a hazardous substance user or hazardous waste generator fails to complete an adequate plan, executive summary, or annual progress report, the department shall notify the user or generator of the inadequacy, identifying specific deficiencies. For the purposes of this section, a deficiency may include failure to develop a plan, failure to submit an executive summary pursuant to the schedule provided in RCW 70.95C.200(5), and failure to submit an annual progress report pursuant to the rules developed under RCW 70.95C.200(6). The department shall specify a reasonable time frame, of not less than ninety days, within which the user or generator shall complete a modified plan, executive summary, or annual progress report addressing the specified deficiencies.

(4) If the department determines that a modified plan, executive summary, or annual progress report is inadequate, the department may, within its discretion, either require further modification or enter an order pursuant to subsection (5)(a) of this section.

(5)(a) If, after having received a list of specified deficiencies from the department, a hazardous substance user or hazardous waste generator required to prepare a plan fails to complete modification of a plan, executive summary, or annual progress report within the time period specified by the department, the department may enter an order pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW finding the user or generator not in compliance with the requirements of RCW 70.95C.200. When the order is final, the department shall notify the department of revenue to charge a penalty fee. The penalty fee shall be the greater of one thousand dollars or three times the amount of the user's or generator's previous year's fee, in addition to the current year's fee. If no fee was assessed the previous year, the penalty shall be the greater of one thousand dollars or three times the amount of the current year's fee. The penalty assessed under this subsection shall be collected each year after the year for which the penalty was assessed until an adequate plan or executive summary is completed.

(b) If a hazardous substance user or hazardous waste generator required to prepare a plan fails to complete an adequate plan, executive summary, or annual progress report after the department has levied against the user or generator the penalty provided in (a) of this subsection, the user or generator shall be required to pay a surcharge to the department whenever the user or generator disposes of a hazardous waste at any hazardous waste incinerator or hazardous waste landfill facility located in Washington state, until a plan, executive summary, or annual progress report is completed and determined to be adequate by the department. The surcharge shall be equal to three times the fee charged for disposal. The department shall furnish the incinerator and landfill facilities in this state with a list of environmental protection agency/state identification numbers of the hazardous waste generators that are not in compliance with the requirements of RCW 70.95C.200. [2005 c 274 § 338; 1990 c 114 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95C.230 Appeal of department order or surcharge.** A user or generator may appeal from a department

order or a surcharge under RCW 70.95C.220 to the pollution control hearings board pursuant to chapter 43.21B RCW. [1990 c 114 § 9.]

**70.95C.240 Public inspection of plans, summaries, progress reports.** (1) The department shall make available for public inspection any executive summary or annual progress report submitted to the department. Any hazardous substance user or hazardous waste generator required to prepare an executive summary or annual progress report who believes that disclosure of any information contained in the executive summary or annual progress report may adversely affect the competitive position of the user or generator may request the department pursuant to RCW 43.21A.160 to delete from the public record those portions of the executive summary or annual progress report that may affect the user's or generator's competitive position. The department shall not disclose any information contained in an executive summary or annual progress report pending a determination of whether the department will delete any information contained in the report from the public record.

(2) Any ten persons residing within ten miles of a hazardous substance user or hazardous waste generator required to prepare a plan may file with the department a petition requesting the department to examine a plan to determine its adequacy. The department shall report its determination of adequacy to the petitioners and to the user or generator within a reasonable time. The department may deny a petition if the department has within the previous year determined the plan of the user or generator named in the petition to be adequate.

(3) The department shall maintain a record of each plan, executive summary, or annual progress report it reviews, and a list of all plans, executive summaries, or annual progress reports the department has determined to be inadequate, including descriptions of corrective actions taken. This information shall be made available to the public. [1990 c 114 § 10.]

**70.95C.250 Multimedia permit pilot program—Air, water, hazardous waste management.** (1) Not later than January 1, 1995, the department shall designate an industry type and up to ten individual facilities within that industry type to be the focus of a pilot multimedia program. The program shall be designed to coordinate department actions related to environmental permits, plans, approvals, certificates, registrations, technical assistance, and inspections. The program shall also investigate the feasibility of issuing facility-wide permits. The director shall determine the industry type and facilities based on:

- (a) A review of at least three industry types; and
- (b) Criteria which shall include at least the following factors:
  - (i) The potential for the industry to serve as a statewide model for multimedia environmental programs including pollution prevention;
  - (ii) Whether the industry type is subject to regulatory requirements relating to at least two of the following subject areas: Air quality, water quality, or hazardous waste management;
  - (iii) The existence within the industry type of a range of business sizes; and

(iv) Voluntary participation in the program.

(2) In developing the program, the department shall consult with and seek the cooperation of the environmental protection agency.

(3) For purposes of this section, "facility-wide permit" means a single multimedia permit issued by the department to the owner or operator of a facility incorporating the permits and any other relevant department approvals previously issued to the owner or operator or currently required by the department. [1998 c 245 § 134; 1994 c 248 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 70.95D RCW

### SOLID WASTE INCINERATOR AND LANDFILL OPERATORS

#### Sections

70.95D.010	Definitions.
70.95D.020	Incineration facilities—Owner and operator certification requirements.
70.95D.030	Landfills—Owner and operator certification requirements.
70.95D.040	Certification process—Suspension of license or certificate for noncompliance with support order.
70.95D.051	Ad hoc advisory committees.
70.95D.060	Revocation of certification.
70.95D.070	Certification of inspectors.
70.95D.080	Authority of director.
70.95D.090	Unlawful acts—Variance from requirements.
70.95D.100	Penalties.
70.95D.110	Deposit of receipts.

**70.95D.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Certificate" means a certificate of competency issued by the director stating that the operator has met the requirements for the specified operator classification of the certification program.

(2) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(3) "Director" means the director of ecology.

(4) "Incinerator" means a facility which has the primary purpose of burning or which is designed with the primary purpose of burning solid waste or solid waste derived fuel, but excludes facilities that have the primary purpose of burning hog fuel.

(5) "Landfill" means a landfill as defined under RCW 70.95.030.

(6) "Owner" means, in the case of a town or city, the city or town acting through its chief executive officer or the lessee if operated pursuant to a lease or contract; in the case of a county, the chief elected official of the county legislative authority or the chief elected official's designee; in the case of a board of public utilities, association, municipality, or other public body, the president or chief elected official of the body or the president's or chief elected official's designee; in the case of a privately owned landfill or incinerator, the legal owner.

(7) "Solid waste" means solid waste as defined under RCW 70.95.030. [1995 c 269 § 2801; 1989 c 431 § 65.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95D.020 Incineration facilities—Owner and operator certification requirements.** (1) By January 1, 1992, the owner or operator of a solid waste incineration facility

shall employ a certified operator. At a minimum, the individual on-site at a solid waste incineration facility who is designated by the owner as the operator in responsible charge of the operation and maintenance of the facility on a routine basis shall be certified by the department.

(2) If a solid waste incinerator is operated on more than one daily shift, the operator in charge of each shift shall be certified.

(3) Operators not required to be certified are encouraged to become certified on a voluntary basis.

(4) The department shall adopt and enforce such rules as may be necessary for the administration of this section. [1989 c 431 § 66.]

**70.95D.030 Landfills—Owner and operator certification requirements.** (1) By January 1, 1992, the owner or operator of a landfill shall employ a certified landfill operator.

(2) For each of the following types of landfills defined in existing regulations: Inert, demolition waste, problem waste, and municipal solid waste, the department shall adopt rules classifying all landfills in each class. The factors to be considered in the classification shall include, but not be limited to, the type and amount of waste in place and projected to be disposed of at the site, whether the landfill currently meets state and federal operating criteria, the location of the landfill, and such other factors as may be determined to affect the skill, knowledge, and experience required of an operator to operate the landfill in a manner protective of human health and the environment.

(3) The rules shall identify the landfills in each class in which the owner or operator will be required to employ a certified landfill operator who is on-site at all times the landfill is operating. At a minimum, the rule shall require that owners and operators of landfills are required to employ a certified landfill operator who is on call at all times the landfill is operating. [1989 c 431 § 67.]

**70.95D.040 Certification process—Suspension of license or certificate for noncompliance with support order.** (1) The department shall establish a process to certify incinerator and landfill operators. To the greatest extent possible, the department shall rely on the certification standards and procedures developed by national organizations and the federal government.

(2) Operators shall be certified if they:

- Attend the required training sessions;
- Successfully complete required examinations; and
- Pay the prescribed fee.

(3) By January 1, 1991, the department shall adopt rules to require incinerator and appropriate landfill operators to:

- Attend a training session concerning the operation of the relevant type of landfill or incinerator;
- Demonstrate sufficient skill and competency for proper operation of the incinerator or landfill by successfully completing an examination prepared by the department; and
- Renew the certificate of competency at reasonable intervals established by the department.

(4) The department shall provide for the collection of fees for the issuance and renewal of certificates. These fees

shall be sufficient to recover the costs of the certification program.

(5) The department shall establish an appeals process for the denial or revocation of a certificate.

(6) The department shall establish a process to automatically certify operators who have received comparable certification from another state, the federal government, a local government, or a professional association.

(7) Upon July 23, 1989, and prior to January 1, 1992, the owner or operator of an incinerator or landfill may apply to the department for interim certification. Operators shall receive interim certification if they:

(a) Have received training provided by a recognized national organization, educational institution, or the federal government that is acceptable to the department; or

(b) Have received individualized training in a manner approved by the department; and

(c) Have successfully completed any required examinations.

(8) No interim certification shall be valid after January 1, 1992, and interim certification shall not automatically qualify operators for certification pursuant to subsections (2) through (4) of this section.

(9) The department shall immediately suspend the license or certificate of a person who has been certified pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a person who is not in compliance with a support order or a \*residential or visitation order. If the person has continued to meet all other requirements for reinstatement during the suspension, reissuance of the license or certificate shall be automatic upon the department's receipt of a release issued by the department of social and health services stating that the licensee is in compliance with the order. [1997 c 58 § 875; 1989 c 431 § 68.]

**\*Reviser's note:** 1997 c 58 § 886 requiring a court to order certification of noncompliance with residential provisions of a court-ordered parenting plan was vetoed. Provisions ordering the department of social and health services to certify a responsible parent based on a court order to certify for non-compliance with residential provisions of a parenting plan were vetoed. See RCW 74.20A.320.

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95D.051 Ad hoc advisory committees.** The director may establish ad hoc advisory committees, as necessary, to obtain advice and technical assistance on the certification of solid waste incinerator and landfill operators. [1995 c 269 § 2804.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95D.060 Revocation of certification.** (1) The director may revoke a certificate:

(a) If it were found to have been obtained by fraud or deceit;

(b) For gross negligence in the operation of a solid waste incinerator or landfill;

(c) For violating the requirements of this chapter or any lawful rule or order of the department; or

(d) If the facility operated by the certified employee is operated in violation of state or federal environmental laws.

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(2) A person whose certificate is revoked under this section shall not be eligible to apply for a certificate for one year from the effective date of the final order of revocation. [1995 c 269 § 2802; 1989 c 431 § 70.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95D.070 Certification of inspectors.** Any person who is employed by a public agency to inspect the operation of a landfill or a solid waste incinerator to determine the compliance of the facility with state or local laws or rules shall be required to be certified in the same manner as an operator under this chapter. [1989 c 431 § 71.]

**70.95D.080 Authority of director.** To carry out the provisions and purposes of this chapter, the director may:

(1) Enter into agreements, contracts, or cooperative arrangements, under such terms and conditions as the director deems appropriate, with other state, federal, or interstate agencies, municipalities, educational institutions, or other organizations or individuals.

(2) Receive financial and technical assistance from the federal government, other public agencies, and private agencies.

(3) Participate in related programs of the federal government, other states, interstate agencies, other public agencies, or private agencies or organizations.

(4) Upon request, furnish reports, information, and materials relating to the certification program authorized by this chapter to federal, state, or interstate agencies, municipalities, educational institutions, and other organizations and individuals.

(5) Establish adequate fiscal controls and accounting procedures to assure proper disbursement of and accounting for funds appropriated or otherwise provided for the purpose of carrying out this chapter.

(6) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW. [1989 c 431 § 72.]

**70.95D.090 Unlawful acts—Variance from requirements.** After January 1, 1992, it is unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, or other governmental subdivision or agency to operate a solid waste incineration or landfill facility unless the operators are duly certified by the director under this chapter or any lawful rule or order of the department. It is unlawful for any person to perform the duties of an operator without being duly certified under this chapter. The department shall adopt rules that allow the owner or operator of a landfill or solid waste incineration facility to request a variance from this requirement under emergency conditions. The department may impose such conditions as may be necessary to protect human health and the environment during the term of the variance. [1989 c 431 § 73.]

**70.95D.100 Penalties.** (1) Any person, including any firm, corporation, municipal corporation, or other governmental subdivision or agency, with the exception of incinerator operators, violating any provision of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) Any incinerator operator who violates any provision of this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2016 Ed.)

(3) Each day of operation in violation of this chapter or any rules adopted under this chapter shall constitute a separate offense.

(4) The prosecuting attorney or the attorney general, as appropriate, shall secure injunctions of continuing violations of any provisions of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter. [2003 c 53 § 356; 1989 c 431 § 74.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**70.95D.110 Deposit of receipts.** All receipts realized in the administration of this chapter shall be paid into the general fund. [1989 c 431 § 75.]

## Chapter 70.95E RCW HAZARDOUS WASTE FEES

### Sections

70.95E.010	Definitions.
70.95E.020	Hazardous waste generation—Fee.
70.95E.030	Voluntary reduction plan—Fees.
70.95E.040	Fees—Generally.
70.95E.050	Administration of fees.
70.95E.080	Hazardous waste assistance account.
70.95E.090	Technical assistance and compliance education—Grants.
70.95E.100	Exclusion from chapter.

**70.95E.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Dangerous waste" shall have the same definition as set forth in \*RCW 70.105.010(5) and shall include those wastes designated as dangerous by rules adopted pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW.

(2) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(3) "EPA/state identification number" means the number assigned by the EPA (environmental protection agency) or by the department of ecology to each generator and/or transporter and treatment, storage, and/or disposal facility.

(4) "Extremely hazardous waste" shall have the same definition as set forth in \*RCW 70.105.010(6) and shall specifically include those wastes designated as extremely hazardous by rules adopted pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW.

(5) "Fee" means the annual fees imposed under this chapter.

(6) "Generate" means any act or process which produces hazardous waste or first causes a hazardous waste to become subject to regulation.

(7) "Hazardous waste" means and includes all dangerous and extremely hazardous wastes but for the purposes of this chapter excludes all radioactive wastes or substances composed of both radioactive and hazardous components.

(8) "Hazardous waste generator" means all persons whose primary business activities are identified by the department to generate any quantity of hazardous waste in the calendar year for which the fee is imposed.

(9) "Person" means an individual, trust, firm, joint stock company, partnership, association, state, public or private or municipal corporation, commission, political subdivision of a state, interstate body, the federal government including any agency or officer thereof, and any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization.

(2016 Ed.)

(10) "Price deflator" means the United States department of commerce bureau of economic analysis, "Implicit Price Deflator for Gross National Product" for "Government Purchases of Goods and Services," for "State and Local Government."

(11) "Recycled for beneficial use" means the use of hazardous waste, either before or after reclamation, as a substitute for a commercial product or raw material, but does not include: (a) Use constituting disposal; (b) incineration; or (c) use as a fuel.

(12) "Waste generation site" means any geographical area that has been assigned an EPA/state identification number. [1995 c 207 § 1; 1994 c 136 § 1; 1990 c 114 § 11.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Due to the alphabetization of RCW 70.105.010 pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), subsections (5) and (6) were changed to subsections (1) and (7) respectively.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95E.020 Hazardous waste generation—Fee.** A fee is imposed for the privilege of generating hazardous waste in the state. The annual amount of the fee shall be thirty-five dollars upon every hazardous waste generator doing business in Washington in the current calendar year or any part thereof. This fee shall be collected by the department or its designee. A hazardous waste generator shall be exempt from the fee imposed under this section if the value of products, gross proceeds of sales, or gross income of the business, from all business activities of the hazardous waste generator, is less than twelve thousand dollars in the current calendar year. The department shall, subject to appropriation, use the funds collected from the fees assessed in this subsection to support the activities of the office of waste reduction as specified in RCW 70.95C.030. The fee imposed pursuant to this section is due annually by July 1 of the year following the calendar year for which the fee is imposed. [1995 c 207 § 2. Prior: 1994 sp.s. c 2 § 3; 1994 c 136 § 2; 1990 c 114 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95E.030 Voluntary reduction plan—Fees.** Hazardous waste generators and hazardous substance users required to prepare plans under RCW 70.95C.200 shall pay an annual fee to support implementation of RCW 70.95C.200 and 70.95C.040. These fees are to be used by the department, subject to appropriation, for plan review, technical assistance to facilities that are required to prepare plans, other activities related to plan development and implementation, and associated indirect costs. The total fees collected under this subsection shall not exceed the department's costs of implementing RCW 70.95C.200 and 70.95C.040 and shall not exceed one million dollars per year. The annual fee for a facility shall not exceed ten thousand dollars per year. Any facility that generates less than two thousand six hundred forty pounds of hazardous waste per waste generation site in the previous calendar year shall be exempt from the fee imposed by this section. The annual fee for a facility generating at least two thousand six hundred forty pounds but not more than four thousand pounds of hazardous waste per waste generation site in the previous calendar year shall not exceed fifty dollars. A person that develops a plan covering more than one interrelated facility as provided for in RCW 70.95C.200 shall be assessed fees only for the number of plans prepared. The department

shall adopt a fee schedule by rule after consultation with typical affected businesses and other interested parties. Hazardous waste generated and recycled for beneficial use, including initial amount of hazardous substances introduced into a process and subsequently recycled for beneficial use, shall not be used in the calculations of hazardous waste generated for purposes of this section.

The annual fee imposed by this section shall be first due on July 1 of the year prior to the year that the facility is required to prepare a plan, and by July 1 of each year thereafter. [1994 c 136 § 3; 1990 c 114 § 13.]

**70.95E.040 Fees—Generally.** On an annual basis, the department shall adjust the fees provided for in RCW 70.95E.020 and 70.95E.030, including the maximum annual fee, and maximum total fees, by conducting the calculation in subsection (1) of this section and taking the actions set forth in subsection (2) of this section:

(1) In November of each year, the fees, annual fee, and maximum total fees imposed in RCW 70.95E.020 and 70.95E.030, or as subsequently adjusted by this section, shall be multiplied by a factor equal to the most current quarterly "price deflator" available, divided by the "price deflator" used in the numerator the previous year. However, the "price deflator" used in the denominator for the first adjustment shall be defined by the second quarter "price deflator" for 1990.

(2) Each year by March 1 the fee schedule, as adjusted in subsection (1) of this section will be published. The department will round the published fees to the nearest dollar. [1990 c 114 § 14.]

**70.95E.050 Administration of fees.** In administration of this chapter for the enforcement and collection of the fees due and owing under RCW 70.95E.020 and 70.95E.030, the department may apply RCW 43.17.240. [1995 c 207 § 3; 1994 c 136 § 4; 1990 c 114 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95E.080 Hazardous waste assistance account.** The hazardous waste assistance account is hereby created in the state treasury. The following moneys shall be deposited into the hazardous waste assistance account:

(1) Those revenues which are raised by the fees imposed under RCW 70.95E.020 and 70.95E.030;

(2) Penalties and surcharges collected under chapter 70.95C RCW and this chapter; and

(3) Any other moneys appropriated or transferred to the account by the legislature. Moneys in the hazardous waste assistance account may be spent only for the purposes of this chapter following legislative appropriation. [1991 sp.s. c 13 § 75; 1990 c 114 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95E.090 Technical assistance and compliance education—Grants.** The department may use funds in the hazardous waste assistance account to provide technical assistance and compliance education assistance to hazardous substance users and waste generators, to provide grants to local governments, and for administration of this chapter.

Technical assistance may include the activities authorized under chapter 70.95C RCW and RCW 70.105.170 to encourage hazardous waste reduction and hazardous use reduction and the assistance provided for by RCW 70.105.100(2).

Compliance education may include the activities authorized under RCW 70.105.100(2) to train local agency officials and to inform hazardous substance users and hazardous waste generators and owners and operators of hazardous waste management facilities of the requirements of chapter 70.105 RCW and related federal laws and regulations. To the extent practicable, the department shall contract with private businesses to provide compliance education.

Grants to local governments shall be used for small quantity generator technical assistance and compliance education components of their moderate risk waste plans as required by RCW 70.105.220. [1995 c 207 § 4; 1990 c 114 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95E.100 Exclusion from chapter.** Nothing in this chapter relates to radioactive wastes or substances composed of both radioactive and hazardous components, and the department is precluded from using the funds of the hazardous waste assistance account for the regulation and control of such wastes. [1990 c 114 § 20.]

## Chapter 70.95F RCW LABELING OF PLASTICS

### Sections

- 70.95F.010 Definitions.
- 70.95F.020 Labeling requirements—Plastic industry standards.
- 70.95F.030 Violations, penalty.

**70.95F.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Container," unless otherwise specified, refers to "rigid plastic container" or "plastic bottle" as those terms are defined in this section.

(2) "Distributors" means those persons engaged in the distribution of packaged goods for sale in the state of Washington, including manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers.

(3) "Label" means a molded, imprinted, or raised symbol on or near the bottom of a plastic container or bottle.

(4) "Person" means an individual, sole proprietor, partnership, association, or other legal entity.

(5) "Plastic" means a material made of polymeric organic compounds and additives that can be shaped by flow.

(6) "Plastic bottle" means a plastic container intended for single use that has a neck that is smaller than the body of the container, accepts a screw-type, snap cap, or other closure and has a capacity of sixteen fluid ounces or more, but less than five gallons.

(7) "Rigid plastic container" means a formed or molded container, other than a bottle, intended for single use, composed predominantly of plastic resin, and having a relatively inflexible finite shape or form with a capacity of eight ounces or more but less than five gallons. [1991 c 319 § 103.]

**70.95F.020 Labeling requirements—Plastic industry standards.** (1) The provisions of this section and any rules adopted under this section shall be interpreted to conform with nationwide plastics industry standards.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 70.95F.030(2), after January 1, 1992, no person may distribute, sell, or offer for sale in this state a plastic bottle or rigid plastic container unless the container is labeled with a code identifying the appropriate resin type used to produce the structure of the container. The code shall consist of a number placed within three triangulated arrows and letters placed below the triangle of arrows. The triangulated arrows shall be equilateral, formed by three arrows with the apex of each point of the triangle at the midpoint of each arrow, rounded with a short radius. The pointer (arrowhead) of each arrow shall be at the midpoint of each side of the triangle with a short gap separating the pointer from the base of the adjacent arrow. The triangle, formed by the three arrows curved at their midpoints shall depict a clockwise path around the code number. The numbers and letters used shall be as follows:

- (a) 1.= PETE (polyethylene terephthalate)
- (b) 2.= HDPE (high density polyethylene)
- (c) 3.= V (vinyl)
- (d) 4.= LDPE (low density polyethylene)
- (e) 5.= PP (polypropylene)
- (f) 6.= PS (polystyrene)
- (g) 7.= OTHER

[1991 c 319 § 104.]

**70.95F.030 Violations, penalty.** (1) A person who, after written notice from the department, violates RCW 70.95F.020 is subject to a civil penalty of fifty dollars for each violation up to a maximum of five hundred dollars and may be enjoined from continuing violations. Each distribution constitutes a separate offense.

(2) Retailers and distributors shall have two years from May 21, 1991, to clear current inventory, delivered or received and held in their possession as of May 21, 1991. [1991 c 319 § 105.]

**Chapter 70.95G RCW  
PACKAGES CONTAINING METALS**

Sections

- 70.95G.005 Finding.
- 70.95G.010 Definitions.
- 70.95G.020 Concentration levels.
- 70.95G.030 Exemptions.
- 70.95G.040 Certificate of compliance.
- 70.95G.050 Certificate of compliance—Public access.
- 70.95G.060 Prohibition of sale of package.

**70.95G.005 Finding.** The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) The management of solid waste can pose a wide range of hazards to public health and safety and to the environment;

(2) Packaging comprises a significant percentage of the overall solid waste stream;

(3) The presence of heavy metals in packaging is a part of the total concern in light of their likely presence in emis-

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sions or ash when packaging is incinerated, or in leachate when packaging is landfilled;

(4) Lead, mercury, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium, on the basis of available scientific and medical evidence, are of particular concern;

(5) The intent of this chapter is to achieve a reduction in toxicity without impeding or discouraging the expanded use of postconsumer materials in the production of packaging and its components. [1991 c 319 § 106.]

**70.95G.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Package" means a container providing a means of marketing, protecting, or handling a product and shall include a unit package, an intermediate package, and a shipping container. "Package" also means and includes unsealed receptacles such as carrying cases, crates, cups, pails, rigid foil and other trays, wrappers and wrapping films, bags, and tubs.

(2) "Manufacturer" means a person, firm, or corporation that applies a package to a product for distribution or sale.

(3) "Packaging component" means an individual assembled part of a package such as, but not limited to, any interior or exterior blocking, bracing, cushioning, weatherproofing, exterior strapping, coatings, closures, inks, and labels. [1991 c 319 § 107.]

**70.95G.020 Concentration levels.** The sum of the concentration levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium present in any package or packaging component shall not exceed the following:

(1) Six hundred parts per million by weight effective July 1, 1993;

(2) Two hundred fifty parts per million by weight effective July 1, 1994; and

(3) One hundred parts per million by weight effective July 1, 1995.

This section shall apply only to lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium that has been intentionally introduced as an element during manufacturing or distribution. [1992 c 131 § 1; 1991 c 319 § 108.]

**70.95G.030 Exemptions.** All packages and packaging components shall be subject to this chapter except the following:

(1) Those packages or package components with a code indicating date of manufacture that were manufactured prior to May 21, 1991;

(2) Those packages or packaging components that have been purchased by, delivered to, or are possessed by a retailer on or before twenty-four months following May 21, 1991, to permit opportunity to clear existing inventory of the prescribed packaging material;

(3) Those packages or packaging components to which lead, cadmium, mercury, or hexavalent chromium have been added in the manufacturing, forming, printing, or distribution process in order to comply with health or safety requirements of federal law or for which there is no feasible alternative; or

(4) Those packages and packaging components that would not exceed the maximum contaminant levels set forth in RCW 70.95G.020(1) but for the addition of postconsumer

materials; and provided that the exemption for this subsection shall expire six years after May 21, 1991. [1991 c 319 § 109.]

**70.95G.040 Certificate of compliance.** By July 1, 1993, a certificate of compliance stating that a package or packaging component is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter shall be developed by its manufacturer. If compliance is achieved under the exemption or exemptions provided in RCW 70.95G.030 (3) or (4), the certificate shall state the specific basis upon which the exemption is claimed. The certificate of compliance shall be signed by an authorized official of the manufacturing company. The certificate of compliance shall be kept on file by the manufacturer for as long as the package or packaging component is in use, and for three years from the date of the last sale or distribution by the manufacturer. Certificates of compliance, or copies thereof, shall be furnished to the department of ecology upon request within sixty days. If manufacturers are required under any other state statute to provide a certificate of compliance, one certificate may be developed containing all required information.

If the manufacturer or supplier of the package or packaging component reformulates or creates a new package or packaging component, the manufacturer shall develop an amended or new certificate of compliance for the reformulated or new package or packaging component. [1991 c 319 § 110.]

**70.95G.050 Certificate of compliance—Public access.** Requests from a member of the public for any certificate of compliance shall be:

- (1) Made in writing to the department of ecology;
- (2) Made specific as to package or packaging component information requested; and
- (3) Responded to by the department of ecology within ninety days. [1991 c 319 § 111.]

**70.95G.060 Prohibition of sale of package.** The department of ecology may prohibit the sale of any package for which a manufacturer has failed to respond to a request by the department for a certificate of compliance within the allotted period of time pursuant to RCW 70.95G.040. [1991 c 319 § 112.]

## Chapter 70.95H RCW

### CLEAN WASHINGTON CENTER

#### Sections

70.95H.005	Finding.
70.95H.007	Center created.
70.95H.010	Purpose—Market development defined.
70.95H.030	Duties and responsibilities.
70.95H.040	Authority.
70.95H.050	Funding.
70.95H.900	Termination.

**70.95H.005 Finding.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Recycling conserves energy and landfill space, provides jobs and valuable feedstock materials to industry, and promotes health and environmental protection;

(b) Seventy-eight percent of the citizens of the state actively participate in recycling programs and Washington currently has the highest recycling rate in the nation;

(c) The current supply of many recycled commodities far exceeds the demand for such commodities;

(d) Many local governments and private entities cumulatively affect, and are affected by, the market for recycled commodities but have limited jurisdiction and cannot adequately address the problems of market development that are complex, wide-ranging, and regional in nature; and

(e) The private sector has the greatest capacity for creating and expanding markets for recycled commodities, and the development of private markets for recycled commodities is in the public interest.

(2) It is therefore the policy of the state to create a single entity to be known as the clean Washington center to develop new, and expand existing, markets for recycled commodities. [1991 c 319 § 201.]

**70.95H.007 Center created.** There is created the clean Washington center within the \*department of community, trade, and economic development. As used in this chapter, "center" means the clean Washington center. [1995 c 399 § 192; 1991 c 319 § 202.]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**70.95H.010 Purpose—Market development defined.** The purpose of the center is to provide or facilitate business assistance, basic and applied research and development, marketing, public education, and policy analysis in furthering the development of markets for recycled products. As used in this chapter, market development consists of public and private activities that are used to overcome impediments preventing full use of secondary materials diverted from the waste stream, and that encourage and expand use of those materials and subsequent products. In fulfilling this mission the center shall primarily direct its services to businesses that transform or remanufacture waste materials into usable or marketable materials or products for use other than landfill disposal or incineration. [1991 c 319 § 203.]

**70.95H.030 Duties and responsibilities.** The center shall:

(1) Provide targeted business assistance to recycling businesses, including:

- (a) Development of business plans;
- (b) Market research and planning information;
- (c) Access to financing programs;
- (d) Referral and information on market conditions; and
- (e) Information on new technology and product development;

(2) Negotiate voluntary agreements with manufacturers to increase the use of recycled materials in product development;

(3) Support and provide research and development to stimulate and commercialize new and existing technologies and products using recycled materials;

(4) Undertake an integrated, comprehensive education effort directed to recycling businesses to promote processing, manufacturing, and purchase of recycled products, including:

- (a) Provide information to recycling businesses on the availability and benefits of using recycled materials;
- (b) Provide information and referral services on recycled material markets;
- (c) Provide information on new research and technologies that may be used by local businesses and governments; and
- (d) Participate in projects to demonstrate new market uses or applications for recycled products;
- (5) Assist the departments of ecology and enterprise services in the development of consistent definitions and standards on recycled content, product performance, and availability;
- (6) Undertake studies on the unmet capital needs of reprocessing and manufacturing firms using recycled materials;
- (7) Undertake and participate in marketing promotions for the purposes of achieving expanded market penetration for recycled content products;
- (8) Coordinate with the department of ecology to ensure that the education programs of both are mutually reinforcing, with the center acting as the lead entity with respect to recycling businesses, and the department as the lead entity with respect to the general public and retailers;
- (9) Develop an annual work plan. The plan shall describe actions and recommendations for developing markets for commodities comprising a significant percentage of the waste stream and having potential for use as an industrial or commercial feedstock. The initial plan shall address, but not be limited to, mixed waste paper, waste tires, yard and food waste, and plastics; and
- (10) Represent the state in regional and national market development issues. [2015 c 225 § 108; 1992 c 131 § 2; 1991 c 319 § 205.]

**70.95H.040 Authority.** In order to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter, the center may:

- (1) Receive such gifts, grants, funds, fees, and endowments, in trust or otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the center. The center may expend the same or any income therefrom according to the terms of the gifts, grants, or endowments;
- (2) Initiate, conduct, or contract for studies and searches relating to market development for recyclable materials, including but not limited to applied research, technology transfer, and pilot demonstration projects;
- (3) Obtain and disseminate information relating to market development for recyclable materials from other state and local agencies;
- (4) Enter into, amend, and terminate contracts with individuals, corporations, trade associations, and research institutions for the purposes of this chapter;
- (5) Provide grants to local governments or other public institutions to further the development of recycling markets;
- (6) Provide business and marketing assistance to public and private sector entities within the state; and
- (7) Evaluate, analyze, and make recommendations on state policies that may affect markets for recyclable materials. [1991 c 319 § 206.]

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**70.95H.050 Funding.** The center shall solicit financial contributions and support from manufacturing industries and other private sector sources, foundations, and grants from governmental sources to assist in conducting its activities. It may also use separately appropriated funds of the \*department of community, trade, and economic development for the center's activities. [1995 c 399 § 194; 1991 c 319 § 207.]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**70.95H.900 Termination.** The center shall terminate on June 30, 1997. [1991 c 319 § 209.]

## Chapter 70.95I RCW USED OIL RECYCLING

### Sections

70.95I.005	Finding.
70.95I.010	Definitions.
70.95I.020	Used oil recycling element.
70.95I.030	Used oil recycling element guidelines—Waiver—Statewide goals.
70.95I.040	Oil sellers—Education responsibility—Penalty.
70.95I.050	Statewide education.
70.95I.060	Disposal of used oil—Penalty.
70.95I.070	Used oil transporter and processor requirements—Civil penalties.
70.95I.080	Above-ground used oil collection tanks.
70.95I.901	Short title.

**70.95I.005 Finding.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Millions of gallons of used oil are generated each year in this state, and used oil is a valuable petroleum resource that can be recycled;

(b) The improper collection, transportation, recycling, use, or disposal of used oil contributes to the pollution of air, water, and land, and endangers public health and welfare;

(c) The private sector is a vital resource in the collection and recycling of used oil and should be involved in its collection and recycling whenever practicable.

(2) In light of the harmful consequences of improper disposal and use of used oil, and its value as a resource, the legislature declares that the collection, recycling, and reuse of used oil is in the public interest.

(3) The department, when appropriate, should promote the rerefining of used oil in its grants, public education, regulatory, and other programs. [1991 c 319 § 301.]

*Hazardous waste: Chapter 70.95C RCW.*

**70.95I.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Rerefining used oil" means the reclaiming of base lube stock from used oil for use again in the production of lube stock. Rerefining used oil does not mean combustion or landfilling.

(2) "Used oil" means (a) lubricating fluids that have been removed from an engine crankcase, transmission, gearbox, hydraulic device, or differential of an automobile, bus, truck, vessel, plane, heavy equipment, or machinery powered by an internal combustion engine; (b) any oil that has been refined from crude oil, used, and as a result of use, has been contaminated with physical or chemical impurities; and (c) any oil that has been refined from crude oil and, as a consequence of

extended storage, spillage, or contamination, is no longer useful to the original purchaser. "Used oil" does not include used oil to which hazardous wastes have been added.

(3) "Public used oil collection site" means a site where a used oil collection tank has been placed for the purpose of collecting household generated used oil. "Public used oil collection site" also means a vehicle designed or operated to collect used oil from the public.

(4) "Lubricating oil" means any oil designed for use in, or maintenance of, a vehicle, including, but not limited to, motor oil, gear oil, and hydraulic oil. "Lubricating oil" does not mean petroleum hydrocarbons with a flash point below one hundred degrees Centigrade.

(5) "Vehicle" includes every device physically capable of being moved upon a public or private highway, road, street, watercourse, or trail, and in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public or private highway, road, street, watercourse, or trail, except devices moved by human or animal power.

(6) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(7) "Local government" means a city or county developing a local hazardous waste plan under RCW 70.105.220. [1991 c 319 § 302.]

**70.951.020 Used oil recycling element.** (1) Each local government and its local hazardous waste plan under RCW 70.105.220 is required to include a used oil recycling element. This element shall include:

(a) A plan to reach the local goals for household used oil recycling established by the local government and the department under RCW 70.951.030. The plan shall, to the maximum extent possible, incorporate voluntary agreements with the private sector and state agencies to provide sites for the collection of used oil. Where provided, the plan shall also incorporate residential collection of used oil;

(b) A plan for enforcing the sign and container ordinances required by RCW 70.951.040;

(c) A plan for public education on used oil recycling;

(d) A plan for addressing best management practices as provided for under RCW 70.951.030; and

(e) An estimate of funding needed to implement the requirements of this chapter. This estimate shall include a budget reserve for disposal of contaminated oil detected at any public used oil collection site administered by the local government.

(2) By July 1, 1993, each local government or combination of contiguous local governments shall submit its used oil recycling element to the department. The department shall approve or disapprove the used oil recycling element by January 1, 1994, or within ninety days of submission, whichever is later. The department shall approve or disapprove the used oil recycling element if it determines that the element is consistent with this chapter and the guidelines developed by the department under RCW 70.951.030.

(3) Each local government, or combination of contiguous local governments, shall submit an annual statement to the department describing the number of used oil collection sites and the quantity of household used oil recycled for the jurisdiction during the previous calendar year. The first statement shall be due April 1, 1994. Subsequent statements shall be due April 1st of each year.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a city or county to construct or operate a public used oil collection site. [2014 c 173 § 1; 1991 c 319 § 303.]

**70.951.030 Used oil recycling element guidelines—Waiver—Statewide goals.**

(1) The department shall, in consultation with local governments, maintain guidelines for the used oil recycling elements required by RCW 70.951.020 and, by July 1, 2015, shall develop best management practices for preventing and managing polychlorinated biphenyl contamination at public used oil collection sites.

(a) The guidelines shall:

(i) Require development of local collection and refining goals for household used oil for each entity preparing a used oil recycling element under RCW 70.951.020;

(ii) Require local government to recommend the number of used oil collection sites needed to meet the local goals. The department shall establish criteria regarding minimum levels of used oil collection sites;

(iii) Require local government to identify locations suitable as public used oil collection sites as described under RCW 70.951.020(1)(a).

(b) The best management practices for preventing and managing polychlorinated biphenyl contamination at public used oil collection sites must include, at a minimum:

(i) Tank testing requirements;

(ii) Contaminated tank labeling and security measures;

(iii) Contaminated tank cleanup standards;

(iv) Proper contaminated used oil disposal as required under chapter 70.105 RCW and 40 C.F.R. Part 761;

(v) Spill control measures; and

(vi) Model contract language for contracts with used oil collection vendors.

(2) The department may waive all or part of the specific requirements of RCW 70.951.020 if a local government demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department that the objectives of this chapter have been met.

(3) The department may prepare and implement a used oil recycling plan for any local government failing to complete the used oil recycling element of the plan.

(4) The department shall develop statewide collection and refining goals for household used oil for each calendar year beginning with calendar year 1994. Goals shall be based on the estimated statewide collection and refining rate for calendar year 1993, and shall increase each year until calendar year 1996, when the rate shall be eighty percent.

(5) By July 1, 2015, the department shall update the guidelines establishing statewide equipment and operating standards for public used oil collection sites. The updated guidelines must include the best management practices for prevention and management of contaminated used oil developed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section and a process for how to petition the legislature for relief of extraordinary costs incurred with the management and disposal of contaminated used oil. In addition, the standards shall:

(a) Allow the use of used oil collection igloos and other types of portable used oil collection tanks;

(b) Prohibit the disposal of nonhousehold-generated used oil;

(c) Limit the amount of used oil deposited to five gallons per household per day;

(d) Ensure adequate protection against leaks and spills; and

(e) Include other requirements deemed appropriate by the department. [2014 c 173 § 2; 1991 c 319 § 304.]

**70.95I.040 Oil sellers—Education responsibility—Penalty.** (1) A person annually selling one thousand or more gallons of lubricating oil to ultimate consumers for use or installation off the premises, or five hundred or more vehicle oil filters to ultimate consumers for use or installation off the premises within a city or county having an approved used oil recycling element, shall:

(a) Post and maintain at or near the point of sale, durable and legible signs informing the public of the importance of used oil recycling and how and where used oil may be properly recycled; and

(b) Provide for sale at or near the display location of the lubricating oil or vehicle oil filters, household used oil recycling containers. The department shall design and print the signs required by this section, and shall make them available to local governments and retail outlets.

(2) A person, who, after notice, violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars.

(3) The department is responsible for notifying retailers subject to this section.

(4) A city or county may adopt household used oil recycling container standards in order to ensure compatibility with local recycling programs.

(5) Each local government preparing a used oil recycling element of a local hazardous waste plan pursuant to RCW 70.95I.020 shall adopt ordinances within its jurisdiction to enforce subsections (1) and (4) of this section. [1991 c 319 § 305.]

**70.95I.050 Statewide education.** The department shall conduct a public education program to inform the public of the needs for and benefits of collecting and recycling used oil in order to conserve resources and protect the environment. As part of this program, the department shall:

(1) Establish and maintain a statewide list of public used oil collection sites, and a list of all persons coordinating local government used oil programs;

(2) Establish a statewide media campaign describing used oil recycling;

(3) Assist local governments in providing public education and awareness programs concerning used oil by providing technical assistance and education materials; and

(4) Encourage the establishment of voluntary used oil collection and recycling programs, including public-private partnerships, and provide technical assistance to persons organizing such programs. [1991 c 319 § 306.]

**70.95I.060 Disposal of used oil—Penalty.** (1) Effective January 1, 1992, the use of used oil for dust suppression or weed abatement is prohibited.

(2) Effective July 1, 1992, no person may sell or distribute absorbent-based kits, intended for home use, as a means for collecting, recycling, or disposing of used oil.

(3) Effective January 1, 1994, no person may knowingly dispose of used oil except by delivery to a person collecting

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used oil for recycling, treatment, or disposal, subject to the provisions of this chapter and chapter 70.105 RCW.

(4) Effective January 1, 1994, no owner or operator of a solid waste landfill may knowingly accept used oil for disposal in the landfill.

(5) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. [1991 c 319 § 307.]

**70.95I.070 Used oil transporter and processor requirements—Civil penalties.** (1) By January 1, 1993, the department shall adopt rules requiring any transporter of used oil to comply with minimum notification, invoicing, record-keeping, and reporting requirements. For the purpose of this section, a transporter means a person engaged in the off-site transportation of used oil in quantities greater than twenty-five gallons per day.

(2) By January 1, 1993, the department shall adopt minimum standards for used oil that is blended into fuels. Standards shall, at a minimum, establish testing and recordkeeping requirements. Unless otherwise exempted, a processor is any person involved in the marketing, blending, mixing, or processing of used oil to produce fuel to be burned for energy recovery.

(3) Any person who knowingly transports used oil without meeting the requirements of this section shall be subject to civil penalties under chapter 70.105 RCW.

(4) Rules developed under this section shall not require a manifest from individual residences served by a waste oil curbside collection program. [1991 c 319 § 308.]

**70.95I.080 Above-ground used oil collection tanks.** By January 1, 1987, the state fire protection board, in cooperation with the department of ecology, shall develop a statewide standard for the placement of above-ground tanks to collect used oil from private individuals for recycling purposes. [1986 c 37 § 1. Formerly RCW 19.114.040.]

**70.95I.901 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the used oil recycling act. [1991 c 319 § 310.]

## Chapter 70.95J RCW

### MUNICIPAL SEWAGE SLUDGE—BIOSOLIDS

#### Sections

70.95J.005	Findings—Municipal sewage sludge as a beneficial commodity.
70.95J.007	Purpose—Federal requirements.
70.95J.010	Definitions.
70.95J.020	Biosolid management program—Transportation of biosolids and sludge.
70.95J.025	Biosolids permits—Fees—Biosolids permit account.
70.95J.030	Beneficial uses for biosolids and glassified sewage sludge.
70.95J.040	Violations—Orders.
70.95J.050	Enforcement of chapter.
70.95J.060	Violations—Punishment.
70.95J.070	Violations—Monetary penalty.
70.95J.080	Delegation to local health department—Generally.
70.95J.090	Delegation to local health department—Review.

**70.95J.005 Findings—Municipal sewage sludge as a beneficial commodity.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Municipal sewage sludge is an unavoidable by-product of the wastewater treatment process;

(b) Population increases and technological improvements in wastewater treatment processes will double the amount of sludge generated within the next ten years;

(c) Sludge management is often a financial burden to municipalities and to ratepayers;

(d) Properly managed municipal sewage sludge is a valuable commodity and can be beneficially used in agriculture, silviculture, and in landscapes as a soil conditioner; and

(e) Municipal sewage sludge can contain metals and microorganisms that, under certain circumstances, may pose a risk to public health.

(2) The legislature declares that a program shall be established to manage municipal sewage sludge and that the program shall, to the maximum extent possible, ensure that municipal sewage sludge is reused as a beneficial commodity and is managed in a manner that minimizes risk to public health and the environment. [1992 c 174 § 1.]

**70.95J.007 Purpose—Federal requirements.** The purpose of this chapter is to provide the department of ecology and local governments with the authority and direction to meet federal regulatory requirements for municipal sewage sludge. The department of ecology may seek delegation and administer the sludge permit program required by the federal clean water act as it existed February 4, 1987. [1992 c 174 § 2.]

**70.95J.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Biosolids" means municipal sewage sludge that is a primarily organic, semisolid product resulting from the wastewater treatment process, that can be beneficially recycled and meets all requirements under this chapter. For the purposes of this chapter, "biosolids" includes septic tank sludge, also known as septage, that can be beneficially recycled and meets all requirements under this chapter.

(2) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(3) "Local health department" has the same meaning as "jurisdictional health department" in RCW 70.95.030.

(4) "Municipal sewage sludge" means a semisolid substance consisting of settled sewage solids combined with varying amounts of water and dissolved materials generated from a publicly owned wastewater treatment plant. [1992 c 174 § 3.]

**70.95J.020 Biosolid management program—Transportation of biosolids and sludge.** (1) The department shall adopt rules to implement a biosolid management program within twelve months of the adoption of federal rules, 40 C.F.R. Sec. 503, relating to technical standards for the use and disposal of sewage sludge. The biosolid management program shall, at a minimum, conform with all applicable federal rules adopted pursuant to the federal clean water act as it existed on February 4, 1987.

(2) In addition to any federal requirements, the state biosolid management program may include, but not be limited to, an education program to provide relevant legal and scientific information to local governments and citizen groups.

(3) Rules adopted by the department under this section shall provide for public input and involvement for all state and local permits.

(4) Materials that have received a permit as a biosolid shall be regulated pursuant to this chapter.

(5) The transportation of biosolids and municipal sewage sludge shall be governed by Title 81 RCW. Certificates issued by the utilities and transportation commission before June 11, 1992, that include or authorize transportation of municipal sewage sludge shall continue in force and effect and be interpreted to include biosolids. [1992 c 174 § 4.]

**70.95J.025 Biosolids permits—Fees—Biosolids permit account.** (1) The department shall establish annual fees to collect expenses for issuing and administering biosolids permits under this chapter. An initial fee schedule shall be established by rule and shall be adjusted no more often than once every two years. This fee schedule applies to all permits, regardless of date of issuance, and fees shall be assessed prospectively. Fees shall be established in amounts to recover expenses incurred by the department in processing permit applications and modifications, reviewing related plans and documents, monitoring, evaluating, conducting inspections, overseeing performance of delegated program elements, providing technical assistance and supporting overhead expenses that are directly related to these activities.

(2) The annual fee paid by a permittee for any permit issued under this chapter shall be determined by the number of residences or residential equivalents contributing to the permittee's biosolids management system. If residences or residential equivalents cannot be determined or reasonably estimated, fees shall be based on other appropriate criteria.

(3) The biosolids permit account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from fees under this section must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes of administering permits under this chapter.

(4) The department shall make available on the web site information on fees collected, actual expenses incurred, and anticipated expenses for the current and following fiscal years.

(5) The department shall work with the regulated community and local health departments to study the feasibility of modifying the fee schedule to support delegated local health departments and reduce local health department fees paid by biosolids permittees. [2014 c 76 § 7; 1997 c 398 § 1.]

**70.95J.030 Beneficial uses for biosolids and glassified sewage sludge.** The department may work with all appropriate state agencies, local governments, and private entities to establish beneficial uses for biosolids and glassified sewage sludge. [1992 c 174 § 5.]

**70.95J.040 Violations—Orders.** If a person violates any provision of this chapter, or a permit issued or rule adopted pursuant to this chapter, the department may issue an appropriate order to assure compliance with the chapter, permit, or rule. [1992 c 174 § 6.]

**70.95J.050 Enforcement of chapter.** The department, with the assistance of the attorney general, may bring an action at law or in equity, including an action for injunctive relief, to enforce this chapter or a permit issued or rule adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter. [1992 c 174 § 7.]

**70.95J.060 Violations—Punishment.** A person who willfully violates, without sufficient cause, any of the provisions of this chapter, or a permit or order issued pursuant to this chapter, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. Willful violation of this chapter, or a permit or order issued pursuant to this chapter is a gross misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to ten thousand dollars and costs of prosecution, or by imprisonment for up to three hundred sixty-four days, or by both. Each day of violation may be deemed a separate violation. [2011 c 96 § 50; 1992 c 174 § 8.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

**70.95J.070 Violations—Monetary penalty.** In addition to any other penalty provided by law, a person who violates this chapter or rules or orders adopted or issued pursuant to it shall be subject to a penalty in an amount of up to five thousand dollars a day for each violation. Each violation shall be a separate violation. In the case of a continuing violation, each day of violation is a separate violation. An act of commission or omission that procures, aids, or abets in the violation shall be considered a violation under this section. [1992 c 174 § 9.]

**70.95J.080 Delegation to local health department—Generally.** The department may delegate to a local health department the powers necessary to issue and enforce permits to use or dispose of biosolids. A delegation may be withdrawn if the department finds that a local health department is not effectively administering the permit program. [1992 c 174 § 10.]

**70.95J.090 Delegation to local health department—Review.** (1) Any permit issued by a local health department under RCW 70.95J.080 may be reviewed by the department to ensure that the proposed site or facility conforms with all applicable laws, rules, and standards under this chapter.

(2) If the department does not approve or disapprove a permit within sixty days, the permit shall be considered approved.

(3) A local health department may appeal the department's decision to disapprove a permit to the pollution control hearings board, as provided in chapter 43.21B RCW. [1992 c 174 § 11.]

## Chapter 70.95K RCW BIOMEDICAL WASTE

### Sections

70.95K.005	Findings.
70.95K.010	Definitions.
70.95K.011	State definition preempts local definitions.
70.95K.020	Waste treatment technologies.
70.95K.030	Residential sharps—Disposal—Violation.
70.95K.040	Residential sharps waste collection.
70.95K.900	Section headings.
70.95K.920	Effective dates—1992 c 14.

(2016 Ed.)

**70.95K.005 Findings.** The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) It is a matter of statewide concern that biomedical waste be handled in a manner that protects the health, safety, and welfare of the public, the environment, and the workers who handle the waste.

(2) Infectious disease transmission has not been identified from improperly disposed biomedical waste, but the potential for such transmission may be present.

(3) A uniform, statewide definition of biomedical waste will simplify compliance with local regulations while preserving local control of biomedical waste management. [1992 c 14 § 1.]

**70.95K.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Biomedical waste" means, and is limited to, the following types of waste:

(a) "Animal waste" is waste animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that are known to be infected with, or that have been inoculated with, human pathogenic microorganisms infectious to humans.

(b) "Biosafety level 4 disease waste" is waste contaminated with blood, excretions, exudates, or secretions from humans or animals who are isolated to protect others from highly communicable infectious diseases that are identified as pathogenic organisms assigned to biosafety level 4 by the centers for disease control, national institute of health, biosafety in microbiological and biomedical laboratories, current edition.

(c) "Cultures and stocks" are wastes infectious to humans and includes specimen cultures, cultures and stocks of etiologic agents, wastes from production of biologicals and serums, discarded live and attenuated vaccines, and laboratory waste that has come into contact with cultures and stocks of etiologic agents or blood specimens. Such waste includes but is not limited to culture dishes, blood specimen tubes, and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures.

(d) "Human blood and blood products" is discarded waste human blood and blood components, and materials containing free-flowing blood and blood products.

(e) "Pathological waste" is waste human source biopsy materials, tissues, and anatomical parts that emanate from surgery, obstetrical procedures, and autopsy. "Pathological waste" does not include teeth, human corpses, remains, and anatomical parts that are intended for interment or cremation.

(f) "Sharps waste" is all hypodermic needles, syringes with needles attached, IV tubing with needles attached, scalpel blades, and lancets that have been removed from the original sterile package.

(2) "Local government" means city, town, or county.

(3) "Local health department" means the city, county, city-county, or district public health department.

(4) "Person" means an individual, firm, corporation, association, partnership, consortium, joint venture, commercial entity, state government agency, or local government.

(5) "Treatment" means incineration, sterilization, or other method, technique, or process that changes the character or composition of a biomedical waste so as to minimize the risk of transmitting an infectious disease.

(6) "Residential sharps waste" has the same meaning as "sharps waste" in subsection (1) of this section except that the sharps waste is generated and prepared for disposal at a residence, apartment, dwelling, or other noncommercial habitat.

(7) "Sharps waste container" means a leak-proof, rigid, puncture-resistant red container that is taped closed or tightly lidded to prevent the loss of the residential sharps waste.

(8) "Mail programs" means those programs that provide sharps users with a multiple barrier protection kit for the placement of a sharps container and subsequent mailing of the wastes to an approved disposal facility.

(9) "Pharmacy return programs" means those programs where sharps containers are returned by the user to designated return sites located at a pharmacy to be transported by a biomedical or solid waste collection company approved by the utilities and transportation commission.

(10) "Drop-off programs" means those program sites designated by the solid waste planning jurisdiction where sharps users may dispose of their sharps containers.

(11) "Source separation" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.95.030.

(12) "Unprotected sharps" means residential sharps waste that are not disposed of in a sharps waste container. [1994 c 165 § 2; 1992 c 14 § 2.]

**Findings—Purpose—Intent—1994 c 165:** "The legislature finds that the improper disposal and labeling of sharps waste from residences poses a potential health risk and perceived threat to the waste generators, public, and workers in the waste and recycling industry. The legislature further finds that a uniform method for handling sharps waste generated at residences will reduce confusion and injuries, and enhance public and waste worker confidence.

It is the purpose and intent of this act that residential generated sharps waste be contained in easily identified containers and separated from the regular solid waste stream to ensure worker safety and promote proper disposal of these wastes in a manner that is environmentally safe and economically sound." [1994 c 165 § 1.]

**70.95K.011 State definition preempts local definitions.** The definition of biomedical waste set forth in RCW 70.95K.010 shall be the sole state definition for biomedical waste within the state, and shall preempt biomedical waste definitions established by a local health department or local government. [1992 c 14 § 3.]

**70.95K.020 Waste treatment technologies.** (1) At the request of an applicant, the department of health, in consultation with the department of ecology and local health departments, may evaluate the environmental and public health impacts of biomedical waste treatment technologies. The department shall make available the results of any evaluation to local health departments.

(2) All direct costs associated with the evaluation shall be paid by the applicant to the department of health or to a state or local entity designated by the department of health.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "applicant" means any person representing a biomedical waste treatment technology that seeks an evaluation under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) The department of health may adopt rules to implement this section. [1992 c 14 § 4.]

**70.95K.030 Residential sharps—Disposal—Violation.** (1) A person shall not intentionally place unprotected sharps or a sharps waste container into: (a) Recycling containers provided by a city, county, or solid waste collection company, or any other recycling collection site unless that site is specifically designated by a local health department as a drop-off site for sharps waste containers; or (b) cans, carts, drop boxes, or other containers in which refuse, trash, or solid waste has been placed for collection if a source separated collection service is provided for residential sharps waste.

(2) Local health departments shall enforce this section, primarily through an educational approach regarding proper disposal of residential sharps. On the first and second violation, the health department shall provide a warning to the person that includes information on proper disposal of residential sharps. A subsequent violation shall be a class 3 infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW.

(3) It is not a violation of this section to place a sharps waste container into a household refuse receptacle if the utilities and transportation commission determines that such placement is necessary to reduce the potential for theft of the sharps waste container. [1994 c 165 § 3.]

**Findings—Purpose—Intent—1994 c 165:** See note following RCW 70.95K.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.95K.040 Residential sharps waste collection.** (1) A public or private provider of solid waste collection service may provide a program to collect source separated residential sharps waste containers in conjunction with regular collection services.

(2) A company collecting source separated residential sharps waste containers shall notify the public, in writing, on the availability of this service. Notice shall occur at least forty-five days prior to the provision of this service and shall include the following information: (a) How to properly dispose of residential sharps waste; (b) how to obtain sharps waste containers; (c) the cost of the program; (d) options to home collection of sharps waste; and (e) the legal requirements of residential sharps waste disposal.

(3) A company under the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission may provide the service authorized under subsection (1) of this section only under tariff.

The commission may require companies collecting sharps waste containers to implement practices that will protect the containers from theft. [1994 c 165 § 4.]

**Findings—Purpose—Intent—1994 c 165:** See note following RCW 70.95K.010.

**70.95K.900 Section headings.** Section headings as used in this chapter do not constitute any part of the law. [1992 c 14 § 5.]

**70.95K.920 Effective dates—1992 c 14.** (1) Sections 2 and 3 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 20, 1992].

(2) Section 4 of this act shall take effect October 1, 1992. [1992 c 14 § 7.]

**Chapter 70.95L RCW**  
**DETERGENT PHOSPHORUS CONTENT**

## Sections

70.95L.005	Finding.
70.95L.010	Definitions.
70.95L.020	Phosphorus content regulated.
70.95L.030	Notice to distributors and wholesalers.
70.95L.040	Injunction.

**70.95L.005 Finding.** The legislature hereby finds and declares that:

(1) Phosphorus loading of surface waters can stimulate the growth of weeds and algae, and that such growth can have adverse environmental, health, and aesthetic effects;

(2) Household detergents contribute to phosphorus loading, and that a limit on detergents containing phosphorus can significantly reduce the discharge of phosphorus into the state's surface and ground waters;

(3) Household detergents containing no or very low phosphorus are readily available and that over thirty percent of the United States population lives in areas with a ban on detergents containing phosphorus;

(4) Phosphorus limits on household detergents can significantly reduce treatment costs at those sewage treatment facilities that remove phosphorus from the waste stream; and

(5) While significant reductions of phosphorus from laundry detergent have been accomplished, similar progress in reducing phosphorus contributions from dishwashing detergents has not been achieved.

It is therefore the intent of the legislature to impose a statewide limit on the phosphorus content of household detergents. [2006 c 223 § 1; 1993 c 118 § 1.]

**70.95L.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 70.95L.005 through 70.95L.030.

(1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(2) "Dishwashing detergent" means a cleaning agent sold, used, or manufactured for the purpose of cleaning dishes, whether by hand or by household machine.

(3) "Laundry detergent" means a cleaning agent sold, used, or manufactured for the purpose of cleaning laundry, whether by hand or by household machine.

(4) "Person" means an individual, firm, association, copartnership, political subdivision, government agency, municipality, industry, public or private corporation, or any other entity whatsoever.

(5) "Phosphorus" means elemental phosphorus. [1993 c 118 § 2.]

**70.95L.020 Phosphorus content regulated.** (1) After July 1, 1994, a person may not sell or distribute for sale a laundry detergent that contains 0.5 percent or more phosphorus by weight.

(2)(a) After July 1, 1994, and until the dates specified in this subsection, a person may not sell or distribute for sale a dishwashing detergent that contains 8.7 percent or more phosphorus by weight.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2008, in counties located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains with populations greater than four hundred thousand, as determined by office of financial management population estimates, a person may not sell

or distribute for sale a dishwashing detergent that contains 0.5 percent or more phosphorus by weight.

(c) From July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2010, in counties located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains with populations greater than one hundred eighty thousand and less than two hundred twenty thousand, as determined by office of financial management population estimates, a person may not sell or distribute for sale a dishwashing detergent that contains 0.5 percent or more phosphorus by weight except in a single-use package containing no more than 2.0 grams of phosphorus.

(d) Beginning July 1, 2010, a person may not sell or distribute for sale a dishwashing detergent that contains 0.5 percent or more phosphorus by weight in the state.

(e) For purposes of this section, "single-use package" means a tablet or other form of dishwashing detergent that is constituted and intended for use in a single washing.

(3) This section does not apply to the sale or distribution of detergents for commercial and industrial uses. [2008 c 193 § 1; 2006 c 223 § 2; 1993 c 118 § 3.]

**70.95L.030 Notice to distributors and wholesalers.** The department is responsible for notifying major distributors and wholesalers of the statewide limit on phosphorus in detergents. [1993 c 118 § 4.]

**70.95L.040 Injunction.** The attorney general or appropriate city or county prosecuting attorney is authorized to bring an appropriate action to enjoin any violation of the provisions of RCW 70.95L.020. [1993 c 118 § 5.]

**Chapter 70.95M RCW**  
**MERCURY**

## Sections

70.95M.010	Definitions.
70.95M.020	Fluorescent lamps—Labeling requirements.
70.95M.030	Mercury disposal education plan.
70.95M.040	Schools—Purchase of mercury prohibited.
70.95M.050	Prohibited sales—Novelties, manometers, thermometers, thermostats, motor vehicles, bulk mercury.
70.95M.060	Rules—Product preference.
70.95M.070	Clearinghouse—Department participation.
70.95M.080	Penalties.
70.95M.090	Crematories—Nonapplicability of chapter.
70.95M.100	Prescription drugs and devices, biological products, over-the-counter items—Nonapplicability of chapter.
70.95M.110	Medical equipment, research tests—Nonapplicability of chapter.
70.95M.115	Vaccines.
70.95M.120	Fiscal impact—Toxics control account.
70.95M.130	National mercury repository site.
70.95M.140	Requirement to recycle end-of-life mercury-containing lights.

**70.95M.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Bulk mercury" includes any elemental, nonamalgamated mercury, regardless of volume quantity or weight and does not include mercury-added products as defined in this section or products containing mercury collected for recycling or disposal at a permitted disposal facility.

(2) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(3) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology.

(4) "Health care facility" includes a hospital, nursing home, extended care facility, long-term care facility, clinical or medical laboratory, state or private health or mental institution, clinic, physician's office, or health maintenance organization.

(5) "Manufacturer" includes any person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, governmental entity, organization, or joint venture that produces a mercury-added product or an importer or domestic distributor of a mercury-added product produced in a foreign country. In the case of a multi-component product containing mercury, the manufacturer is the last manufacturer to produce or assemble the product. If the multicomponent product or mercury-added product is produced in a foreign country, the manufacturer is the first importer or domestic distributor.

(6) "Mercury-added button-cell battery" means a button-cell battery to which the manufacturer intentionally introduces mercury for the operation of the battery.

(7) "Mercury-added novelty" means a mercury-added product intended mainly for personal or household enjoyment or adornment. Mercury-added novelties include, but are not limited to, items intended for use as practical jokes, figurines, adornments, toys, games, cards, ornaments, yard statues and figures, candles, jewelry, holiday decorations, items of apparel, and other similar products. Mercury-added novelty does not include games, toys, or products that require a button-cell or lithium battery, liquid crystal display screens, or a lamp that contains mercury.

(8) "Mercury-added product" means a product, commodity, or chemical, or a product with a component that contains mercury or a mercury compound intentionally added to the product, commodity, or chemical in order to provide a specific characteristic, appearance, or quality, or to perform a specific function, or for any other reason. Mercury-added products include those products listed in the interstate mercury education and reduction clearinghouse mercury-added products database, but are not limited to, mercury thermometers, mercury thermostats, mercury barometers, lamps, and mercury switches or relays.

(9) "Mercury manometer" means a mercury-added product that is used for measuring blood pressure.

(10) "Mercury thermometer" means a mercury-added product that is used for measuring temperature.

(11) "Retailer" means a retailer of a mercury-added product.

(12) "Switch" means any device, which may be referred to as a switch, sensor, valve, probe, control, transponder, or any other apparatus, that directly regulates or controls the flow of electricity, gas, or other compounds, such as relays or transponders. "Switch" includes all components of the unit necessary to perform its flow control function. "Automotive mercury switch" includes a convenience switch, such as a switch for a trunk or hood light, and a mercury switch in anti-lock brake systems. "Utility switch" includes, but is not limited to, all devices that open or close an electrical circuit, or a liquid or gas valve. "Utility relay" includes, but is not limited to, all products or devices that open or close electrical contacts to control the operation of other devices in the same or other electrical circuit.

(13) "Wholesaler" means a wholesaler of a mercury-added product. [2012 c 119 § 1; 2010 c 130 § 18; 2003 c 260 § 2.]

**Severability—2010 c 130:** See RCW 70.275.901.

**70.95M.020 Fluorescent lamps—Labeling requirements.** (1) Effective January 1, 2004, a manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer may not knowingly sell at retail a fluorescent lamp if the fluorescent lamp contains mercury and was manufactured after November 30, 2003, unless the fluorescent lamp is labeled in accordance with the guidelines listed under subsection (2) of this section. Primary responsibility for affixing labels required under this section is on the manufacturer, and not on the wholesaler or retailer.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a lamp is considered labeled pursuant to subsection (1) of this section if the lamp has all of the following:

(a) A label affixed to the lamp that displays the internationally recognized symbol for the element mercury; and

(b) A label on the lamp's packaging that: (i) Clearly informs the purchaser that mercury is present in the item; (ii) explains that the fluorescent lamp should be disposed of according to applicable federal, state, and local laws; and (iii) provides a toll-free telephone number, and a uniform resource locator internet address to a web site, that contains information on applicable disposal laws.

(3) The manufacturer of a mercury-added lamp is in compliance with the requirements of this section if the manufacturer is in compliance with the labeling requirements of another state.

(4) The provisions of this section do not apply to products containing mercury-added lamps. [2003 c 260 § 3.]

**70.95M.030 Mercury disposal education plan.** The department of health must develop an educational plan for schools, local governments, businesses, and the public on the proper disposal methods for mercury and mercury-added products. [2003 c 260 § 4.]

**70.95M.040 Schools—Purchase of mercury prohibited.** A school may not purchase for use in a primary or secondary classroom bulk elemental mercury or chemical mercury compounds. By January 1, 2006, all primary and secondary schools in the state must remove and properly dispose of all bulk elemental mercury, chemical mercury, and bulk mercury compounds used as teaching aids in science classrooms, not including barometers. [2003 c 260 § 5.]

**70.95M.050 Prohibited sales—Novelties, manometers, thermometers, thermostats, motor vehicles, bulk mercury.** (1) Effective January 1, 2006, no person may sell, offer for sale, or distribute for sale or use in this state a mercury-added novelty. A manufacturer of mercury-added novelties must notify all retailers that sell the product about the provisions of this section and how to properly dispose of any remaining mercury-added novelty inventory.

(2)(a) Effective January 1, 2006, no person may sell, offer for sale, or distribute for sale or use in this state a manometer used to measure blood pressure or a thermometer that contains mercury. This subsection (2)(a) does not apply to:

(i) An electronic thermometer with a button-cell battery containing mercury;

(ii) A thermometer that contains mercury and that is used for food research and development or food processing, including meat, dairy products, and pet food processing;

(iii) A thermometer that contains mercury and that is a component of an animal agriculture climate control system or industrial measurement system or for veterinary medicine until such a time as the system is replaced or a nonmercury component for the system or application is available;

(iv) A thermometer or manometer that contains mercury that is used for calibration of other thermometers, manometers, apparatus, or equipment, unless a nonmercury calibration standard is approved for the application by the national institute of standards and technology;

(v) A thermometer that is provided by prescription. A manufacturer of a mercury thermometer shall supply clear instructions on the careful handling of the thermometer to avoid breakage and proper cleanup should a breakage occur; or

(vi) A manometer or thermometer sold or distributed to a hospital, or a health care facility controlled by a hospital, if the hospital has adopted a plan for mercury reduction consistent with the goals of the mercury chemical action plan developed by the department under section 302, chapter 371, Laws of 2002.

(b) A manufacturer of thermometers that contain mercury must notify all retailers that sell the product about the provisions of this section and how to properly dispose of any remaining thermometer inventory.

(3) Effective January 1, 2006, no person may sell, install, or reinstall a commercial or residential thermostat that contains mercury unless the manufacturer of the thermostat conducts or participates in a thermostat recovery or recycling program designed to assist contractors in the proper disposal of thermostats that contain mercury in accordance with 42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901, et seq., the federal resource conservation and recovery act.

(4) No person may sell, offer for sale, or distribute for sale or use in this state a motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 2006, if the motor vehicle contains an automotive mercury switch.

(5) Nothing in this section restricts the ability of a manufacturer, importer, or domestic distributor from transporting products through the state, or storing products in the state for later distribution outside the state.

(6) Effective June 30, 2012, the sale or purchase and delivery of bulk mercury is prohibited, including sales through the internet or sales by private parties. However, the prohibition in this subsection does not apply to immediate dangerous waste recycling facilities or treatment, storage, and disposal facilities as approved by the department and sales to research facilities, or industrial facilities that provide products or services to entities exempted from this chapter. [2012 c 119 § 2; 2010 c 130 § 19; 2003 c 260 § 6.]

**Severability—2010 c 130:** See RCW 70.275.901.

**70.95M.060 Rules—Product preference.** (1) The \*department of general administration must, by January 1, 2005, revise its rules, policies, and guidelines to implement the purpose of this chapter.

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(2) The department of enterprise services must give priority and preference to the purchase of equipment, supplies, and other products that contain no mercury-added compounds or components, unless: (a) There is no economically feasible nonmercury-added alternative that performs a similar function; or (b) the product containing mercury is designed to reduce electricity consumption by at least forty percent and there is no nonmercury or lower mercury alternative available that saves the same or a greater amount of electricity as the exempted product. In circumstances where a nonmercury-added product is not available, preference must be given to the purchase of products that contain the least amount of mercury added to the product necessary for the required performance. [2015 c 225 § 109; 2003 c 260 § 7.]

\***Reviser's note:** The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**70.95M.070 Clearinghouse—Department participation.** The department is authorized to participate in a regional or multistate clearinghouse to assist in carrying out any of the requirements of this chapter. A clearinghouse may also be used for examining notification and label requirements, developing education and outreach activities, and maintaining a list of all mercury-added products. [2003 c 260 § 8.]

**70.95M.080 Penalties.** A violation of this chapter is punishable by a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation in the case of a first violation. Repeat violators are liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars for each repeat violation. Penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state toxics control account created in RCW 70.105D.070. [2003 c 260 § 9.]

**70.95M.090 Crematories—Nonapplicability of chapter.** Nothing in this chapter applies to crematories as that term is defined in RCW 68.04.070. [2003 c 260 § 10.]

**70.95M.100 Prescription drugs and devices, biological products, over-the-counter items—Nonapplicability of chapter.** Nothing in this chapter applies to prescription drugs and devices regulated by the food and drug administration under the federal food, drug, and cosmetic act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 301 et seq.), to biological products regulated by the food and drug administration under the public health service act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 262 et seq.), or to any substance that may be lawfully sold over-the-counter without a prescription under the federal food, drug, and cosmetic act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 301 et seq.). [2012 c 119 § 3; 2003 c 260 § 12.]

**70.95M.110 Medical equipment, research tests—Nonapplicability of chapter.** Nothing in RCW 70.95M.020, 70.95M.050 (1), (3), or (4), or 70.95M.060 applies to medical equipment or reagents used in medical or research tests regulated by the food and drug administration under the federal food, drug, and cosmetic act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 301 et seq.). [2003 c 260 § 13.]

**70.95M.115 Vaccines.** (1) Beginning July 1, 2007, a person who is known to be pregnant or who is under three years of age shall not be vaccinated with a mercury-contain-

ing vaccine or injected with a mercury-containing product that contains more than 0.5 micrograms of mercury per 0.5 milliliter dose.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, an influenza vaccine may contain up to 1.0 micrograms of mercury per 0.5 milliliter dose.

(3) The secretary of the department of health may, upon the secretary's or local public health officer's declaration of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease or of a shortage of vaccine that complies with subsection (1) or (2) of this section, suspend the requirements of this section for the duration of the outbreak or shortage. A person who is known to be pregnant or lactating or a parent or legal guardian of a child under eighteen years of age shall be informed if the person or child is to be vaccinated or injected with any mercury-containing product that contains more than the mercury limits per dose in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

(4) All vaccines and products referenced under this section must meet food and drug administration licensing requirements. [2007 c 268 § 1; 2006 c 231 § 2.]

**Findings—2006 c 231:** "The legislature finds that vaccinations and immunizations are among the most important public health innovations of the last one hundred years. The centers for disease control and prevention placed vaccinations at the top of its list of the ten greatest public health achievements of the twentieth century. In its efforts to improve public health in the world's poorest countries, the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation has identified childhood immunization as a cost-effective method of improving public health and saving the lives of millions of children around the world.

Fortunately, in Washington, safe and cost-effective vaccinations against childhood diseases are widely available through both public and private resources. The vaccines that the Washington state department of health provides to meet the requirements for the recommended childhood vaccination schedule through its universal childhood vaccine program are screened for thimerosal and preference is given toward the purchase of thimerosal-free products. The department of health currently provides thimerosal-free products for all routinely recommended childhood vaccines. Regardless of the absence of thimerosal in childhood vaccines in Washington, scientifically reputable organizations such as the centers for disease control and prevention, the national institute of medicine, the American academy of pediatrics, the food and drug administration, and the world health organization have all determined that there is no credible evidence that the use of thimerosal in vaccines poses a threat to the health and safety of children.

Notwithstanding these assurances of the safety of the vaccine supply, the legislature finds that where there is public concern over the safety of vaccines, vaccination rates may be reduced to the point that deadly, vaccine-preventable, childhood diseases return. This measure is being enacted to maintain public confidence in vaccine programs, so that the public will continue to seek vaccinations and their health benefits may continue to protect the people of Washington." [2006 c 231 § 1.]

**70.95M.120 Fiscal impact—Toxics control account.** Any fiscal impact on the department or the department of health that results from the implementation of this chapter must be paid for out of funds that are appropriated by the legislature from the state toxics control account for the implementation of the department's persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemical strategy. [2003 c 260 § 11.]

**70.95M.130 National mercury repository site.** The department of ecology shall petition the United States environmental protection agency requesting development of a national mercury repository site. [2003 c 260 § 14.]

**70.95M.140 Requirement to recycle end-of-life mercury-containing lights.** (*Effective July 1, 2026, subject to the recodification contingency in 2014 c 119 § 10.*) Effective January 1, 2013:

(1) All persons, residents, government, commercial, industrial, and retail facilities and office buildings must recycle their end-of-life mercury-containing lights.

(2) No mercury-containing lights may knowingly be placed in waste containers for disposal at incinerators, waste to energy facilities, or landfills.

(3) No mercury-containing lights may knowingly be placed in a container for mixed recyclables unless there is a separate location or compartment for the mercury-containing lights that complies with local government collection standards or guidelines.

(4) No owner or operator of a solid waste facility may be found in violation of this section if the facility has posted in a conspicuous location a sign stating that mercury-containing lights must be recycled and are not accepted for disposal.

(5) No solid waste collector may be found in violation of this section for mercury-containing lights placed in a disposal container by the generator of the mercury-containing light. [2010 c 130 § 8. Formerly RCW 70.275.080.]

## Chapter 70.95N RCW ELECTRONIC PRODUCT RECYCLING

### Sections

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**70.95N.010 Findings.** The legislature finds that a convenient, safe, and environmentally sound system for the collection, transportation, and recycling of covered electronic products must be established. The legislature further finds that the system must encourage the design of electronic products that are less toxic and more recyclable. The legislature further finds that the responsibility for this system must be shared among all stakeholders, with manufacturers financing the collection, transportation, and recycling system. [2006 c 183 § 1.]

**70.95N.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Authority" means the Washington materials management and financing authority created under RCW 70.95N.280.

(2) "Authorized party" means a manufacturer who submits an individual independent plan or the entity authorized to submit an independent plan for more than one manufacturer.

(3) "Board" means the board of directors of the Washington materials management and financing authority created under RCW 70.95N.290.

(4) "Collector" means an entity licensed to do business in the state that gathers unwanted covered electronic products from households, small businesses, school districts, small governments, and charities for the purpose of recycling and meets minimum standards that may be developed by the department.

(5) "Contract for services" means an instrument executed by the authority and one or more persons or entities that delineates collection, transportation, and recycling services, in whole or in part, that will be provided to the citizens of the state within service areas as described in the approved standard plan.

(6) "Covered electronic product" includes a cathode ray tube or flat panel computer monitor having a viewable area greater than four inches when measured diagonally, a desktop computer, a laptop or a portable computer, or a cathode ray tube or flat panel television having a viewable area greater than four inches when measured diagonally that has been used in the state by any covered entity regardless of original point of purchase. "Covered electronic product" does not include: (a) A motor vehicle or replacement parts for use in motor vehicles or aircraft, or any computer, computer monitor, or television that is contained within, and is not separate from, the motor vehicle or aircraft; (b) monitoring and control instruments or systems; (c) medical devices; (d) products including materials intended for use as ingredients in those products as defined in the federal food, drug, and cosmetic act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 301 et seq.) or the virus-serum-toxin act of 1913 (21 U.S.C. Sec. 151 et seq.), and regulations issued

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under those acts; (e) equipment used in the delivery of patient care in a health care setting; (f) a computer, computer monitor, or television that is contained within a clothes washer, clothes dryer, refrigerator, refrigerator and freezer, microwave oven, conventional oven or range, dishwasher, room air conditioner, dehumidifier, or air purifier; or (g) handheld portable voice or data devices used for commercial mobile services as defined in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 332 (d)(1).

(7) "Covered entity" means any household, charity, school district, small business, or small government located in Washington state.

(8) "Curbside service" means a collection service providing regularly scheduled pickup of covered electronic products from households or other covered entities in quantities generated from households.

(9) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(10) "Electronic product" includes a cathode ray tube or flat panel computer monitor having a viewable area greater than four inches when measured diagonally; a desktop computer; a laptop or a portable computer; or a cathode ray tube or flat screen television having a viewable area greater than four inches when measured diagonally.

(11) "Equivalent share" means the weight in pounds of covered electronic products identified for an individual manufacturer under this chapter as determined by the department under RCW 70.95N.200.

(12) "Household" means a single detached dwelling unit or a single unit of a multiple dwelling unit and appurtenant structures.

(13) "Independent plan" means a plan for the collection, transportation, and recycling of unwanted covered electronic products that is developed, implemented, and financed by an individual manufacturer or by an authorized party.

(14) "Manufacturer" means any person, in business or no longer in business but having a successor in interest, who, irrespective of the selling technique used, including by means of distance or remote sale:

(a) Manufactures or has manufactured a covered electronic product under its own brand names for sale in or into this state;

(b) Assembles or has assembled a covered electronic product that uses parts manufactured by others for sale in or into this state under the assembler's brand names;

(c) Resells or has resold in or into this state under its own brand names a covered electronic product produced by other suppliers, including retail establishments that sell covered electronic products under their own brand names;

(d) Manufactures or manufactured a cobranded product for sale in or into this state that carries the name of both the manufacturer and a retailer;

(e) Imports or has imported a covered electronic product into the United States that is sold in or into this state. However, if the imported covered electronic product is manufactured by any person with a presence in the United States meeting the criteria of manufacturer under (a) through (d) of this subsection, that person is the manufacturer. For purposes of this subsection, "presence" means any person that performs activities conducted under the standards established for interstate commerce under the commerce clause of the United States Constitution;

(f) Sells at retail a covered electronic product acquired from an importer that is the manufacturer as described in (e) of this subsection, and elects to register in lieu of the importer as the manufacturer for those products; or

(g) Beginning in program year 2016, elects to assume the responsibility and register in lieu of a manufacturer as defined under this section. In the event the entity who assumes responsibility fails to comply, the manufacturer as defined under (a) through (f) of this subsection remains fully responsible.

(15) "Market share" means the percentage of covered electronic products by weight identified for an individual manufacturer, as determined by the department under RCW 70.95N.190.

(16) "New entrant" means: (a) A manufacturer of televisions that have been sold in the state for less than ten years; or (b) a manufacturer of desktop computers, laptop and portable computers, or computer monitors that have been sold in the state for less than five years. However, a manufacturer of both televisions and computers or a manufacturer of both televisions and computer monitors that is deemed a new entrant under either only (a) or (b) of this subsection is not considered a new entrant for purposes of this chapter.

(17) "Orphan product" means a covered electronic product that lacks a manufacturer's brand or for which the manufacturer is no longer in business and has no successor in interest.

(18) "Plan's equivalent share" means the weight in pounds of covered electronic products for which a plan is responsible. A plan's equivalent share is equal to the sum of the equivalent shares of each manufacturer participating in that plan.

(19) "Plan's market share" means the sum of the market shares of each manufacturer participating in that plan.

(20) "Plan's return share" means the sum of the return shares of each manufacturer participating in that plan.

(21) "Premium service" means services such as at-location system upgrade services provided to covered entities and at-home pickup services offered to households. "Premium service" does not include curbside service.

(22) "Processor" means an entity engaged in disassembling, dismantling, or shredding electronic products to recover materials contained in the electronic products and prepare those materials for reclaiming or reuse in new products in accordance with processing standards established by this chapter and by the department. A processor may also salvage parts to be used in new products.

(23) "Product type" means one of the following categories: Computer monitors; desktop computers; laptop and portable computers; and televisions.

(24) "Program" means the collection, transportation, and recycling activities conducted to implement an independent plan or the standard plan.

(25) "Program year" means each full calendar year after the program has been initiated.

(26) "Recycling" means transforming or remanufacturing unwanted electronic products, components, and by-products into usable or marketable materials for use other than landfill disposal or incineration. "Recycling" does not include energy recovery or energy generation by means of combusting unwanted electronic products, components, and

by-products with or without other waste. Smelting of electronic materials to recover metals for reuse in conformance with all applicable laws and regulations is not considered disposal or energy recovery.

(27) "Retailer" means a person who offers covered electronic products for sale at retail through any means including, but not limited to, remote offerings such as sales outlets, catalogs, or the internet, but does not include a sale that is a wholesale transaction with a distributor or a retailer.

(28) "Return share" means the percentage of covered electronic products by weight identified for an individual manufacturer, as determined by the department under RCW 70.95N.190.

(29) "Reuse" means any operation by which an electronic product or a component of a covered electronic product changes ownership and is used for the same purpose for which it was originally purchased.

(30) "Small business" means a business employing less than fifty people.

(31) "Small government" means a city in the state with a population less than fifty thousand, a county in the state with a population less than one hundred twenty-five thousand, and special purpose districts in the state.

(32) "Standard plan" means the plan for the collection, transportation, and recycling of unwanted covered electronic products developed, implemented, and financed by the authority on behalf of manufacturers participating in the authority.

(33) "Transporter" means an entity that transports covered electronic products from collection sites or services to processors or other locations for the purpose of recycling, but does not include any entity or person that hauls their own unwanted electronic products.

(34) "Unwanted electronic product" means a covered electronic product that has been discarded or is intended to be discarded by its owner.

(35) "White box manufacturer" means a person who manufactured unbranded covered electronic products offered for sale in the state within ten years prior to a program year for televisions or within five years prior to a program year for desktop computers, laptop or portable computers, or computer monitors. [2013 c 305 § 1; 2006 c 183 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2014." [2013 c 305 § 15.]

**70.95N.030 Manufacturer participation.** (1) A manufacturer must participate in an independent plan or the standard plan to implement and finance the collection, transportation, and recycling of covered electronic products.

(2) An independent plan or the standard plan must be implemented and fully operational no later than January 1, 2009.

(3) The manufacturers participating in an approved plan are responsible for covering all administrative and operational costs associated with the collection, transportation, and recycling of their plan's equivalent share of covered electronic products. If costs are passed on to consumers, it must be done without any fees at the time the unwanted electronic product is delivered or collected for recycling. However, this

does not prohibit collectors providing premium or curbside services from charging customers a fee for the additional collection cost of providing this service, when funding for collection provided by an independent plan or the standard plan does not fully cover the cost of that service.

(4) Nothing in this chapter changes or limits the authority of the Washington utilities and transportation commission to regulate collection of solid waste in the state of Washington, including curbside collection of residential recyclable materials, nor does this chapter change or limit the authority of a city or town to provide such service itself or by contract pursuant to RCW 81.77.020.

(5) Manufacturers are encouraged to collaborate with electronic product retailers, certificated waste haulers, processors, recyclers, charities, and local governments within the state in the development and implementation of their plans. [2006 c 183 § 3.]

**70.95N.040 Manufacturer registration.** (1) By January 1, 2007, and annually thereafter, each manufacturer must register with the department.

(2) A manufacturer must submit to the department with each registration or annual renewal a fee to cover the administrative costs of this chapter as determined by the department under RCW 70.95N.230.

(3) The department shall review the registration or renewal application and notify the manufacturer if their registration does not meet the requirements of this section. Within thirty days of receipt of such a notification from the department, the manufacturer must file with the department a revised registration addressing the requirements noted by the department.

(4) The registration must include the following information:

(a) The name and contact information of the manufacturer submitting the registration;

(b) The manufacturer's brand names of covered electronic products, including all brand names sold in the state in the past, all brand names currently being sold in the state, and all brand names for which the manufacturer has legal responsibility under RCW 70.95N.100;

(c) The method or methods of sale used in the state; and

(d) Whether the registrant will be participating in the standard plan or submitting an independent plan to the department for approval.

(5) The registrant shall submit any changes to the information provided in the registration to the department within fourteen days of such change.

(6) The department shall identify, using all reasonable means, manufacturers that are in business or that are no longer in business but that have a successor in interest by examining best available return share data, product advertisements, and other pertinent data. The department shall notify manufacturers that have been identified and for whom an address has been found of the requirements of this chapter, including registration and plan requirements under this section and RCW 70.95N.050. [2013 c 305 § 2; 2006 c 183 § 4.]

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.050 Independent plan requirements.** (1) A manufacturer must participate in the standard plan administration

by the authority, unless the manufacturer obtains department approval for an independent plan for the collection, transportation, and recycling of unwanted electronic products.

(2) An independent plan may be submitted by an individual manufacturer or by a group of manufacturers, provided that:

(a) For program years 2009 through 2015, each independent plan represents at least a five percent return share of covered electronic products. For program year 2016 and all subsequent program years, each independent plan represents at least a five percent market share of covered electronic products; and

(b) No manufacturer may participate in an independent plan if it is a new entrant or a white box manufacturer.

(3) An individual manufacturer submitting an independent plan to the department is responsible for collecting, transporting, and recycling its equivalent share of covered electronic products.

(4)(a) Manufacturers collectively submitting an independent plan are responsible for collecting, transporting, and recycling the sum of the equivalent shares of each participating manufacturer.

(b) Each group of manufacturers submitting an independent plan must designate a party authorized to file the plan with the department on their behalf. A letter of certification from each of the manufacturers designating the authorized party must be submitted to the department together with the plan.

(5) Each manufacturer in the standard plan or in an independent plan retains responsibility and liability under this chapter in the event that the plan fails to meet the manufacturer's obligations under this chapter. [2013 c 305 § 3; 2006 c 183 § 5.]

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.060 Standard, independent plan requirements—Fees to be set by the department—Acceptance or rejection by department.** (1) All initial independent plans and the initial standard plan required under RCW 70.95N.050 must be submitted to the department by February 1, 2008. The department shall review each independent plan and the standard plan.

(2) The authority submitting the standard plan and each authorized party submitting an independent plan to the department must pay a fee to the department to cover the costs of administering and implementing this chapter. The department shall set the fees as described under RCW 70.95N.230.

(3) The fees in subsection (2) of this section apply to the initial plan submission and plan updates and revisions required in RCW 70.95N.070.

(4) Within ninety days after receipt of a plan, the department shall determine whether the plan complies with this chapter. If the plan is approved, the department shall send a letter of approval. If a plan is rejected, the department shall provide the reasons for rejecting the plan to the authority or authorized party. The authority or authorized party must submit a new plan within sixty days after receipt of the letter of disapproval.

(5) An independent plan and the standard plan must contain the following elements:

(a) Contact information for the authority or authorized party and a comprehensive list of all manufacturers participating in the plan and their contact information;

(b) A description of the collection, transportation, and recycling systems and service providers used, including a description of how the authority or authorized party will:

(i) Seek to use businesses within the state, including retailers, charities, processors, and collection and transportation services;

(ii) Fairly compensate collectors for providing collection services; and

(iii) Fairly compensate processors for providing processing services;

(c) The method or methods for the reasonably convenient collection of all product types of covered electronic products in rural and urban areas throughout the state, including how the plan will provide for collection services in each county of the state and for a minimum of one collection site or alternate collection service for each city or town with a population greater than ten thousand. A collection site for a county may be the same as a collection site for a city or town in the county;

(d) A description of how the plan will provide service to small businesses, small governments, charities, and school districts in Washington;

(e) The processes and methods used to recycle covered electronic products including a description of the processing that will be used and the facility location;

(f) Documentation of audits of each processor used in the plan and compliance with processing standards established under RCW 70.95N.250 and \*section 26 of this act;

(g) A description of the accounting and reporting systems that will be employed to track progress toward the plan's equivalent share;

(h) A timeline describing start-up, implementation, and progress towards milestones with anticipated results;

(i) A public information campaign to inform consumers about how to recycle their covered electronic products at the end of the product's life; and

(j) A description of how manufacturers participating in the plan will communicate and work with processors utilized by that plan to promote and encourage design of electronic products and their components for recycling.

(6) The standard plan shall address how it will incorporate and fairly compensate registered collectors providing curbside or premium services such that they are not compensated at a lower rate for collection costs than the compensation offered other collectors providing drop-off collection sites in that geographic area.

(7) All transporters, collectors, and processors used to fulfill the requirements of this section must be registered as described in RCW 70.95N.240. [2006 c 183 § 6.]

\*Reviser's note: Section 26 of this act was vetoed by the governor.

**70.95N.070 Plan updates—Revised plan.** (1) An independent plan and the standard plan must be updated at least every five years and as required in (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(a) If the program fails to provide service in each county in the state or meet other plan requirements, the authority or authorized party shall submit to the department within sixty days of failing to provide service an updated plan addressing how the program will be adjusted to meet the program geographic coverage and collection service requirements established in RCW 70.95N.090.

(b) The authority or authorized party shall notify the department of any modification to the plan. If the department determines that the authority or authorized party has significantly modified the program described in the plan, the authority or authorized party shall submit a revised plan describing the changes to the department within sixty days of notification by the department.

(2) Within sixty days after receipt of a revised plan, the department shall determine whether the revised plan complies with this chapter. If the revised plan is approved, the department shall send a letter of approval. If the revised plan is rejected, the department shall provide the reasons for rejecting the plan to the authority or authorized party. The authority or authorized party must submit a new plan revision within sixty days after receipt of the letter of disapproval.

(3) The authority or authorized parties may buy and sell collected covered electronic products with other programs without submitting a plan revision for review. [2006 c 183 § 7.]

**70.95N.080 Independent plan participants changing to standard plan.** (1) A manufacturer participating in an independent plan may join the standard plan by notifying the authority and the department of its intention at least five months prior to the start of the next program year.

(2) Manufacturers may not change from one plan to another plan during a program year.

(3) A manufacturer participating in the standard plan wishing to implement or participate in an independent plan may do so by complying with rules adopted by the department under RCW 70.95N.230. [2006 c 183 § 8.]

**70.95N.090 Collection services.** (1) A program must provide collection services for covered electronic products of all product types and produced by any manufacturer that are reasonably convenient and available to all citizens of the state residing within its geographic boundaries, including both rural and urban areas. Each program must provide collection service in every county of the state. A program may provide collection services jointly with another plan or plans.

(a) For any city or town with a population of greater than ten thousand, each program shall provide a minimum of one collection site or alternate collection service described in subsection (3) of this section or a combination of sites and alternate service that together provide at least one collection opportunity for all product types. A collection site for a county may be the same as a collection site for a city or town in the county.

(b) Collection sites may include electronics recyclers and repair shops, recyclers of other commodities, reuse organizations, charities, retailers, government recycling sites, or other suitable locations.

(c) Collection sites must be staffed, open to the public at a frequency adequate to meet the needs of the area being served, and on an ongoing basis.

(2) A program may limit the number of covered electronic products or covered electronic products by product type accepted per customer per day or per delivery at a collection site or service. All covered entities may use a collection site as long as the covered entities adhere to any restrictions established in the plans.

(3) A program may provide collection services in forms different than collection sites, such as curbside services, if those alternate services provide equal or better convenience to citizens and equal or increased recovery of unwanted covered electronic products.

(4) For rural areas without commercial centers or areas with widely dispersed population, a program may provide collection at the nearest commercial centers or solid waste sites, collection events, mail-back systems, or a combination of these options.

(5) For small businesses, small governments, charities, and school districts that may have large quantities of covered electronic products that cannot be handled at collection sites or curbside services, a program may provide alternate services. At a minimum, a program must provide for processing of these large quantities of covered electronic products at no charge to the small businesses, small governments, charities, and school districts. [2013 c 305 § 4; 2006 c 183 § 9.]

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.100 Successor duties.** Any person acquiring a manufacturer, or who has acquired a manufacturer, shall have all responsibility for the acquired company's covered electronic products, including covered electronic products manufactured prior to July 1, 2006, unless that responsibility remains with another entity per the purchase agreement and the acquiring manufacturer provides the department with a letter from the other entity accepting responsibility for the covered electronic products. Cobranding manufacturers may negotiate with retailers for responsibility for those products and must notify the department of the results of their negotiations. [2006 c 183 § 10.]

**70.95N.110 Covered electronic sampling.** (1) For program years 2009 through 2014, an independent plan and the standard plan must implement and finance an auditable, statistically significant sampling of covered electronic products entering its program every program year. The information collected must include a list of the brand names of covered electronic products by product type, the number of covered electronic products by product type, the weight of covered electronic products that are identified for each brand name or that lack a manufacturer's brand, the total weight of the sample by product type, and any additional information needed to assign return share.

(2) For program years 2009 through 2014, the sampling must be conducted in the presence of the department or a third-party organization approved by the department. The department may, at its discretion, audit the methodology and the results.

(3) After the fifth program year through the 2014 program year, the department may reassess the sampling

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required in this section. The department may adjust the frequency at which manufacturers must implement the sampling or may adjust the frequency at which manufacturers must provide certain information from the sampling. Prior to making any changes, the department shall notify the public, including all registered manufacturers, and provide a comment period. The department shall notify all registered manufacturers of any such changes. [2013 c 305 § 5; 2006 c 183 § 11.]

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.120 Promotion of covered product recycling.**

(1) An independent plan and the standard plan must inform covered entities about where and how to reuse and recycle their covered electronic products at the end of the product's life, including providing a web site or a toll-free telephone number that gives information about the recycling program in sufficient detail to educate covered entities regarding how to return their covered electronic products for recycling.

(2) The department shall promote covered electronic product recycling by:

(a) Posting information describing where to recycle unwanted covered electronic products on its web site;

(b) Providing information about recycling covered electronic products through a toll-free telephone service; and

(c) Developing and providing artwork for use in flyers and signage to retailers upon request.

(3) Local governments shall promote covered electronic product recycling, including listings of local collection sites and services, through existing educational methods typically used by each local government.

(4) A retailer who sells new covered electronic products shall provide information to consumers describing where and how to recycle covered electronic products and opportunities and locations for the convenient collection or return of the products. This requirement can be fulfilled by providing the department's toll-free telephone number and web site. Remote sellers may include the information in a visible location on their web site as fulfillment of this requirement.

(5) Manufacturers, state government, local governments, retailers, and collection sites and services shall collaborate in the development and implementation of the public information campaign. [2006 c 183 § 12.]

**70.95N.130 Electronic products recycling account.**

(1) The electronic products recycling account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All payments resulting from plans not reaching their equivalent share, as described in RCW 70.95N.220, shall be deposited into the account. Any moneys collected for manufacturer registration fees, fees associated with reviewing and approving plans and plan revisions, and penalties levied under this chapter shall be deposited into the account.

(2) Only the director of the department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

(3) Moneys in the account may be used solely by the department for the purposes of fulfilling department responsibilities specified in this chapter and for expenditures to the

authority and authorized parties resulting from plans exceeding their equivalent share, as described in RCW 70.95N.220. Funds in the account may not be diverted for any purpose or activity other than those specified in this section. [2006 c 183 § 13.]

**70.95N.140 Annual reports.** (1) By March 1st of the second program year and each program year thereafter, the authority and each authorized party shall file with the department an annual report for the preceding program year.

(2) The annual report must include the following information:

(a) The total weight in pounds of each type of covered electronic products collected and recycled, by county, during the preceding program year including documentation verifying collection and processing of that material. The total weight in pounds includes orphan products. The report must also indicate and document the weight in pounds received from each nonprofit charitable organization primarily engaged in the business of reuse and resale used by the plan. The report must document the weight in pounds that were received in large quantities from small businesses, small governments, charities and school districts as described in RCW 70.95N.090(5);

(b) The collection services provided in each county and for each city with a population over ten thousand including a list of all collection sites and services operating in the state in the prior program year and the parties who operated them;

(c)(i) A list of processors used, the weight of covered electronic products processed by each direct processor, and a description of the processes and methods used to recycle the covered electronic products including a description of the processing and facility locations. The report must also include a list of subcontractors who further processed or recycled unwanted covered electronic products or electronic components, including facility locations.

(ii) An estimate of the weight of each type of material recovered as a result of the processing of recycled covered electronic products. Recovered materials catalogued under this subsection must include, at a minimum: Cathode ray tube glass, circuit boards, batteries, mercury-containing devices, plastics, and metals.

(iii) An estimate of the percentage, by weight, of all collected products that ultimately are reused, recycled, or end up as residual waste that is disposed of in another manner;

(d) Educational and promotional efforts that were undertaken;

(e) For program years 2009 through 2014, the results of sampling and sorting as required in RCW 70.95N.110, including a list of the brand names of covered electronic products by product type, the number of covered electronic products by product type, the weight of covered electronic products that are identified for each brand name or that lack a manufacturer's brand, and the total weight of the sample by product type;

(f) The list of manufacturers that are participating in the standard plan;

(g) A description of program revenues and costs, including: (i) The total cost of the program; and (ii) the average cost of the program per pound of covered electronic product collected;

(h) A detailed accounting of the following costs of the program: (i) Program delivery, including: (A) Education and promotional efforts; (B) collection; (C) transportation; and (D) processing and labor; and (ii) program administration;

(i) A description of the methods used by the program to collect, transport, recycle, and process covered electronic products; and

(j) Any other information deemed necessary by the department.

(3) The department shall review each report within ninety days of its submission and shall notify the authority or authorized party of any need for additional information or documentation, or any deficiency in its program.

(4) All reports submitted to the department must be available to the general public through the internet. Proprietary information submitted to the department under this chapter is exempt from public disclosure under RCW 42.56.270. [2013 c 305 § 6; 2013 c 292 § 1; 2006 c 183 § 14.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2013 c 292 § 1 and by 2013 c 305 § 6, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.150 Nonprofit charitable organizations—Report.** Nonprofit charitable organizations that qualify for a taxation exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)) that are primarily engaged in the business of reuse and resale and that are used by a plan to collect covered electronic products shall file a report with the department by March 1st of the second program year and each program year thereafter. The report must indicate and document the weight of covered electronic products sent for recycling during the previous program year attributed to each plan that the charitable organization is participating in. [2006 c 183 § 15.]

**70.95N.160 Electronic products for sale must include manufacturer's brand.** (1) Beginning January 1, 2007, no person may sell or offer for sale an electronic product to any person in the state unless the electronic product is labeled with the manufacturer's brand. The label must be permanently affixed and readily visible.

(2) In-state retailers in possession of unlabeled products on January 1, 2007, may exhaust their stock through sales to the public. [2006 c 183 § 16.]

**70.95N.170 Sale of covered electronic products.** No person may sell or offer for sale a covered electronic product to any person in this state unless the manufacturer of the covered electronic product has filed a registration with the department under RCW 70.95N.040 and is participating in an approved plan under RCW 70.95N.050. A person that sells or offers for sale a covered electronic product in the state shall consult the department's web site for lists of manufacturers with registrations and approved plans prior to selling a covered electronic product in the state. A person is considered to have complied with this section if on the date the product was ordered from the manufacturer or its agent, the manufacturer was listed as having registered and having an

approved plan on the department's web site. [2006 c 183 § 17.]

**70.95N.180 Department web site.** (1) The department shall maintain on its web site the following information:

(a) The names of the manufacturers and the manufacturer's brands that are registered with the department under RCW 70.95N.040;

(b) The names of the manufacturers and the manufacturer's brands that are participating in an approved plan under RCW 70.95N.050;

(c) The names and addresses of the collectors and transporters that are listed in registrations filed with the department under RCW 70.95N.240;

(d) The names and addresses of the processors used to fulfill the requirements of the plans;

(e) For program years 2009 through 2015, return and equivalent shares for all manufacturers.

(2) The department shall update this web site information promptly upon receipt of a registration or a report. [2013 c 305 § 7; 2006 c 183 § 18.]

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.190 Return share calculation.** (1) For program years 2009 through 2015, the department shall determine the return share for each manufacturer in the standard plan or an independent plan by dividing the weight of covered electronic products identified for each manufacturer by the total weight of covered electronic products identified for all manufacturers in the standard plan or an independent plan, then multiplying the quotient by one hundred.

(2) For the first program year, the department shall determine the return share for such manufacturers using all reasonable means and based on best available information regarding return share data from other states and other pertinent data.

(3) For 2014, the department shall determine the return share for such manufacturers using all reasonable means and based on the most recent sampling of covered electronic products conducted in the state under RCW 70.95N.110.

(4)(a) For program year 2016 and all subsequent program years, the department shall determine market share by weight for all manufacturers using any combination of the following data:

(i) Generally available market research data;

(ii) Sales data supplied by manufacturers for brands they manufacture or sell; or

(iii) Sales data provided by retailers for brands they sell.

(b) The department shall determine each manufacturer's percentage of market share by dividing each manufacturer's total pounds of covered electronic products sold in Washington by the sum total of all pounds of covered electronic products sold in Washington by all manufacturers.

(5) Data reported by manufacturers under subsection (4) of this section is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2013 c 305 § 8; 2006 c 183 § 19.]

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.200 Equivalent share calculation—Notice to manufacturers—Billing parties that do not meet their plan's equivalent share—Payments to parties that exceed their plan's equivalent share—Nonprofit charitable orga-**

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**nizations.** (1) For program years 2009 through 2015, the department shall determine the total equivalent share for each manufacturer in the standard plan or an independent plan by dividing the return share percentage for each manufacturer by one hundred, then multiplying the quotient by the total weight in pounds of covered electronic products collected for that program year, allowing as needed for the additional credit authorized in subsection (3) of this section. For program year 2016 and all subsequent program years, the department shall determine the total equivalent share for each manufacturer in the standard plan or an independent plan by dividing the market share percentage for each manufacturer by one hundred, then multiplying the quotient by the total weight in pounds of covered electronic products collected for that program year, allowing as needed for the additional credit authorized in subsection (3) of this section.

(2)(a) By June 1st of each program year, the department shall notify each manufacturer of the manufacturer's equivalent share of covered electronic products to be applied to the previous program year. The department shall also notify each manufacturer of how its equivalent share was determined.

(b) By June 1st of each program year, the department shall bill any authorized party or authority that has not attained its plan's equivalent share as determined under RCW 70.95N.220. The authorized party or authority shall remit payment to the department within sixty days from the billing date.

(c) By September 1st of each program year, the department shall pay any authorized party or authority that exceeded its plan's equivalent share.

(3) Plans that utilize the collection services of nonprofit charitable organizations that qualify for a taxation exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)) that are primarily engaged in the business of reuse and resale must be given an additional five percent credit to be applied toward a plan's equivalent share for pounds that are received for recycling from those organizations. The department may adjust the percentage of credit annually. [2013 c 305 § 9; 2006 c 183 § 20.]

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.210 Preliminary return share—Notice—Challenges—Final return share.** (1) By June 1, 2007, the department shall notify each manufacturer of its preliminary return share of covered electronic products for the first program year.

(2) For program years 2009 through 2014, preliminary return share of covered electronic products must be announced annually by June 1st of each program year for the next program year. For the 2015 program year and all subsequent program years, preliminary market share of covered electronic products must be sent out to each individual manufacturer annually by June 1st of each program year for the next program year.

(3) Manufacturers may challenge the preliminary return or market share by written petition to the department. The petition must be received by the department within thirty days of the date of publication of the preliminary return or market shares.

(4) The petition must contain a detailed explanation of the grounds for the challenge, an alternative calculation, and

the basis for such a calculation, documentary evidence supporting the challenge, and complete contact information for requests for additional information or clarification.

(5) Sixty days after the publication of the preliminary return or market share, the department shall make a final decision on return or market share, having fully taken into consideration any and all challenges to its preliminary calculations.

(6) A written record of challenges received and a summary of the bases for the challenges, as well as the department's response, must be published at the same time as the publication of the final return share.

(7) By August 1, 2007, the department shall publish the final return shares for the first program year. For program years 2009 through 2014, by August 1st of each program year, the department shall publish the final return shares for use in the coming program year. For the 2015 program year and all subsequent program years, by August 1st of each program year, the department shall notify each manufacturer of its final market shares for use in the coming program year. [2013 c 305 § 10; 2006 c 183 § 21.]

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.220 Covered electronic products collected during a program year—Payment per pound under, over equivalent share.** (1) For an independent plan and the standard plan, if the total weight in pounds of covered electronic products collected during a program year is less than the plan's equivalent share of covered electronic products for that year, then the authority or authorized party shall submit to the department a payment equal to the weight in pounds of the deficit multiplied by the reasonable collection, transportation, and recycling cost for covered electronic products and an administrative fee. Moneys collected by the department must be deposited in the electronic products recycling account.

(2) For an independent plan and the standard plan, if the total weight in pounds of covered electronic products collected during a program year is more than the plan's equivalent share of covered electronic products for that year, then the department shall submit to the authority or authorized party, a payment equal to the weight in pounds of the surplus multiplied by the reasonable collection, transportation, and recycling cost for covered electronic products.

(3) For purposes of this section, the initial reasonable collection, transportation, and recycling cost for covered electronic products is forty-five cents per pound and the administrative fee is five cents per pound.

(4) The department may annually adjust the reasonable collection, transportation, and recycling cost for covered electronic products and the administrative fee described in this section. Prior to making any changes in the fees described in this section, the department shall notify the public, including all registered manufacturers, and provide a comment period. The department shall notify all registered manufacturers of any changes to the reasonable collection, transportation, and recycling cost or the administrative fee by January 1st of the program year in which the change is to take place. [2006 c 183 § 22.]

[Title 70 RCW—page 322]

**70.95N.230 Rules—Fees—Reports.** (1) The department shall adopt rules to determine the process for manufacturers to change plans under RCW 70.95N.080.

(2) The department shall establish annual registration and plan review fees for administering this chapter. An initial fee schedule must be established by rule and be adjusted no more often than once every two years. All fees charged must be based on factors relating to administering this chapter and be based on a sliding scale that is representative of annual sales of covered electronic products in the state, either by weight or unit, or by representative market share. Fees must be established in amounts to fully recover and not to exceed expenses incurred by the department to implement this chapter.

(3) The department shall establish an annual process for local governments and local communities to report their satisfaction with the services provided by plans under this chapter. This information must be used by the department in reviewing plan updates and revisions.

(4) The department may adopt rules as necessary for the purpose of implementing, administering, and enforcing this chapter. [2013 c 305 § 11; 2006 c 183 § 23.]

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.240 Collector, transporter, processor registration.** (1) Each collector and transporter of covered electronic products in the state must register annually with the department. The registration must include all identification requirements for licensure in the state and the geographic area of the state that they serve. The department shall develop a single form for registration of both collectors and transporters.

(2) Each processor of covered electronic products utilized by an independent or standard plan must register annually with the department. The registration must include identification information and documentation of any necessary operating permits issued by state or local authorities. [2006 c 183 § 24.]

**70.95N.250 Processors to comply with performance standards for environmentally sound management—Rules.** (1) The authority and each authorized party shall ensure that each processor used directly by the authority or the authorized party to fulfill the requirements of their respective standard plan or independent plan has provided the authority or the authorized party a written statement that the processor will comply with the requirements of this section and \*section 26 of this act.

(2) The department shall establish by rule performance standards for environmentally sound management for processors directly used to fulfill the requirements of an independent plan or the standard plan. Performance standards may include financial assurance to ensure proper closure of facilities consistent with environmental standards.

(3) The department shall establish by rule guidelines regarding nonrecycled residual that may be properly disposed after covered electronic products have been processed.

(4) The department may audit processors that are utilized to fulfill the requirements of an independent plan or the standard plan.

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(5) No plan or program required under this chapter may include the use of federal or state prison labor for processing. [2006 c 183 § 25.]

\*Reviser's note: Section 26 of this act was vetoed by the governor.

**70.95N.260 Selling covered electronic products without participating in an approved plan prohibited—Written warning—Penalty—Failure to comply with manufacturer registration requirements.** (1) No manufacturer may sell or offer for sale a covered electronic product in or into the state unless the manufacturer of the covered electronic product is participating in an approved plan. The department shall send a written warning to a manufacturer that does not have an approved plan or is not participating in an approved plan as required under RCW 70.95N.050. The written warning must inform the manufacturer that it must participate in an approved plan within thirty days of the notice. Any violation after the initial written warning shall be assessed a penalty of up to ten thousand dollars for each violation.

(2) If the authority or any authorized party fails to implement their approved plan, the department must assess a penalty of up to five thousand dollars for the first violation along with notification that the authority or authorized party must implement its plan within thirty days of the violation. After thirty days, the authority or any authorized party failing to implement their approved plan must be assessed a penalty of up to ten thousand dollars for the second and each subsequent violation.

(3) Any person that does not comply with manufacturer registration requirements under RCW 70.95N.040, education and outreach requirements under RCW 70.95N.120, reporting requirements under RCW 70.95N.140, labeling requirements under RCW 70.95N.160, retailer responsibility requirements under RCW 70.95N.170, collector or transporter registration requirements under RCW 70.95N.240, or requirements under RCW 70.95N.250 and \*section 26 of this act, must first receive a written warning including a copy of the requirements under this chapter and thirty days to correct the violation. After thirty days, a person must be assessed a penalty of up to one thousand dollars for the first violation and up to two thousand dollars for the second and each subsequent violation.

(4) All penalties levied under this section must be deposited into the electronic products recycling account created under RCW 70.95N.130.

(5) The department shall enforce this section. [2006 c 183 § 27.]

\*Reviser's note: Section 26 of this act was vetoed by the governor.

**70.95N.270 Reports.** (1) By December 31, 2012, the department shall provide a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature that includes the following information:

(a) For each of the preceding program years, the weight of covered electronic products recycled in the state by plan, by county, and in total;

(b) The performance of each plan in meeting its equivalent share, and payments received from and disbursed to each plan from the electronic products recycling account;

(c) A description of the various collection programs used to collect covered electronic products in the state;

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(d) An evaluation of how the pounds per capita recycled of covered electronic products in the state compares to programs in other states;

(e) Comments received from local governments and local communities regarding satisfaction with the program, including accessibility and convenience of services provided by the plans;

(f) Recommendations on how to improve the statewide collection, transportation, and recycling system for convenient, safe, and environmentally sound recycling of electronic products; and

(g) An analysis of whether and in what amounts unwanted electronic products and electronic components and electronic scrap exported from Washington have been exported to countries that are not members of the organization for economic cooperation and development or the European union, and recommendations for addressing such exports.

(2) By April 1, 2010, the department shall provide a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature regarding the amount of orphan products collected as a percent of the total amount of covered electronic products collected. If the orphan products collected exceed ten percent of the total amount of covered electronic products collected, the department shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature within ninety days describing the orphan products collected and include recommendations for decreasing the amount of orphan products or alternative methods for financing the collection, transportation, and recycling of orphan products. [2006 c 183 § 28.]

**70.95N.280 Materials management and financing authority.** (1) The Washington materials management and financing authority is established as a public body corporate and politic, constituting an instrumentality of the state of Washington exercising essential governmental functions.

(2) The authority shall plan and implement a collection, transportation, and recycling program for manufacturers that have registered with the department their intent to participate in the standard program as required under RCW 70.95N.040.

(3) Membership in the authority is comprised of registered participating manufacturers. Any registered manufacturer who does not qualify or is not approved to submit an independent plan, or whose independent plan has not been approved by the department, is a member of the authority. All new entrants and white box manufacturers are also members of the authority.

(4) The authority shall act as a business management organization on behalf of the citizens of the state to manage financial resources and contract for services for collection, transportation, and recycling of covered electronic products.

(5) The authority's standard plan is responsible for collecting, transporting, and recycling the sum of the equivalent shares of each participating manufacturer.

(6) The authority shall accept into the standard program covered electronic products from any registered collector who meets the requirements of this chapter. The authority shall compensate registered collectors for the reasonable costs associated with collection, but is not required to compensate nor restricted from compensating the additional col-

lection costs resulting from the additional convenience offered to customers through premium and curbside services.

(7) The authority shall accept and utilize in the standard program any registered processor meeting the requirements of this chapter and any requirements described in the authority's operating plan or through contractual arrangements. Processors utilized by the standard plan shall provide documentation to the authority at least annually regarding how they are meeting the requirements in RCW 70.95N.250 and \*section 26 of this act, including enough detail to allow the standard plan to meet its reporting requirements in \*\*RCW 70.95N.140(2) (c) and (d), and must submit to audits conducted by or for the authority. The authority shall compensate such processors for the reasonable costs, as determined by the authority, associated with processing unwanted electronic products. Such processors must demonstrate that the unwanted electronic products have been received from registered collectors or transporters, and provide other documentation as may be required by the authority.

(8) Except as specifically allowed in this chapter, the authority shall operate without using state funds or lending the credit of the state or local governments.

(9) The authority shall develop innovative approaches to improve materials management efficiency in order to ensure and increase the use of secondary material resources within the economy. [2006 c 183 § 29.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) Section 26 of this act was vetoed by the governor.  
 \*\*(2) RCW 70.95N.140 was amended by 2013 c 292 § 1, deleting subsection (2)(d).

**70.95N.290 Board of directors of the authority.** (1)(a) The authority is governed by a board of directors. The board of directors is comprised of eleven participating manufacturers, appointed by the director of the department. For program years 2009 through 2015, five board positions are reserved for representatives of the top ten brand owners by return share of covered electronic products, and six board positions are reserved for representatives of other brands, including at least one board position reserved for a manufacturer who is also a retailer selling their own private label. The return share of covered electronic products used to determine the top ten brand owners for purposes of electing the board must be determined by the department by January 1, 2007. For program years 2016 and beyond, five board positions are reserved for representatives of the top ten brand owners by market share of covered electronic products, and six board positions are reserved for representatives of other brands, including at least one board position reserved for a manufacturer who is also a retailer selling its own private label. The market share of covered electronic products used to determine the top ten brand owners for purposes of electing the board must be determined by the department by October 1, 2015.

(b) The board must have representation from both television and computer manufacturers.

(2) The board shall select from its membership the chair of the board and such other officers as it deems appropriate.

(3) A majority of the board constitutes a quorum.

(4) The directors of the department of commerce and the department of ecology serve as ex officio members. The state agency directors serving in ex officio capacity may each des-

ignate an employee of their respective departments to act on their behalf in all respects with regard to any matter to come before the authority. Ex officio designations must be made in writing and communicated to the authority director.

(5) The board shall create its own bylaws in accordance with the laws of the state of Washington.

(6) Any member of the board may be removed for misfeasance, malfeasance, or willful neglect of duty after notice and a public hearing, unless the notice and hearing are expressly waived in writing by the affected member.

(7) The members of the board serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement, solely from the funds of the authority, for expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties under this chapter. [2013 c 305 § 12; 2008 c 79 § 1; 2006 c 183 § 30.]

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.300 Manufacturers to pay their apportioned share of administrative and operational costs—Performance bonds—Dispute arbitration.** (1) Manufacturers participating in the standard plan shall pay the authority to cover all administrative and operational costs associated with the collection, transportation, and recycling of covered electronic products within the state of Washington incurred by the standard program operated by the authority to meet the standard plan's equivalent share obligation as described in RCW 70.95N.280(5).

(2) The authority shall assess charges on each manufacturer participating in the standard plan and collect funds from each participating manufacturer for the manufacturer's portion of the costs in subsection (1) of this section. For program years 2009 through 2015, such apportionment must be based on return share, market share, any combination of return share and market share, or any other equitable method. For the 2016 program year and all subsequent program years, such apportionment must be based on market share. The authority's apportionment of costs to manufacturers participating in the standard plan may not include nor be based on electronic products imported through the state and subsequently exported outside the state. Charges assessed under this section must not be formulated in such a way as to create incentives to divert imported electronic products to ports or distribution centers in other states. The authority shall adjust the charges to manufacturers participating in the standard plan as necessary in order to ensure that all costs associated with the identified activities are covered.

(3) The authority may require financial assurances or performance bonds for manufacturers participating in the standard plan, including but not limited to new entrants and white box manufacturers, when determining equitable methods for apportioning costs to ensure that the long-term costs for collecting, transporting, and recycling of a covered electronic product are borne by the appropriate manufacturer in the event that the manufacturer ceases to participate in the program.

(4) Nothing in this section authorizes the authority to assess fees or levy taxes directly on the sale or possession of electronic products.

(5) If a manufacturer has not met its financial obligations as determined by the authority under this section, the author-

ity shall notify the department that the manufacturer is no longer participating in the standard plan.

(6) For program years 2009 through 2015, the authority shall submit its plan for assessing charges and apportioning cost on manufacturers participating in the standard plan to the department for review and approval along with the standard plan as provided in RCW 70.95N.060.

(7)(a) Any manufacturer participating in the standard plan may appeal an assessment of charges or apportionment of costs levied by the authority under this section by written petition to the director of the department. The director of the department or the director's designee shall review all appeals within timelines established by the department and shall reverse any assessments of charges or apportionment of costs if the director finds that the authority's assessments or apportionment of costs was an arbitrary administrative decision, an abuse of administrative discretion, or is not an equitable assessment or apportionment of costs. The director shall make a fair and impartial decision based on sound data. If the director of the department reverses an assessment of charges, the authority must redetermine the assessment or apportionment of costs.

(b) Disputes regarding a final decision made by the director or director's designee may be challenged through arbitration. The director shall appoint one member to serve on the arbitration panel and the challenging party shall appoint one other. These two persons shall choose a third person to serve. If the two persons cannot agree on a third person, the presiding judge of the Thurston county superior court shall choose a third person. The decision of the arbitration panel shall be final and binding, subject to review by the superior court solely upon the question of whether the decision of the panel was arbitrary or capricious. [2013 c 305 § 13; 2006 c 183 § 31.]

**Effective date—2013 c 305:** See note following RCW 70.95N.020.

**70.95N.310 Authority use of funds.** (1) The authority shall use any funds legally available to it for any purpose specifically authorized by this chapter to:

(a) Contract and pay for collecting, transporting, and recycling of covered electronic products and education and other services as identified in the standard plan;

(b) Pay for the expenses of the authority including, but not limited to, salaries, benefits, operating costs and consumable supplies, equipment, office space, and other expenses related to the costs associated with operating the authority;

(c) Pay into the electronic products recycling account amounts billed by the department to the authority for any deficit in reaching the standard plan's equivalent share as required under RCW 70.95N.220; and

(d) Pay the department for the fees for submitting the standard plan and any plan revisions.

(2) If practicable, the authority shall avoid creating new infrastructure already available through private industry in the state.

(3) The authority may not receive an appropriation of state funds, other than:

(a) Funds that may be provided as a one-time loan to cover administrative costs associated with start-up of the authority, such as electing the board of directors and conducting the public hearing for the operating plan, provided that no

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appropriated funds may be used to pay for collection, transportation, or recycling services; and

(b) Funds received from the department from the electronic products recycling account for exceeding the standard plan's equivalent share.

(4) The authority may receive additional sources of funding that do not obligate the state to secure debt.

(5) All funds collected by the authority under this chapter, including interest, dividends, and other profits, are and must remain under the complete control of the authority and its board of directors, be fully available to achieve the intent of this chapter, and be used for the sole purpose of achieving the intent of this chapter. [2006 c 183 § 32.]

**70.95N.320 General operating plan.** (1) The board shall adopt a general operating plan of procedures for the authority. The board shall also adopt operating procedures for collecting funds from participating covered electronic manufacturers and for providing funding for contracted services. These operating procedures must be adopted by resolution prior to the authority operating the applicable programs.

(2) The general operating plan must include, but is not limited to: (a) Appropriate minimum reserve requirements to secure the authority's financial stability; (b) appropriate standards for contracting for services; and (c) standards for service.

(3) The board shall conduct at least one public hearing on the general operating plan prior to its adoption. The authority shall provide and make public a written response to all comments received by the public.

(4) The general operating plan must be adopted by resolution of the board. The board may periodically update the general operating plan as necessary, but must update the plan no less than once every four years. The general operating plan or updated plan must include a report on authority activities conducted since the commencement of authority operation or since the last reported general operating plan, whichever is more recent, including a statement of results achieved under the purposes of this chapter and the general operating plan. Upon adoption, the authority shall conduct its programs in observance of the objectives established in the general operating plan. [2006 c 183 § 33.]

**70.95N.330 Authority employees—Initial staff support—Authority powers.** (1) The authority shall employ a chief executive officer, appointed by the board, and a chief financial officer, as well as professional, technical, and support staff, appointed by the chief executive officer, necessary to carry out its duties.

(2) Employees of the authority are not classified employees of the state. Employees of the authority are exempt from state service rules and may receive compensation only from the authority at rates competitive with state service.

(3) The authority may retain its own legal counsel.

(4) The departments of ecology and \*community, trade, and economic development shall provide staff to assist in the creation of the authority. If requested by the authority, the departments of ecology and \*community, trade, and economic development shall also provide start-up support staff to the authority for its first twelve months of operation, or part thereof, to assist in the quick establishment of the author-

ity. Staff expenses must be paid through funds collected by the authority and must be reimbursed to the departments from the authority's financial resources within the first twenty-four months of operation.

(5) In addition to accomplishing the activities specifically authorized in this chapter, the authority may:

(a) Maintain an office or offices;

(b) Make and execute all manner of contracts, agreements, and instruments and financing documents with public and private parties as the authority deems necessary, useful, or convenient to accomplish its purposes;

(c) Make expenditures as appropriate for paying the administrative costs and expenses of the authority in carrying out the provisions of this chapter;

(d) Give assistance to private and public bodies contracted to provide collection, transportation, and recycling services by providing information, guidelines, forms, and procedures for implementing their programs;

(e) Delegate, through contract, any of its powers and duties if consistent with the purposes of this chapter; and

(f) Exercise any other power the authority deems necessary, useful, or convenient to accomplish its purposes and exercise the powers expressly granted in this chapter. [2006 c 183 § 34.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**70.95N.340 Federal preemption.** This chapter is void if a federal law, or a combination of federal laws, takes effect that establishes a national program for the collection and recycling of covered electronic products that substantially meets the intent of this chapter, including the creation of a financing mechanism for collection, transportation, and recycling of all covered electronic products from households, small businesses, school districts, small governments, and charities in the United States. [2006 c 183 § 35.]

**70.95N.350 Entity must be registered as a collector to act as a collector in a plan—Disposition of electronic products received by a registered collector—Recordkeeping requirements—Display of notice—Site visits.** (1) Only an entity registered as a collector with the department may act as a collector in a plan. All covered electronic products received by a registered collector must be submitted to a plan. Fully functioning computers that are received by a registered collector in working order may be sold or donated as whole products by the collector for reuse. Computers that require repair to make them a fully functioning unit may only be repaired on-site at the collector's place of business by the registered collector for reuse according to its original purpose.

(2) Registered collectors may use whole parts gleaned from collected computers or new parts for making repairs as long as there is a part-for-part exchange with nonfunctioning computers submitted to a plan.

(3) Registered collectors may not include computers that are gleaned for reuse in the weight totals for compensation by the plan.

(4) Registered collectors must maintain a record of computers sold or donated by the collector for a period of three years.

(5) Registered collectors must display a notice at the point of collection that computers received by the collector may be repaired and sold or donated as a fully functioning computer rather than submitted to a processor for recycling.

(6) The authority, authorized party, or the department may conduct site visits of all registered collectors that reuse or refurbish computers and who have an agreement with the authority or authorized party to provide collection services. If the authority or authorized party finds that a collector is not providing services in compliance with this chapter, the authority or authorized party shall report that finding to the department for enforcement action. [2009 c 285 § 1.]

**70.95N.900 Construction—2006 c 183.** This act must be liberally construed to carry out its purposes and objectives. [2006 c 183 § 38.]

**70.95N.902 Effective date—2006 c 183.** This act takes effect July 1, 2006. [2006 c 183 § 40.]

## Chapter 70.96 RCW ALCOHOLISM

### Sections

70.96.150 Inability to contribute to cost no bar to admission—Department may limit admissions.

*Alcoholism and drug addiction and support act: Chapter 74.50 RCW.*

*Chemical dependency benefit provisions*

*group disability contracts: RCW 48.21.160 through 48.21.190.*

*health care services contracts: RCW 48.44.240.*

**70.96.150 Inability to contribute to cost no bar to admission.** [1959 c 85 § 15.] Repealed by 1989 c 270 § 35; and subsequently recodified as RCW 70.96A.430 pursuant to 1993 c 131 § 1.

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1989 c 271 § 308, without cognizance of the repeal thereof; and subsequently recodified without cognizance of the repeal thereof.

**70.96.150 Inability to contribute to cost no bar to admission—Department may limit admissions.** The department shall not refuse admission for diagnosis, evaluation, guidance or treatment to any applicant because it is determined that the applicant is financially unable to contribute fully or in part to the cost of any services or facilities available under the program on alcoholism.

The department may limit admissions of such applicants or modify its programs in order to ensure that expenditures for services or programs do not exceed amounts appropriated by the legislature and are allocated by the department for such services or programs. The department may establish admission priorities in the event that the number of eligible applicants exceeds the limits set by the department. [1989 c 271 § 308; 1959 c 85 § 15.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was also repealed by 1989 c 270 § 35, without cognizance of its amendment by 1989 c 271 § 308; and subsequently recodified pursuant to 1993 c 131 § 1. For rule of construction concerning sections amended and repealed in the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 70.96A RCW TREATMENT FOR ALCOHOLISM, INTOXICATION, AND DRUG ADDICTION

### Sections

70.96A.011 Legislative finding and intent—Purpose of chapter.

70.96A.020 Definitions.

70.96A.095 Age of consent—Outpatient treatment of minors for chemical dependency.

- 70.96A.096 Notice to parents, school contacts for referring students to inpatient treatment.
- 70.96A.097 Review of admission and inpatient treatment of minors—Determination of medical necessity—Department review—Minor declines necessary treatment—At-risk youth petition—Costs—Public funds.
- 70.96A.110 Voluntary treatment of individuals with a substance use disorder.
- 70.96A.120 Treatment programs and facilities—Admissions—Peace officer duties—Protective custody.
- 70.96A.140 Involuntary commitment.
- 70.96A.141 Joinder of petitions for commitment.
- 70.96A.142 Evaluation by designated chemical dependency specialist—When required—Required notifications.
- 70.96A.145 Involuntary commitment proceedings—Prosecuting attorney may represent specialist or program.
- 70.96A.148 Detention, commitment duties—Designation of county designated mental health professional.
- 70.96A.155 Court-ordered treatment—Required notifications.
- 70.96A.157 Persons subject to court-ordered treatment or supervision—Documentation.
- 70.96A.160 Visitation and communication with patients.
- 70.96A.180 Payment for treatment—Financial ability of patients.
- 70.96A.230 Minor—When outpatient treatment provider must give notice to parents.
- 70.96A.235 Minor—Parental consent for inpatient treatment—Exception.
- 70.96A.240 Minor—Parent not liable for payment unless consented to treatment—No right to public funds.
- 70.96A.245 Minor—Parent may request determination whether minor has chemical dependency requiring inpatient treatment—Minor consent not required—Duties and obligations of professional person and facility.
- 70.96A.250 Minor—Parent may request determination whether minor has chemical dependency requiring outpatient treatment—Consent of minor not required—Discharge of minor.
- 70.96A.255 Minor—Petition to superior court for release from facility.
- 70.96A.260 Minor—Not released by petition under RCW 70.96A.255—Release within thirty days—Professional may initiate proceedings to stop release.
- 70.96A.265 Minor—Eligibility for medical assistance under chapter 74.09 RCW—Payment by department.
- 70.96A.910 Application—Construction—1972 ex.s. c 122.
- 70.96A.915 Department allocation of funds—Construction.
- 70.96A.920 Severability—1972 ex.s. c 122.
- 70.96A.930 Section, subsection headings not part of law.

**Reviser's note:** Throughout this chapter "this act" has been translated to "this chapter." This act [1972 ex.s. c 122] consists of chapter 70.96A RCW, the amendment of RCW 9.87.010, 71.24.030 and the repeal of RCW 9.68.040, 70.96.010-70.96.030, 70.96.040-70.96.080, 70.96.090, 70.96.100-70.96.140, 70.96.900, and 71.08.010-71.08.090.

*Alcoholism and drug addiction and support act: Chapter 74.50 RCW.*

*Court files and records closed—Exceptions: RCW 71.05.620.*

**70.96A.011 Legislative finding and intent—Purpose of chapter. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** The legislature finds that the use of alcohol and other drugs has become a serious threat to the health of the citizens of the state of Washington. The use of psychoactive chemicals has been found to be a prime factor in the current AIDS epidemic. Therefore, a comprehensive statute to deal with alcoholism and other drug addiction is necessary.

The legislature agrees with the 1987 resolution of the American Medical Association that endorses the proposition that all chemical dependencies, including alcoholism, are diseases. It is the intent of the legislature to recognize that chemical dependency is a disease, and to insure that prevention and treatment services are available and are of high quality. It is the purpose of this chapter to provide the financial assistance necessary to enable the department of social and health services to provide a program of alcoholism and other drug addiction services. [2014 c 225 § 19; 1989 c 270 § 1.]

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**70.96A.020 Definitions. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)**

For the purposes of this chapter the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Alcoholism" means a disease, characterized by a dependency on alcoholic beverages, loss of control over the amount and circumstances of use, symptoms of tolerance, physiological or psychological withdrawal, or both, if use is reduced or discontinued, and impairment of health or disruption of social or economic functioning.

(2) "Approved substance use disorder treatment program" means a program for persons with a substance use disorder provided by a treatment program certified by the department of social and health services as meeting standards adopted under this chapter.

(3) "Behavioral health organization" means a county authority or group of county authorities or other entity recognized by the secretary in contract in a defined regional service area.

(4) "Behavioral health program" has the same meaning as in RCW 71.24.025.

(5) "Behavioral health services" means mental health services as described in chapters 71.24 and 71.36 RCW and chemical dependency treatment services as described in this chapter.

(6) "Chemical dependency" means: (a) Alcoholism; (b) drug addiction; or (c) dependence on alcohol and one or more other psychoactive chemicals, as the context requires.

(7) "Commitment" means the determination by a court that a person should be detained for a period of either evaluation or treatment, or both, in an inpatient or a less restrictive setting.

(8) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(9) "Designated chemical dependency specialist" or "specialist" means a person designated by the behavioral health organization or by the county substance use disorder treatment program coordinator designated by the behavioral health organization to perform the commitment duties described in RCW 70.96A.140 and qualified to do so by meeting standards adopted by the department.

(10) "Drug addiction" means a disease characterized by a dependency on psychoactive chemicals, loss of control over the amount and circumstances of use, symptoms of tolerance, physiological or psychological withdrawal, or both, if use is reduced or discontinued, and impairment of health or disruption of social or economic functioning.

(11) "Gravely disabled by alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals" or "gravely disabled" means that a person, as a result of the use of alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals: (a) Is in danger of serious physical harm resulting from a failure to provide for his or her essential human needs of health or safety; or (b) manifests severe deterioration in routine functioning evidenced by a repeated and escalating loss of cognition or volitional control over his or her actions and is not receiving care as essential for his or her health or safety.

(12) "History of one or more violent acts" refers to the period of time ten years prior to the filing of a petition under this chapter, excluding any time spent, but not any violent acts committed, in a mental health facility, or a long-term alcoholism or drug treatment facility, or in confinement.

(13) "Incapacitated by alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals" means that a person, as a result of the use of alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals, is gravely disabled or presents a likelihood of serious harm to himself or herself, to any other person, or to property.

(14) "Incompetent person" means a person who has been adjudged incompetent by the superior court.

(15) "Intoxicated person" means a person whose mental or physical functioning is substantially impaired as a result of the use of alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals.

(16) "Licensed physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery in the state of Washington.

(17) "Likelihood of serious harm" means:

(a) A substantial risk that: (i) Physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon his or her own person, as evidenced by threats or attempts to commit suicide or inflict physical harm on one's self; (ii) physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon another, as evidenced by behavior that has caused the harm or that places another person or persons in reasonable fear of sustaining the harm; or (iii) physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon the property of others, as evidenced by behavior that has caused substantial loss or damage to the property of others; or

(b) The individual has threatened the physical safety of another and has a history of one or more violent acts.

(18) "Medical necessity" for inpatient care of a minor means a requested certified inpatient service that is reasonably calculated to: (a) Diagnose, arrest, or alleviate a chemical dependency; or (b) prevent the progression of substance use disorders that endanger life or cause suffering and pain, or result in illness or infirmity or threaten to cause or aggravate a handicap, or cause physical deformity or malfunction, and there is no adequate less restrictive alternative available.

(19) "Mental health professional" means a psychiatrist, psychologist, physician assistant working with a supervising psychiatrist, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, psychiatric nurse, or social worker, and such other mental health professionals as may be defined by rules adopted by the secretary pursuant to the provisions of chapter 71.05 RCW.

(20) "Minor" means a person less than eighteen years of age.

(21) "Parent" means the parent or parents who have the legal right to custody of the child. Parent includes custodian or guardian.

(22) "Peace officer" means a law enforcement official of a public agency or governmental unit, and includes persons specifically given peace officer powers by any state law, local ordinance, or judicial order of appointment.

(23) "Person" means an individual, including a minor.

(24) "Physician assistant" means a person licensed as a physician assistant under chapter 18.57A or 18.71A RCW.

(25) "Professional person in charge" or "professional person" means a physician or chemical dependency counselor as defined in rule by the department, who is empowered by a certified treatment program with authority to make assessment, admission, continuing care, and discharge decisions on behalf of the certified program.

(26) "Psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner" means a person who is licensed as an advanced registered

nurse practitioner pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW; and who is board certified in advanced practice psychiatric and mental health nursing.

(27) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social and health services.

(28) "Substance use disorder" means a cluster of cognitive, behavioral, and physiological symptoms indicating that an individual continues using the substance despite significant substance-related problems. The diagnosis of a substance use disorder is based on a pathological pattern of behaviors related to the use of the substances.

(29) "Substance use disorder treatment program" means an organization, institution, or corporation, public or private, engaged in the care, treatment, or rehabilitation of persons with substance use disorders.

(30) "Treatment" means the broad range of emergency, withdrawal management, residential, and outpatient services and care, including diagnostic evaluation, substance use disorder education and counseling, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and social service care, vocational rehabilitation and career counseling, which may be extended to persons with substance use disorders and their families, persons incapacitated by alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals, and intoxicated persons.

(31) "Violent act" means behavior that resulted in homicide, attempted suicide, nonfatal injuries, or substantial damage to property. [2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 101. Prior: 2014 c 225 § 20; 2001 c 13 § 1; 1998 c 296 § 22; prior: 1996 c 178 § 23; 1996 c 133 § 33; 1994 c 231 § 1; 1991 c 364 § 8; 1990 c 151 § 2; prior: 1989 c 271 § 305; 1989 c 270 § 3; 1972 ex.s. c 122 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Short title—Right of action—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 71.05.010.

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

**Findings—Short title—Intent—Construction—1996 c 133:** See notes following RCW 13.32A.197.

**Findings—1991 c 364:** "The legislature finds that the use of alcohol and illicit drugs continues to be a primarycrippler of our youth. This translates into incredible costs to individuals, families, and society in terms of traffic fatalities, suicides, criminal activity including homicides, sexual promiscuity, familial incorrigibility, and conduct disorders, and educational fallout. Among children of all socioeconomic groups lower expectations for the future, low motivation and self-esteem, alienation, and depression are associated with alcohol and drug abuse.

Studies reveal that deaths from alcohol and other drug-related injuries rise sharply through adolescence, peaking in the early twenties. But second peak occurs in later life, where it accounts for three times as many deaths from chronic diseases. A young victim's life expectancy is likely to be reduced by an average of twenty-six years.

Yet the cost of treating alcohol and drug addicts can be recouped in the first three years of abstinence in health care savings alone. Public money spent on treatment saves not only the life of the chemical abuser, it makes us safer as individuals, and in the long-run costs less.

The legislature further finds that many children who abuse alcohol and other drugs may not require involuntary treatment, but still are not adequately served. These children remain at risk for future chemical dependency, and may become mentally ill or a juvenile offender or need out-of-home placement. Children placed at risk because of chemical abuse may be better served by the creation of a comprehensive integrated system for children in crisis.

The legislature declares that an emphasis on the treatment of youth will pay the largest dividend in terms of preventable costs to individuals them-

selves, their families, and to society. The provision of augmented involuntary alcohol treatment services to youths, as well as involuntary treatment for youths addicted by other drugs, is in the interest of the public health and safety." [1991 c 364 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96A.095 Age of consent—Outpatient treatment of minors for chemical dependency. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** Any person thirteen years of age or older may give consent for himself or herself to the furnishing of outpatient treatment by a chemical dependency treatment program certified by the department. Parental authorization is required for any treatment of a minor under the age of thirteen. [1998 c 296 § 23; 1996 c 133 § 34; 1995 c 312 § 47; 1991 c 364 § 9; 1989 c 270 § 24.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

**Findings—Short title—Intent—Construction—1996 c 133:** See notes following RCW 13.32A.197.

**Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 364:** See notes following RCW 70.96A.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96A.096 Notice to parents, school contacts for referring students to inpatient treatment. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** School district personnel who contact a chemical dependency inpatient treatment program or provider for the purpose of referring a student to inpatient treatment shall provide the parents with notice of the contact within forty-eight hours. [1996 c 133 § 5.]

**Findings—Short title—Intent—Construction—1996 c 133:** See notes following RCW 13.32A.197.

**70.96A.097 Review of admission and inpatient treatment of minors—Determination of medical necessity—Department review—Minor declines necessary treatment—At-risk youth petition—Costs—Public funds. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) The department shall ensure that, for any minor admitted to inpatient treatment under RCW 70.96A.245, a review is conducted by a physician or chemical dependency counselor, as defined in rule by the department, who is employed by the department or an agency under contract with the department and who neither has a financial interest in continued inpatient treatment of the minor nor is affiliated with the program providing the treatment. The physician or chemical dependency counselor shall conduct the review not less than seven nor more than fourteen days following the date the minor was brought to the facility under RCW 70.96A.245(1) to determine whether it is a medical necessity to continue the minor's treatment on an inpatient basis.

(2) In making a determination under subsection (1) of this section whether it is a medical necessity to release the minor from inpatient treatment, the department shall consider the opinion of the treatment provider, the safety of the minor, the likelihood the minor's chemical dependency recovery will deteriorate if released from inpatient treatment, and the wishes of the parent.

(3) If, after any review conducted by the department under this section, the department determines it is no longer a medical necessity for a minor to receive inpatient treatment, the department shall immediately notify the parents and the

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professional person in charge. The professional person in charge shall release the minor to the parents within twenty-four hours of receiving notice. If the professional person in charge and the parent believe that it is a medical necessity for the minor to remain in inpatient treatment, the minor shall be released to the parent on the second judicial day following the department's determination in order to allow the parent time to file an at-risk youth petition under chapter 13.32A RCW. If the department determines it is a medical necessity for the minor to receive outpatient treatment and the minor declines to obtain such treatment, such refusal shall be grounds for the parent to file an at-risk youth petition.

(4) The department may, subject to available funds, contract with other governmental agencies for the conduct of the reviews conducted under this section and may seek reimbursement from the parents, their insurance, or medicaid for the expense of any review conducted by an agency under contract.

(5) In addition to the review required under this section, the department may periodically determine and redetermine the medical necessity of treatment for purposes of payment with public funds. [1998 c 296 § 28; 1995 c 312 § 48.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96A.110 Voluntary treatment of individuals with a substance use disorder. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)**

(1) An individual with a substance use disorder may apply for voluntary treatment directly to an approved treatment program. If the proposed patient is a minor or an incompetent person, he or she, a parent, a legal guardian, or other legal representative may make the application.

(2) Subject to rules adopted by the secretary, the administrator in charge of an approved treatment program may determine who shall be admitted for treatment. If a person is refused admission to an approved treatment program, the administrator, subject to rules adopted by the secretary, shall refer the person to another approved treatment program for treatment if possible and appropriate.

(3) If a patient receiving inpatient care leaves an approved treatment program, he or she shall be encouraged to consent to appropriate outpatient treatment. If it appears to the administrator in charge of the treatment program that the patient is an individual with a substance use disorder who requires help, the department may arrange for assistance in obtaining supportive services and residential programs.

(4) If a patient leaves an approved public treatment program, with or against the advice of the administrator in charge of the program, the department may make reasonable provisions for his or her transportation to another program or to his or her home. If the patient has no home he or she should be assisted in obtaining shelter. If the patient is less than fourteen years of age or an incompetent person the request for discharge from an inpatient program shall be made by a parent, legal guardian, or other legal representative or by the minor or incompetent if he or she was the original applicant. [2014 c 225 § 28; 1990 c 151 § 7; 1989 c 270 § 25; 1972 ex.s. c 122 § 11.]

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**70.96A.120 Treatment programs and facilities—Admissions—Peace officer duties—Protective custody. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) An intoxicated person may come voluntarily to an approved treatment program for treatment. A person who appears to be intoxicated in a public place and to be in need of help, if he or she consents to the proffered help, may be assisted to his or her home, an approved treatment program or other health facility.

(2) Except for a person who may be apprehended for possible violation of laws not relating to alcoholism, drug addiction, or intoxication and except for a person who may be apprehended for possible violation of laws relating to driving or being in physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug and except for a person who may wish to avail himself or herself of the provisions of RCW 46.20.308, a person who appears to be incapacitated or gravely disabled by alcohol or other drugs and who is in a public place or who has threatened, attempted, or inflicted physical harm on himself, herself, or another, shall be taken into protective custody by a peace officer or staff designated by the county and as soon as practicable, but in no event beyond eight hours brought to an approved treatment program for treatment. If no approved treatment program is readily available he or she shall be taken to an emergency medical service customarily used for incapacitated persons. The peace officer or staff designated by the county, in detaining the person and in taking him or her to an approved treatment program, is taking him or her into protective custody and shall make every reasonable effort to protect his or her health and safety. In taking the person into protective custody, the detaining peace officer or staff designated by the county may take reasonable steps including reasonable force if necessary to protect himself or herself or effect the custody. A taking into protective custody under this section is not an arrest. No entry or other record shall be made to indicate that the person has been arrested or charged with a crime.

(3) A person who comes voluntarily or is brought to an approved treatment program shall be examined by a qualified person. He or she may then be admitted as a patient or referred to another health facility, which provides emergency medical treatment, where it appears that such treatment may be necessary. The referring approved treatment program shall arrange for his or her transportation.

(4) A person who is found to be incapacitated or gravely disabled by alcohol or other drugs at the time of his or her admission or to have become incapacitated or gravely disabled at any time after his or her admission, may not be detained at the program for more than seventy-two hours after admission as a patient, unless a petition is filed under RCW 70.96A.140, as now or hereafter amended: PROVIDED, That the treatment personnel at an approved treatment program are authorized to use such reasonable physical restraint as may be necessary to retain an incapacitated or gravely disabled person for up to seventy-two hours from the time of admission. The seventy-two hour periods specified in this section shall be computed by excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. A person may consent to remain in the program as long as the physician in charge believes appropriate.

(5) A person who is not admitted to an approved treatment program, is not referred to another health facility, and

has no funds, may be taken to his or her home, if any. If he or she has no home, the approved treatment program shall provide him or her with information and assistance to access available community shelter resources.

(6) If a patient is admitted to an approved treatment program, his or her family or next of kin shall be notified as promptly as possible by the treatment program. If an adult patient who is not incapacitated requests that there be no notification, his or her request shall be respected.

(7) The peace officer, staff designated by the county, or treatment facility personnel, who act in compliance with this chapter and are performing in the course of their official duty are not criminally or civilly liable therefor.

(8) If the person in charge of the approved treatment program determines that appropriate treatment is available, the patient shall be encouraged to agree to further diagnosis and appropriate voluntary treatment. [1991 c 290 § 6; 1990 c 151 § 8; 1989 c 271 § 306; 1987 c 439 § 13; 1977 ex.s. c 62 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 175 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 122 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96A.140 Involuntary commitment. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1)(a) When a designated chemical dependency specialist receives information alleging that a person presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled as a result of chemical dependency, the designated chemical dependency specialist, after investigation and evaluation of the specific facts alleged and of the reliability and credibility of the information, may file a petition for commitment of such person with the superior court, district court, or in another court permitted by court rule.

If a petition for commitment is not filed in the case of a minor, the parent, guardian, or custodian who has custody of the minor may seek review of that decision made by the designated chemical dependency specialist in superior or district court. The parent, guardian, or custodian shall file notice with the court and provide a copy of the designated chemical dependency specialist's report.

If the designated chemical dependency specialist finds that the initial needs of such person would be better served by placement within the mental health system, the person shall be referred to either a designated mental health professional or an evaluation and treatment facility as defined in RCW 71.05.020 or 71.34.020.

(b) If placement in a chemical dependency program is available and deemed appropriate, the petition shall allege that: The person is chemically dependent and presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled by alcohol or drug addiction, or that the person has twice before in the preceding twelve months been admitted for withdrawal management, sobering services, or chemical dependency treatment pursuant to RCW 70.96A.110 or 70.96A.120, and is in need of a more sustained treatment program, or that the person is chemically dependent and has threatened, attempted, or inflicted physical harm on another and is likely to inflict physical harm on another unless committed. A refusal to undergo treatment, by itself, does not constitute evidence of lack of judgment as to the need for treatment.

(c) If involuntary detention is sought, the petition must state facts that support a finding of the grounds identified in (b) of this subsection and that there are no less restrictive

alternatives to detention in the best interest of such person or others. The petition must state specifically that less restrictive alternative treatment was considered and specify why treatment less restrictive than detention is not appropriate. If an involuntary less restrictive alternative is sought, the petition must state facts that support a finding of the grounds for commitment identified in (b) of this subsection and set forth the proposed less restrictive alternative.

(d)(i) The petition must be signed by:

(A) Two physicians;

(B) One physician and a mental health professional;

(C) One physician assistant and a mental health professional; or

(D) One psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner and a mental health professional.

(ii) The persons signing the petition must have examined the person.

(2) Upon filing the petition, the court shall fix a date for a hearing no less than two and no more than seven days after the date the petition was filed unless the person petitioned against is presently being detained in a program, pursuant to RCW 70.96A.120, 71.05.210, or 71.34.710, in which case the hearing shall be held within seventy-two hours of the filing of the petition: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the above specified seventy-two hours shall be computed by excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays: PROVIDED FURTHER, That, the court may, upon motion of the person whose commitment is sought, or upon motion of petitioner with written permission of the person whose commitment is sought, or his or her counsel and, upon good cause shown, extend the date for the hearing. A copy of the petition and of the notice of the hearing, including the date fixed by the court, shall be served by the designated chemical dependency specialist on the person whose commitment is sought, his or her next of kin, a parent or his or her legal guardian if he or she is a minor, and any other person the court believes advisable. A copy of the petition and certificate shall be delivered to each person notified.

(3) At the hearing the court shall hear all relevant testimony including, if possible, the testimony, which may be telephonic, of at least one licensed physician, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or mental health professional who has examined the person whose commitment is sought. Communications otherwise deemed privileged under the laws of this state are deemed to be waived in proceedings under this chapter when a court of competent jurisdiction in its discretion determines that the waiver is necessary to protect either the detained person or the public. The waiver of a privilege under this section is limited to records or testimony relevant to evaluation of the detained person for purposes of a proceeding under this chapter. Upon motion by the detained person, or on its own motion, the court shall examine a record or testimony sought by a petitioner to determine whether it is within the scope of the waiver.

The record maker shall not be required to testify in order to introduce medical, nursing, or psychological records of detained persons so long as the requirements of RCW 5.45.020 are met, except that portions of the record that contain opinions as to whether the detained person is chemically dependent shall be deleted from the records unless the person

offering the opinions is available for cross-examination. The person shall be present unless the court believes that his or her presence is likely to be injurious to him or her; in this event the court may deem it appropriate to appoint a guardian ad litem to represent him or her throughout the proceeding. If deemed advisable, the court may examine the person out of courtroom. If the person has refused to be examined by a licensed physician, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or mental health professional, he or she shall be given an opportunity to be examined by a court appointed licensed physician, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other professional person qualified to provide such services. If he or she refuses and there is sufficient evidence to believe that the allegations of the petition are true, or if the court believes that more medical evidence is necessary, the court may make a temporary order committing him or her to the department for a period of not more than five days for purposes of a diagnostic examination.

(4)(a) If, after hearing all relevant evidence, including the results of any diagnostic examination, the court finds that grounds for involuntary commitment have been established by a preponderance of the evidence and, after considering less restrictive alternatives to involuntary detention and treatment, finds that no such alternatives are in the best interest of the person or others, it shall make an order of commitment to an approved substance use disorder treatment program. It shall not order commitment of a person unless it determines that an approved substance use disorder treatment program is available and able to provide adequate and appropriate treatment for him or her.

(b) If the court finds that the grounds for commitment have been established by a preponderance of the evidence, but that treatment in a less restrictive setting than detention is in the best interest of such person or others, the court shall order an appropriate less restrictive course of treatment. The less restrictive order may impose treatment conditions and other conditions that are in the best interest of the respondent and others. A copy of the less restrictive order must be given to the respondent, the designated chemical dependency specialist, and any program designated to provide less restrictive treatment. If the program designated to provide the less restrictive treatment is other than the program providing the initial involuntary treatment, the program so designated must agree in writing to assume such responsibility. The court may not order commitment of a person to a less restrictive course of treatment unless it determines that an approved substance use disorder treatment program is available and able to provide adequate and appropriate treatment for him or her.

(5) A person committed to inpatient treatment under this section shall remain in the program for treatment for a period of fourteen days unless sooner discharged. A person committed to a less restrictive course of treatment under this section shall remain in the program of treatment for a period of ninety days unless sooner discharged. At the end of the fourteen-day period, or ninety-day period in the case of a less restrictive alternative to inpatient treatment, he or she shall be discharged automatically unless the program or the designated chemical dependency specialist, before expiration of the period, files a petition for his or her recommitment upon the grounds set forth in subsection (1) of this section for a fur-

ther period of ninety days of inpatient treatment or ninety days of less restrictive alternative treatment unless sooner discharged. The petition for ninety-day inpatient or less restrictive alternative treatment must be filed with the clerk of the court at least three days before expiration of the fourteen-day period of intensive treatment.

If a petition for recommitment is not filed in the case of a minor, the parent, guardian, or custodian who has custody of the minor may seek review of that decision made by the designated chemical dependency specialist in superior or district court. The parent, guardian, or custodian shall file notice with the court and provide a copy of the treatment progress report.

If a person has been committed because he or she is chemically dependent and likely to inflict physical harm on another, the program or designated chemical dependency specialist shall apply for recommitment if after examination it is determined that the likelihood still exists.

(6) Upon the filing of a petition for recommitment under subsection (5) of this section, the court shall fix a date for hearing no less than two and no more than seven days after the date the petition was filed: PROVIDED, That, the court may, upon motion of the person whose commitment is sought and upon good cause shown, extend the date for the hearing. A copy of the petition and of the notice of hearing, including the date fixed by the court, shall be served by the treatment program on the person whose commitment is sought, his or her next of kin, the original petitioner under subsection (1) of this section if different from the petitioner for recommitment, one of his or her parents or his or her legal guardian if he or she is a minor, and his or her attorney and any other person the court believes advisable. At the hearing the court shall proceed as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section, except that the burden of proof upon a hearing for recommitment must be proof by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence.

(7) The approved substance use disorder treatment program shall provide for adequate and appropriate treatment of a person committed to its custody on an inpatient or outpatient basis. A person committed under this section may be transferred from one approved public treatment program to another if transfer is medically advisable.

(8) A person committed to a program for treatment shall be discharged at any time before the end of the period for which he or she has been committed and he or she shall be discharged by order of the court if either of the following conditions are met:

(a) In case of a chemically dependent person committed on the grounds of likelihood of infliction of physical harm upon himself, herself, or another, the likelihood no longer exists; or further treatment will not be likely to bring about significant improvement in the person's condition, or treatment is no longer adequate or appropriate.

(b) In case of a chemically dependent person committed on the grounds of the need of treatment and incapacity, that the incapacity no longer exists.

(9) The court shall inform the person whose commitment or recommitment is sought of his or her right to contest the application, be represented by counsel at every stage of any proceedings relating to his or her commitment and recommitment, and have counsel appointed by the court or provided by

the court, if he or she wants the assistance of counsel and is unable to obtain counsel. If the court believes that the person needs the assistance of counsel, the court shall require, by appointment if necessary, counsel for him or her regardless of his or her wishes. The person shall, if he or she is financially able, bear the costs of such legal service; otherwise such legal service shall be at public expense. The person whose commitment or recommitment is sought shall be informed of his or her right to be examined by a licensed physician, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other professional person of his or her choice who is qualified to provide such services. If the person is unable to obtain a qualified person and requests an examination, the court shall employ a licensed physician, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other professional person to conduct an examination and testify on behalf of the person.

(10) A person committed under this chapter may at any time seek to be discharged from commitment by writ of habeas corpus in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(11) The venue for proceedings under this section is the county in which person to be committed resides or is present.

(12) When in the opinion of the professional person in charge of the program providing involuntary inpatient treatment under this chapter, the committed patient can be appropriately served by less restrictive treatment before expiration of the period of commitment, then the less restrictive care may be required as a condition for early release for a period which, when added to the initial treatment period, does not exceed the period of commitment. If the program designated to provide the less restrictive treatment is other than the program providing the initial involuntary treatment, the program so designated must agree in writing to assume such responsibility. A copy of the conditions for early release shall be given to the patient, the designated chemical dependency specialist of original commitment, and the court of original commitment. The program designated to provide less restrictive care may modify the conditions for continued release when the modifications are in the best interests of the patient. If the program providing less restrictive care and the designated chemical dependency specialist determine that a conditionally released patient is failing to adhere to the terms and conditions of his or her release, or that substantial deterioration in the patient's functioning has occurred, then the designated chemical dependency specialist shall notify the court of original commitment and request a hearing to be held no less than two and no more than seven days after the date of the request to determine whether or not the person should be returned to more restrictive care. The designated chemical dependency specialist shall file a petition with the court stating the facts substantiating the need for the hearing along with the treatment recommendations. The patient shall have the same rights with respect to notice, hearing, and counsel as for the original involuntary treatment proceedings. The issues to be determined at the hearing are whether the conditionally released patient did or did not adhere to the terms and conditions of his or her release to less restrictive care or that substantial deterioration of the patient's functioning has occurred and whether the conditions of release should be modified or the person should be returned to a more restrictive program. The hearing may be waived by the patient and his or her

counsel and his or her guardian or conservator, if any, but may not be waived unless all such persons agree to the waiver. Upon waiver, the person may be returned for involuntary treatment or continued on conditional release on the same or modified conditions. The grounds and procedures for revocation of less restrictive alternative treatment ordered by the court must be the same as those set forth in this section for less restrictive care arranged by an approved substance use disorder treatment program as a condition for early release. [2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 102; 2014 c 225 § 29; 2001 c 13 § 3; 1995 c 312 § 49; 1993 c 362 § 1; 1991 c 364 § 10; 1990 c 151 § 3; 1989 c 271 § 307; 1987 c 439 § 14; 1977 ex.s. c 129 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 175 § 2; 1972 ex.s. c 122 § 14.]

**Short title—Right of action—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 71.05.010.

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**Purpose—Construction—1993 c 362:** "The purpose of this act is solely to provide authority for the involuntary commitment of persons suffering from chemical dependency within available funds and current programs and facilities. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require the addition of new facilities nor affect the department of social and health services' authority for the uses of existing programs and facilities authorized by law." [1993 c 362 § 2.]

**Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 364:** See notes following RCW 70.96A.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96A.141 Joinder of petitions for commitment. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** A petition for commitment under this chapter may be joined with a petition for commitment under chapter 71.05 RCW. [2005 c 504 § 304.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96A.142 Evaluation by designated chemical dependency specialist—When required—Required notifications. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) When a designated chemical dependency specialist is notified by a jail that a defendant or offender who was subject to a discharge review under RCW 71.05.232 is to be released to the community, the designated chemical dependency specialist shall evaluate the person within seventy-two hours of release, if the person's treatment information indicates that he or she may need chemical dependency treatment.

(2) When an offender is under court-ordered treatment in the community and the supervision of the department of corrections, and the treatment provider becomes aware that the person is in violation of the terms of the court order, the treatment provider shall notify the designated chemical dependency specialist of the violation and request an evaluation for purposes of revocation of the conditional release.

(3) When a designated chemical dependency specialist becomes aware that an offender who is under court-ordered treatment in the community and the supervision of the department of corrections is in violation of a treatment order or a condition of supervision that relates to public safety, or the designated chemical dependency specialist detains a person under this chapter, the designated chemical dependency specialist shall notify the person's treatment provider and the department of corrections.

(2016 Ed.)

(4) When an offender who is confined in a state correctional facility or is under supervision of the department of corrections in the community is subject to a petition for involuntary treatment under this chapter, the petitioner shall notify the department of corrections and the department of corrections shall provide documentation of its risk assessment or other concerns to the petitioner and the court if the department of corrections classified the offender as a high risk or high needs offender.

(5) Nothing in this section creates a duty on any treatment provider or designated chemical dependency specialist to provide offender supervision. [2004 c 166 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96A.145 Involuntary commitment proceedings—Prosecuting attorney may represent specialist or program. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** The prosecuting attorney of the county in which such action is taken shall represent the designated chemical dependency specialist or treatment program in judicial proceedings under RCW 70.96A.140 for the involuntary commitment or recommitment of an individual, including any judicial proceeding where the individual sought to be committed or recommitted challenges the action. The costs of mandated representation shall be reimbursed by the behavioral health organization or full integration region. [2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 103; 1993 c 137 § 1.]

**Short title—Right of action—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 71.05.010.

**70.96A.148 Detention, commitment duties—Designation of county designated mental health professional. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** The county alcoholism and other drug addiction program coordinator may designate the county designated mental health professional to perform the detention and commitment duties described in RCW 70.96A.120 and 70.96A.140. [2001 c 13 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96A.155 Court-ordered treatment—Required notifications. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** When any court orders a person to receive treatment under this chapter, the order shall include a statement that if the person is, or becomes, subject to supervision by the department of corrections, the person must notify the treatment provider and the person's chemical dependency treatment information must be shared with the department of corrections for the duration of the offender's incarceration and supervision. Upon a petition by a person who does not have a history of one or more violent acts, as defined in RCW 71.05.020, the court may, for good cause, find that public safety would not be enhanced by the sharing of this person's information. [2004 c 166 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96A.157 Persons subject to court-ordered treatment or supervision—Documentation. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) Treatment providers shall inquire of each person seeking treatment, at intake, whether the person is subject to court-ordered mental health or chemical dependency treatment, whether civil or criminal, and document the person's response in his or her record. If the person is in treatment on July 1, 2005, and the treatment provider has not

inquired whether the person is subject to court-ordered mental health or chemical dependency treatment, the treatment provider shall inquire on the person's next treatment session and document the person's response in his or her record.

(2) Treatment providers shall inquire of each person seeking treatment, at intake, whether the person is subject to supervision of any kind by the department of corrections and document the person's response in his or her record. If the person is in treatment on July 1, 2005, and the treatment provider has not inquired whether the person is subject to supervision of any kind by the department of corrections, the treatment provider shall inquire on the person's next treatment session and document the person's response in his or her record.

(3) For all persons who are subject to both court-ordered mental health or chemical dependency treatment and supervision by the department of corrections, the treatment provider shall request an authorization to release records and notify the person that, unless expressly excluded by the court order the law requires treatment providers to share information with the department of corrections and the person's mental health treatment provider.

(4) If the treatment provider has reason to believe that a person is subject to supervision by the department of corrections but the person's record does not indicate that he or she is, the treatment provider may call any department of corrections office and provide the person's name and birth date. If the person is subject to supervision, the treatment provider shall request, and the department of corrections shall provide, the name and contact information for the person's community corrections officer. [2005 c 504 § 508.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96A.160 Visitation and communication with patients. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) Subject to reasonable rules regarding hours of visitation which the secretary may adopt, patients in any approved treatment program shall be granted opportunities for adequate consultation with counsel, and for continuing contact with family and friends consistent with an effective treatment program.

(2) Neither mail nor other communication to or from a patient in any approved treatment program may be intercepted, read, or censored. The secretary may adopt reasonable rules regarding the use of telephone by patients in approved treatment programs. [1989 c 270 § 29; 1972 ex.s. c 122 § 16.]

**70.96A.180 Payment for treatment—Financial ability of patients. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) If treatment is provided by an approved treatment program and the patient has not paid or is unable to pay the charge therefor, the program is entitled to any payment (a) received by the patient or to which he or she may be entitled because of the services rendered, and (b) from any public or private source available to the program because of the treatment provided to the patient.

(2) A patient in a program, or the estate of the patient, or a person obligated to provide for the cost of treatment and

having sufficient financial ability, is liable to the program for cost of maintenance and treatment of the patient therein in accordance with rates established.

(3) The secretary shall adopt rules governing financial ability that take into consideration the income, savings, and other personal and real property of the person required to pay, and any support being furnished by him or her to any person he or she is required by law to support. [2012 c 117 § 413; 1990 c 151 § 6; 1989 c 270 § 31; 1972 ex.s. c 122 § 18.]

**70.96A.230 Minor—When outpatient treatment provider must give notice to parents. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** Any provider of outpatient treatment who provides outpatient treatment to a minor thirteen years of age or older shall provide notice of the minor's request for treatment to the minor's parents if: (1) The minor signs a written consent authorizing the disclosure; or (2) the treatment program director determines that the minor lacks capacity to make a rational choice regarding consenting to disclosure. A provider of outpatient treatment may, at his or her discretion, provide notice of a minor's request for treatment to the minor's parents if the provider determines that notice is in the best interest of the minor in achieving recovery. Any notice under this section shall be made within seven days of the request for treatment, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, and shall contain the name, location, and telephone number of the facility providing treatment, and the name of a professional person on the staff of the facility providing treatment who is designated to discuss the minor's need for treatment with the parent. [2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 104; 1998 c 296 § 24.]

**Short title—Right of action—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 71.05.010.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

**70.96A.235 Minor—Parental consent for inpatient treatment—Exception. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** Parental consent is required for inpatient chemical dependency treatment of a minor, unless the child meets the definition of a child in need of services in \*RCW 13.32A.030(4)(c) as determined by the department: PROVIDED, That parental consent is required for any treatment of a minor under the age of thirteen.

This section does not apply to petitions filed under this chapter. [1998 c 296 § 25.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 13.32A.030 was amended by 2000 c 123 § 2, changing subsection (4)(c) to subsection (5)(c).

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

**70.96A.240 Minor—Parent not liable for payment unless consented to treatment—No right to public funds. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) The parent of a minor is not liable for payment of inpatient or outpatient chemical dependency treatment unless the parent has joined in the consent to the treatment.

(2) The ability of a parent to apply to a certified treatment program for the admission of his or her minor child does not create a right to obtain or benefit from any funds or resources of the state. However, the state may provide ser-

vices for indigent minors to the extent that funds are available therefor. [1998 c 296 § 26.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

**70.96A.245 Minor—Parent may request determination whether minor has chemical dependency requiring inpatient treatment—Minor consent not required—Duties and obligations of professional person and facility. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) A parent may bring, or authorize the bringing of, his or her minor child to a certified treatment program and request that a chemical dependency assessment be conducted by a professional person to determine whether the minor is chemically dependent and in need of inpatient treatment.

(2) The consent of the minor is not required for admission, evaluation, and treatment if the parent brings the minor to the program.

(3) An appropriately trained professional person may evaluate whether the minor is chemically dependent. The evaluation shall be completed within twenty-four hours of the time the minor was brought to the program, unless the professional person determines that the condition of the minor necessitates additional time for evaluation. In no event shall a minor be held longer than seventy-two hours for evaluation. If, in the judgment of the professional person, it is determined it is a medical necessity for the minor to receive inpatient treatment, the minor may be held for treatment. The facility shall limit treatment to that which the professional person determines is medically necessary to stabilize the minor's condition until the evaluation has been completed. Within twenty-four hours of completion of the evaluation, the professional person shall notify the department if the child is held for treatment and of the date of admission.

(4) No provider is obligated to provide treatment to a minor under the provisions of this section. No provider may admit a minor to treatment under this section unless it is medically necessary.

(5) No minor receiving inpatient treatment under this section may be discharged from the program based solely on his or her request. [1998 c 296 § 27.]

**Purpose—1998 c 296 §§ 27 and 29:** "It is the purpose of sections 27 and 29 of this act to assure the ability of parents to exercise reasonable, compassionate care and control of their minor children when there is a medical necessity for treatment and without the requirement of filing a petition under chapter 70.96A RCW." [1998 c 296 § 33.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

**70.96A.250 Minor—Parent may request determination whether minor has chemical dependency requiring outpatient treatment—Consent of minor not required—Discharge of minor. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) A parent may bring, or authorize the bringing of, his or her minor child to a provider of outpatient chemical dependency treatment and request that an appropriately trained professional person examine the minor to determine whether the minor has a chemical dependency and is in need of outpatient treatment.

(2) The consent of the minor is not required for evaluation if the parent brings the minor to the provider.

(2016 Ed.)

(3) The professional person in charge of the program may evaluate whether the minor has a chemical dependency and is in need of outpatient treatment.

(4) Any minor admitted to inpatient treatment under RCW 70.96A.245 shall be discharged immediately from inpatient treatment upon written request of the parent. [1998 c 296 § 29.]

**Purpose—1998 c 296 §§ 27 and 29:** See note following RCW 70.96A.245.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

**70.96A.255 Minor—Petition to superior court for release from facility. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** Following the review conducted under RCW 70.96A.097, a minor child may petition the superior court for his or her release from the facility. The petition may be filed not sooner than five days following the review. The court shall release the minor unless it finds, upon a preponderance of the evidence, that it is a medical necessity for the minor to remain at the facility. [1998 c 296 § 30.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

**70.96A.260 Minor—Not released by petition under RCW 70.96A.255—Release within thirty days—Professional may initiate proceedings to stop release. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** If the minor is not released as a result of the petition filed under RCW 70.96A.255, he or she shall be released not later than thirty days following the later of: (1) The date of the department's determination under RCW 70.96A.097(2); or (2) the filing of a petition for judicial review under RCW 70.96A.255, unless a professional person or the designated chemical dependency specialist initiates proceedings under this chapter. [1998 c 296 § 31.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

**70.96A.265 Minor—Eligibility for medical assistance under chapter 74.09 RCW—Payment by department. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** For purposes of eligibility for medical assistance under chapter 74.09 RCW, minors in inpatient chemical dependency treatment shall be considered to be part of their parent's or legal guardian's household, unless the minor has been assessed by the department or its designee as likely to require such treatment for at least ninety consecutive days, or is in out-of-home care in accordance with chapter 13.34 RCW, or the parents are found to not be exercising responsibility for care and control of the minor. Payment for such care by the department shall be made only in accordance with rules, guidelines, and clinical criteria applicable to inpatient treatment of minors established by the department. [1998 c 296 § 32.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

**70.96A.910 Application—Construction—1972 ex.s. c 122. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** This act shall be so applied and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of this act among those states which enact it. [1972 ex.s. c 122 § 22.]

**70.96A.915 Department allocation of funds—Construction.** (*Effective until April 1, 2018.*) The department is authorized to allocate appropriated funds in the manner that it determines best meets the purposes of this chapter. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to entitle any individual to services authorized in this chapter, or to require the department or its contractors to reallocate funds in order to ensure that services are available to any eligible person upon demand. [1989 c 271 § 309.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96A.920 Severability—1972 ex.s. c 122.** (*Effective until April 1, 2018.*) If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are severable. [1972 ex.s. c 122 § 20.]

**70.96A.930 Section, subsection headings not part of law.** (*Effective until April 1, 2018.*) Section or subsection headings as used in this chapter do not constitute any part of the law. [1972 ex.s. c 122 § 27.]

### Chapter 70.96B RCW

## INTEGRATED CRISIS RESPONSE AND INVOLUNTARY TREATMENT—PILOT PROGRAMS

### Sections

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70.96B.150	Application of RCW 71.05.550.
70.96B.800	Evaluation of pilot programs—Reports.

*Court files and records closed—Exceptions: RCW 71.05.620.*

**70.96B.010 Definitions.** (*Effective until April 1, 2018.*) The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Admission" or "admit" means a decision by a physician that a person should be examined or treated as a patient in a hospital, an evaluation and treatment facility, or other inpatient facility, or a decision by a professional person in charge or his or her designee that a person should be detained as a patient for evaluation and treatment in a secure detoxification facility or other certified chemical dependency provider.

(2) "Antipsychotic medications" means that class of drugs primarily used to treat serious manifestations of mental illness associated with thought disorders, which includes but is not limited to atypical antipsychotic medications.

(3) "Approved treatment program" means a discrete program of chemical dependency treatment provided by a treatment program certified by the department as meeting standards adopted under chapter 70.96A RCW.

(4) "Attending staff" means any person on the staff of a public or private agency having responsibility for the care and treatment of a patient.

(5) "Chemical dependency" means:

(a) Alcoholism;

(b) Drug addiction; or

(c) Dependence on alcohol and one or more other psychoactive chemicals, as the context requires.

(6) "Chemical dependency professional" means a person certified as a chemical dependency professional by the department of health under chapter 18.205 RCW.

(7) "Commitment" means the determination by a court that a person should be detained for a period of either evaluation or treatment, or both, in an inpatient or a less restrictive setting.

(8) "Conditional release" means a revocable modification of a commitment that may be revoked upon violation of any of its terms.

(9) "Custody" means involuntary detention under either chapter 71.05 or 70.96A RCW or this chapter, uninterrupted by any period of unconditional release from commitment from a facility providing involuntary care and treatment.

(10) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(11) "Designated chemical dependency specialist" or "specialist" means a person designated by the county alcoholism and other drug addiction program coordinator designated under \*RCW 70.96A.310 to perform the commitment duties described in RCW 70.96A.140 and this chapter, and qualified to do so by meeting standards adopted by the department.

(12) "Designated crisis responder" means a person designated by the county or behavioral health organization to perform the duties specified in this chapter.

(13) "Designated mental health professional" means a mental health professional designated by the county or other authority authorized in rule to perform the duties specified in this chapter.

(14) "Detention" or "detain" means the lawful confinement of a person under this chapter, or chapter 70.96A or 71.05 RCW.

(15) "Developmental disabilities professional" means a person who has specialized training and three years of experience in directly treating or working with individuals with developmental disabilities and is a psychiatrist, psychologist, or social worker, and such other developmental disabilities professionals as may be defined by rules adopted by the secretary.

(16) "Developmental disability" means that condition defined in RCW 71A.10.020.

(17) "Discharge" means the termination of facility authority. The commitment may remain in place, be terminated, or be amended by court order.

(18) "Evaluation and treatment facility" means any facility that can provide directly, or by direct arrangement with other public or private agencies, emergency evaluation and treatment, outpatient care, and timely and appropriate inpatient care to persons suffering from a mental disorder, and that is certified as such by the department. A physically separate and separately operated portion of a state hospital may be designated as an evaluation and treatment facility. A facility that is part of, or operated by, the department or any federal agency does not require certification. No correctional institution or facility, or jail, may be an evaluation and treatment facility within the meaning of this chapter.

(19) "Facility" means either an evaluation and treatment facility or a secure detoxification facility.

(20) "Gravely disabled" means a condition in which a person, as a result of a mental disorder, or as a result of the use of alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals:

(a) Is in danger of serious physical harm resulting from a failure to provide for his or her essential human needs of health or safety; or

(b) Manifests severe deterioration in routine functioning evidenced by repeated and escalating loss of cognitive or volitional control over his or her actions and is not receiving such care as is essential for his or her health or safety.

(21) "History of one or more violent acts" refers to the period of time ten years before the filing of a petition under this chapter, or chapter 70.96A or 71.05 RCW, excluding any time spent, but not any violent acts committed, in a mental health facility or a long-term alcoholism or drug treatment facility, or in confinement as a result of a criminal conviction.

(22) "Imminent" means the state or condition of being likely to occur at any moment or near at hand, rather than distant or remote.

(23) "Intoxicated person" means a person whose mental or physical functioning is substantially impaired as a result of the use of alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals.

(24) "Judicial commitment" means a commitment by a court under this chapter.

(25) "Licensed physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery in the state of Washington.

(26) "Likelihood of serious harm" means:

(a) A substantial risk that:

(i) Physical harm will be inflicted by a person upon his or her own person, as evidenced by threats or attempts to commit suicide or inflict physical harm on oneself;

(ii) Physical harm will be inflicted by a person upon another, as evidenced by behavior that has caused such harm or that places another person or persons in reasonable fear of sustaining such harm; or

(iii) Physical harm will be inflicted by a person upon the property of others, as evidenced by behavior that has caused substantial loss or damage to the property of others; or

(b) The person has threatened the physical safety of another and has a history of one or more violent acts.

(27) "Mental disorder" means any organic, mental, or emotional impairment that has substantial adverse effects on a person's cognitive or volitional functions.

(28) "Mental health professional" means a psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric nurse, or social worker, and such other mental health professionals as may be defined by rules

adopted by the secretary under the authority of chapter 71.05 RCW.

(29) "Peace officer" means a law enforcement official of a public agency or governmental unit, and includes persons specifically given peace officer powers by any state law, local ordinance, or judicial order of appointment.

(30) "Person in charge" means a physician or chemical dependency counselor as defined in rule by the department, who is empowered by a certified treatment program with authority to make assessment, admission, continuing care, and discharge decisions on behalf of the certified program.

(31) "Private agency" means any person, partnership, corporation, or association that is not a public agency, whether or not financed in whole or in part by public funds, that constitutes an evaluation and treatment facility or private institution, or hospital, or approved treatment program, that is conducted for, or includes a department or ward conducted for, the care and treatment of persons who are mentally ill and/or chemically dependent.

(32) "Professional person" means a mental health professional or chemical dependency professional and shall also mean a physician, registered nurse, and such others as may be defined by rules adopted by the secretary pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(33) "Psychiatrist" means a person having a license as a physician and surgeon in this state who has in addition completed three years of graduate training in psychiatry in a program approved by the American medical association or the American osteopathic association and is certified or eligible to be certified by the American board of psychiatry and neurology.

(34) "Psychologist" means a person who has been licensed as a psychologist under chapter 18.83 RCW.

(35) "Public agency" means any evaluation and treatment facility or institution, or hospital, or approved treatment program that is conducted for, or includes a department or ward conducted for, the care and treatment of persons who are mentally ill and/or chemically dependent, if the agency is operated directly by federal, state, county, or municipal government, or a combination of such governments.

(36) "Registration records" means all the records of the department, behavioral health organizations, treatment facilities, and other persons providing services to the department, county departments, or facilities which identify persons who are receiving or who at any time have received services for mental illness.

(37) "Release" means legal termination of the commitment under chapter 70.96A or 71.05 RCW or this chapter.

(38) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department or the secretary's designee.

(39) "Secure detoxification facility" means a facility operated by either a public or private agency or by the program of an agency that serves the purpose of providing evaluation and assessment, and acute and/or subacute detoxification services for intoxicated persons and includes security measures sufficient to protect the patients, staff, and community.

(40) "Social worker" means a person with a master's or further advanced degree from a social work educational program accredited and approved as provided in RCW 18.320.010.

(41) "Treatment records" means registration records and all other records concerning persons who are receiving or who at any time have received services for mental illness, which are maintained by the department, by behavioral health organizations and their staffs, and by treatment facilities. Treatment records do not include notes or records maintained for personal use by a person providing treatment services for the department, behavioral health organizations, or a treatment facility if the notes or records are not available to others.

(42) "Violent act" means behavior that resulted in homicide, attempted suicide, nonfatal injuries, or substantial damage to property. [2014 c 225 § 74; 2011 c 89 § 10; 2008 c 320 § 3; 2005 c 504 § 202.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.96A.310 was repealed by 2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 601.

Effective date—2014 c 225: See note following RCW 71.24.016.

Effective date—2011 c 89: See note following RCW 18.320.005.

Findings—2011 c 89: See RCW 18.320.005.

Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504: See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.020 Selection of areas for pilot programs—Pilot program requirements. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) The secretary, after consulting with the Washington state association of counties, shall select and contract with behavioral health organizations or counties to provide two integrated crisis response and involuntary treatment pilot programs for adults and shall allocate resources for both integrated services and secure detoxification services in the pilot areas. In selecting the two behavioral health organizations or counties, the secretary shall endeavor to site one in an urban and one in a rural behavioral health organization or county; and to site them in counties other than those selected pursuant to \*RCW 70.96A.800, to the extent necessary to facilitate evaluation of pilot project results.

(2) The behavioral health organizations or counties shall implement the pilot programs by providing integrated crisis response and involuntary treatment to persons with a chemical dependency, a mental disorder, or both, consistent with this chapter. The pilot programs shall:

(a) Combine the crisis responder functions of a designated mental health professional under chapter 71.05 RCW and a designated chemical dependency specialist under chapter 70.96A RCW by establishing a new designated crisis responder who is authorized to conduct investigations and detain persons up to seventy-two hours to the proper facility;

(b) Provide training to the crisis responders as required by the department;

(c) Provide sufficient staff and resources to ensure availability of an adequate number of crisis responders twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week;

(d) Provide the administrative and court-related staff, resources, and processes necessary to facilitate the legal requirements of the initial detention and the commitment hearings for persons with a chemical dependency;

(e) Participate in the evaluation and report to assess the outcomes of the pilot programs including providing data and information as requested;

(f) Provide the other services necessary to the implementation of the pilot programs, consistent with this chapter as determined by the secretary in contract; and

(g) Collaborate with the department of corrections where persons detained or committed are also subject to supervision by the department of corrections.

(3) The pilot programs established by this section shall begin providing services by March 1, 2006. [2014 c 225 § 75; 2005 c 504 § 203.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.96A.800 was recodified as RCW 71.24.620 pursuant to 2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 701.

Effective date—2014 c 225: See note following RCW 71.24.016.

Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504: See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.030 Designated crisis responder—Qualifications. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** To qualify as a designated crisis responder, a person must have received chemical dependency training as determined by the department and be a:

(1) Psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric nurse, or social worker;

(2) Person with a master's degree or further advanced degree in counseling or one of the social sciences from an accredited college or university and who have, in addition, at least two years of experience in direct treatment of persons with mental illness or emotional disturbance, such experience gained under the direction of a mental health professional;

(3) Person who meets the waiver criteria of RCW 71.24.260, which waiver was granted before 1986;

(4) Person who had an approved waiver to perform the duties of a mental health professional that was requested by the behavioral health organization and granted by the department before July 1, 2001; or

(5) Person who has been granted a time-limited exception of the minimum requirements of a mental health professional by the department consistent with rules adopted by the secretary. [2014 c 225 § 76; 2005 c 504 § 204.]

Effective date—2014 c 225: See note following RCW 71.24.016.

Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504: See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.040 Powers of designated crisis responder. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** In addition to the provisions of this chapter, a designated crisis responder has all the powers and duties of a designated mental health professional as well as the powers and duties of a designated chemical dependency specialist under RCW 70.96A.120. [2005 c 504 § 205.]

Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504: See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.045 Emergency custody—Procedure. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) If a designated crisis responder receives information alleging that a person, as the result of:

(a) A mental disorder, presents an imminent likelihood of serious harm, or is in imminent danger because of being gravely disabled, after investigation and evaluation of the specific facts alleged and of the reliability and credibility of the person or persons providing the information if any, the designated crisis responder may take the person, or cause by oral or written order the person to be taken into emergency custody in an evaluation and treatment facility for not more than seventy-two hours as described in this chapter; or

(b) Chemical dependency, presents an imminent likelihood of serious harm, or is in imminent danger because of being gravely disabled, after investigation and evaluation of the specific facts alleged and of the reliability and credibility of the person or persons providing the information if any, the designated crisis responder may take the person, or cause by oral or written order the person to be taken into emergency custody in a secure detoxification facility for not more than seventy-two hours as described in this chapter.

(2) The evaluation and treatment facility, the secure detoxification facility, or other certified chemical dependency provider shall then evaluate the person's condition and admit, detain, transfer, or discharge such person in accordance with this chapter. The facility shall notify in writing the court and the designated crisis responder of the date and time of the initial detention of each person involuntarily detained so that a probable cause hearing will be held no later than seventy-two hours after detention.

(3) A peace officer may take or cause the person to be taken into custody and immediately delivered to an evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or other certified chemical dependency treatment provider: (a) Pursuant to this section; or (b) when he or she has reasonable cause to believe that such person, as a result of a mental disorder or chemical dependency, presents an imminent likelihood of serious harm, or is in imminent danger because of being gravely disabled. An individual brought to a facility by a peace officer may be held for up to twelve hours: PROVIDED, That the individual is examined by a designated crisis responder within three hours of arrival. Within twelve hours of arrival the designated crisis responder must determine whether the individual meets detention criteria. If the individual is detained, the designated mental health professional shall file a petition for detention or supplemental petition as appropriate and commence service on the designated attorney for the detained person.

(4) Nothing in this chapter limits the power of a peace officer to take a person into custody and immediately deliver the person to the emergency department of a local hospital or to a detoxification facility. [2007 c 120 § 2.]

**Effective date—2007 c 120:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 18, 2007]." [2007 c 120 § 3.]

**70.96B.050 Petition for initial detention—Order to detain for evaluation and treatment period—Procedure. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) When a designated crisis responder receives information alleging that a person, as a result of a mental disorder, chemical dependency disorder, or both, presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled, the designated crisis responder may, after investigation

and evaluation of the specific facts alleged and of the reliability and credibility of any person providing information to initiate detention, if satisfied that the allegations are true and that the person will not voluntarily seek appropriate treatment, file a petition for initial detention. Before filing the petition, the designated crisis responder must personally interview the person, unless the person refuses an interview, and determine whether the person will voluntarily receive appropriate evaluation and treatment at either an evaluation and treatment facility, a detoxification facility, or other certified chemical dependency provider.

(2)(a) An order to detain to an evaluation and treatment facility, a detoxification facility, or other certified chemical dependency provider for not more than a seventy-two hour evaluation and treatment period may be issued by a judge upon request of a designated crisis responder: (i) Whenever it appears to the satisfaction of a judge of the superior court, district court, or other court permitted by court rule, that there is probable cause to support the petition, and (ii) that the person has refused or failed to accept appropriate evaluation and treatment voluntarily.

(b) The petition for initial detention, signed under penalty of perjury or sworn telephonic testimony, may be considered by the court in determining whether there are sufficient grounds for issuing the order.

(c) The order shall designate retained counsel or, if counsel is appointed from a list provided by the court, the name, business address, and telephone number of the attorney appointed to represent the person.

(3) The designated crisis responder shall then serve or cause to be served on such person, his or her guardian, and conservator, if any, a copy of the order to appear, together with a notice of rights and a petition for initial detention. After service on the person, the designated crisis responder shall file the return of service in court and provide copies of all papers in the court file to the evaluation and treatment facility or secure detoxification facility and the designated attorney. The designated crisis responder shall notify the court and the prosecuting attorney that a probable cause hearing will be held within seventy-two hours of the date and time of outpatient evaluation or admission to the evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or other certified chemical dependency provider. If requested by the detained person or his or her attorney, the hearing may be postponed for a period not to exceed forty-eight hours. The hearing may be continued subject to the petitioner's showing of good cause for a period not to exceed twenty-four hours. The person may be accompanied by one or more of his or her relatives, friends, an attorney, a personal physician, or other professional or religious advisor to the place of evaluation. An attorney accompanying the person to the place of evaluation shall be permitted to be present during the admission evaluation. Any other person accompanying the person may be present during the admission evaluation. The facility may exclude the person if his or her presence would present a safety risk, delay the proceedings, or otherwise interfere with the evaluation.

(4) The designated crisis responder may notify a peace officer to take the person or cause the person to be taken into custody and placed in an evaluation and treatment facility, a secure detoxification facility, or other certified chemical

dependency provider. At the time the person is taken into custody there shall commence to be served on the person, his or her guardian, and conservator, if any, a copy of the original order together with a notice of detention, a notice of rights, and a petition for initial detention. [2008 c 320 § 5; 2007 c 120 § 1; 2005 c 504 § 206.]

**Effective date—2007 c 120:** See note following RCW 70.96B.045.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.060 Exemption from liability. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) A person or public or private entity employing a person is not civilly or criminally liable for performing duties under this chapter if the duties were performed in good faith and without gross negligence.

(2) This section does not relieve a person from giving the required notices under RCW 71.05.330(2) or 71.05.340(1)(b), or the duty to warn or to take reasonable precautions to provide protection from violent behavior where the patient has communicated an actual threat of physical violence against a reasonably identifiable victim or victims. The duty to warn or to take reasonable precautions to provide protection from violent behavior is discharged if reasonable efforts are made to communicate the threat to the victim or victims and to law enforcement personnel. [2005 c 504 § 207.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.070 Detention period for evaluation and treatment. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** If the evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or other certified chemical dependency provider admits the person, it may detain the person for evaluation and treatment for a period not to exceed seventy-two hours from the time of acceptance. The computation of the seventy-two hour period excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. [2005 c 504 § 208.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.080 Detention for evaluation and treatment of mental disorder—Chapter 71.05 RCW applies. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** Whenever any person is detained for evaluation and treatment for a mental disorder under RCW 70.96B.050, chapter 71.05 RCW applies. [2005 c 504 § 209.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.090 Procedures for additional chemical dependency treatment. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) A person detained for seventy-two hour evaluation and treatment under RCW 70.96B.050 or 70.96A.120 may be

detained for not more than fourteen additional days of involuntary chemical dependency treatment if there are beds available at the secure detoxification facility and the following conditions are met:

(a) The professional person in charge of the agency or facility or the person's designee providing evaluation and treatment services in a secure detoxification facility has assessed the person's condition and finds that the condition is caused by chemical dependency and either results in a likelihood of serious harm or in the detained person being gravely disabled, and the professional person or his or her designee is prepared to testify those conditions are met;

(b) The person has been advised of the need for voluntary treatment and the professional person in charge of the agency or facility or his or her designee has evidence that he or she has not in good faith volunteered for treatment; and

(c) The professional person in charge of the agency or facility or the person's designee has filed a petition for fourteen-day involuntary detention with the superior court, district court, or other court permitted by court rule. The petition must be signed by the chemical dependency professional who has examined the person.

(2) The petition under subsection (1)(c) of this section shall be accompanied by a certificate of a licensed physician who has examined the person, unless the person whose commitment is sought has refused to submit to a medical examination, in which case the fact of refusal shall be alleged in the petition. The certificate shall set forth the licensed physician's findings in support of the allegations of the petition. A physician employed by the petitioning program or the department is eligible to be the certifying physician.

(3) The petition shall state facts that support the finding that the person, as a result of chemical dependency, presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled, and that there are no less restrictive alternatives to detention in the best interest of the person or others. The petition shall state specifically that less restrictive alternative treatment was considered and specify why treatment less restrictive than detention is not appropriate.

(4) A copy of the petition shall be served on the detained person, his or her attorney, and his or her guardian or conservator, if any, before the probable cause hearing.

(5)(a) The court shall inform the person whose commitment is sought of his or her right to contest the petition, be represented by counsel at every stage of any proceedings relating to his or her commitment, and have counsel appointed by the court or provided by the court, if he or she wants the assistance of counsel and is unable to obtain counsel. If the court believes that the person needs the assistance of counsel, the court shall require, by appointment if necessary, counsel for him or her regardless of his or her wishes. The person shall, if he or she is financially able, bear the costs of such legal service; otherwise such legal service shall be at public expense. The person whose commitment is sought shall be informed of his or her right to be examined by a licensed physician of his or her choice. If the person is unable to obtain a licensed physician and requests examination by a physician, the court shall appoint a reasonably available licensed physician designated by the person.

(b) At the conclusion of the probable cause hearing, if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the

person, as the result of chemical dependency, presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled and, after considering less restrictive alternatives to involuntary detention and treatment, finds that no such alternatives are in the best interest of such person or others, the court shall order that the person be detained for involuntary chemical dependency treatment not to exceed fourteen days in a secure detoxification facility. [2005 c 504 § 210.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.100 Detention for involuntary chemical dependency treatment—Petition for less restrictive treatment—Appearance before court—Representation—Hearing—Less restrictive order—Failure to adhere to terms of less restrictive order. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) A person detained for fourteen days of involuntary chemical dependency treatment under RCW 70.96B.090 or subsection (6) of this section shall be released from involuntary treatment at the expiration of the period of commitment unless the professional staff of the agency or facility files a petition for an additional period of involuntary treatment under RCW 70.96A.140, or files a petition for sixty days less restrictive treatment under this section naming the detained person as a respondent. Costs associated with the obtainment or revocation of an order for less restrictive treatment and subsequent involuntary commitment shall be provided for within current funding.

(2) A petition for less restrictive treatment must be filed at least three days before expiration of the fourteen-day period of intensive treatment, and comport with the rules contained in RCW 70.96B.090(2). The petition shall state facts that support the finding that the respondent, as a result of a chemical dependency, presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled, and that continued treatment pursuant to a less restrictive order is in the best interest of the respondent or others. At the time of filing such a petition, the clerk shall set a time for the respondent to come before the court on the next judicial day after the day of filing unless such appearance is waived by the respondent's attorney.

(3) At the time set for appearance the respondent must be brought before the court, unless such appearance has been waived and the court shall advise the respondent of his or her right to be represented by an attorney. If the respondent is not represented by an attorney, or is indigent or is unwilling to retain an attorney, the court shall immediately appoint an attorney to represent the respondent. The court shall, if requested, appoint a reasonably available licensed physician, psychologist, or psychiatrist, designated by the respondent to examine and testify on behalf of the respondent.

(4) The court shall conduct a hearing on the petition for sixty days less restrictive treatment on or before the last day of the confinement period. The burden of proof shall be by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence and shall be upon the petitioner. The respondent shall be present at such proceeding. The rules of evidence shall apply, and the respondent shall have the right to present evidence on his or her behalf, to cross-examine witnesses who testify against him or her, to remain silent, and to view and copy all petitions and reports

in the court file. The physician-patient privilege or the psychologist-client privilege shall be deemed waived in accordance with the provisions under RCW 71.05.360(9). Involuntary treatment shall continue while a petition for less restrictive treatment is pending under this section.

(5) The court may impose a sixty-day less restrictive order if the evidence shows that the respondent, as a result of a chemical dependency, presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled, and that continued treatment pursuant to a less restrictive order is in the best interest of the respondent or others. The less restrictive order may impose treatment conditions and other conditions which are in the best interest of the respondent and others. A copy of the less restrictive order shall be given to the respondent, the designated crisis responder, and any program designated to provide less restrictive treatment. A program designated to provide less restrictive treatment and willing to supervise the conditions of the less restrictive order may modify the conditions for continued release when the modification is in the best interests of the respondent, but must notify the designated crisis responder and the court of such modification.

(6) If a program approved by the court and willing to supervise the conditions of the less restrictive order or the designated crisis responder determines that the respondent is failing to adhere to the terms of the less restrictive order or that substantial deterioration in the respondent's functioning has occurred, then the designated crisis responder shall notify the court of original commitment and request a hearing to be held no less than two and no more than seven days after the date of the request to determine whether or not the respondent should be returned to more restrictive care. The designated crisis responder may cause the respondent to be immediately taken into custody of the secure detoxification facility pending the hearing if the alleged noncompliance causes the respondent to present a likelihood of serious harm. The designated crisis responder shall file a petition with the court stating the facts substantiating the need for the hearing along with the treatment recommendations. The respondent shall have the same rights with respect to notice, hearing, and counsel as for the original involuntary treatment proceedings. The issues to be determined at the hearing are whether the conditionally released respondent did or did not adhere to the terms and conditions of his or her release to less restrictive care or that substantial deterioration of the respondent's functioning has occurred and whether the conditions of release should be modified or the respondent should be returned to a more restrictive setting. The hearing may be waived by the respondent and his or her counsel and his or her guardian or conservator, if any, but may not be waived unless all such persons agree to the waiver. If the court finds in favor of the petitioner, or the respondent waives a hearing, the court may order the respondent to be committed to a secure detoxification facility for fourteen days of involuntary chemical dependency treatment, or may order the respondent to be returned to less restrictive treatment on the same or modified conditions. [2008 c 320 § 6; 2005 c 504 § 211.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.110 Involuntary chemical dependency treatment proceedings—Prosecuting attorney shall represent petitioner. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** The prosecuting attorney of the county in which an action under this chapter is taken must represent the petitioner in judicial proceedings under this chapter for the involuntary chemical dependency treatment of a person, including any judicial proceeding where the person sought to be treated for chemical dependency challenges the action. [2005 c 504 § 212.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.120 Rights of involuntarily detained persons. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) Every person involuntarily detained or committed under this chapter as a result of a mental disorder is entitled to all the rights set forth in this chapter and in chapter 71.05 RCW, and retains all rights not denied him or her under this chapter or chapter 71.05 RCW.

(2) Every person involuntarily detained or committed under this chapter as a result of a chemical dependency is entitled to all the rights set forth in this chapter and chapter 70.96A RCW, and retains all rights not denied him or her under this chapter or chapter 70.96A RCW. [2005 c 504 § 213.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.130 Evaluation by designated crisis responder—When required—Required notifications. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) When a designated crisis responder is notified by a jail that a defendant or offender who was subject to a discharge review under RCW 71.05.232 is to be released to the community, the designated crisis responder shall evaluate the person within seventy-two hours of release.

(2) When an offender is under court-ordered treatment in the community and the supervision of the department of corrections, and the treatment provider becomes aware that the person is in violation of the terms of the court order, the treatment provider shall notify the designated crisis responder of the violation and request an evaluation for purposes of revocation of the less restrictive alternative.

(3) When a designated crisis responder becomes aware that an offender who is under court-ordered treatment in the community and the supervision of the department of corrections is in violation of a treatment order or a condition of supervision that relates to public safety, or the designated crisis responder detains a person under this chapter, the designated crisis responder shall notify the person's treatment provider and the department of corrections.

(4) When an offender who is confined in a state correctional facility or is under supervision of the department of corrections in the community is subject to a petition for involuntary treatment under this chapter, the petitioner shall notify the department of corrections and the department of corrections shall provide documentation of its risk assessment or other concerns to the petitioner and the court if the depart-

ment of corrections classified the offender as a high risk or high needs offender.

(5) Nothing in this section creates a duty on any treatment provider or designated crisis responder to provide offender supervision. [2005 c 504 § 214.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.140 Secretary may adopt rules. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** The secretary may adopt rules to implement this chapter. [2005 c 504 § 215.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.150 Application of RCW 71.05.550. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** The provisions of \*RCW 71.05.550 apply to this chapter. [2005 c 504 § 216.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 71.05.550 was repealed by 2006 c 333 § 401, effective July 1, 2006.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.96B.800 Evaluation of pilot programs—Reports. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)** (1) The Washington state institute for public policy shall evaluate the pilot programs and make preliminary reports to appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, and a final report by June 30, 2010.

(2) The evaluation of the pilot programs shall include:

(a) Whether the designated crisis responder pilot program:

(i) Has increased efficiency of evaluation and treatment of persons involuntarily detained for seventy-two hours;

(ii) Is cost-effective;

(iii) Results in better outcomes for persons involuntarily detained;

(iv) Increased the effectiveness of the crisis response system in the pilot catchment areas;

(b) The effectiveness of providing a single chapter in the Revised Code of Washington to address initial detention of persons with mental disorders or chemical dependency, in crisis response situations and the likelihood of effectiveness of providing a single, comprehensive involuntary treatment act.

(3) The reports shall consider the impact of the pilot programs on the existing mental health system and on the persons served by the system. [2008 c 320 § 2; 2005 c 504 § 217.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 70.97 RCW

## ENHANCED SERVICES FACILITIES

## Sections

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**70.97.010 Definitions. (Effective until April 1, 2018.)**

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Antipsychotic medications" means that class of drugs primarily used to treat serious manifestations of mental illness associated with thought disorders, which includes but is not limited to atypical antipsychotic medications.

(2) "Attending staff" means any person on the staff of a public or private agency having responsibility for the care and treatment of a patient.

(3) "Chemical dependency" means alcoholism, drug addiction, or dependence on alcohol and one or more other psychoactive chemicals, as the context requires and as those terms are defined in chapter 70.96A RCW.

(4) "Chemical dependency professional" means a person certified as a chemical dependency professional by the department of health under chapter 18.205 RCW.

(5) "Commitment" means the determination by a court that an individual should be detained for a period of either evaluation or treatment, or both, in an inpatient or a less restrictive setting.

(6) "Conditional release" means a modification of a commitment that may be revoked upon violation of any of its terms.

(7) "Custody" means involuntary detention under chapter 71.05 or 70.96A RCW, uninterrupted by any period of unconditional release from commitment from a facility providing involuntary care and treatment.

(8) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(9) "Designated responder" means a designated mental health professional, a designated chemical dependency specialist, or a designated crisis responder as those terms are defined in chapter 70.96A, 71.05, or 70.96B RCW.

(10) "Detention" or "detain" means the lawful confinement of an individual under chapter 70.96A or 71.05 RCW.

(11) "Discharge" means the termination of facility authority. The commitment may remain in place, be terminated, or be amended by court order.

(12) "Enhanced services facility" means a facility that provides treatment and services to persons for whom acute inpatient treatment is not medically necessary and who have been determined by the department to be inappropriate for placement in other licensed facilities due to the complex needs that result in behavioral and security issues.

(13) "Expanded community services program" means a nonsecure program of enhanced behavioral and residential support provided to long-term and residential care providers serving specifically eligible clients who would otherwise be at risk for hospitalization at state hospital geriatric units.

(14) "Facility" means an enhanced services facility.

(15) "Gravely disabled" means a condition in which an individual, as a result of a mental disorder, as a result of the use of alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals, or both:

(a) Is in danger of serious physical harm resulting from a failure to provide for his or her essential human needs of health or safety; or

(b) Manifests severe deterioration in routine functioning evidenced by repeated and escalating loss of cognitive or volitional control over his or her actions and is not receiving such care as is essential for his or her health or safety.

(16) "History of one or more violent acts" refers to the period of time ten years before the filing of a petition under this chapter, or chapter 70.96A or 71.05 RCW, excluding any time spent, but not any violent acts committed, in a mental health facility or a long-term alcoholism or drug treatment facility, or in confinement as a result of a criminal conviction.

(17) "Licensed physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery in the state of Washington.

(18) "Likelihood of serious harm" means:

(a) A substantial risk that:

(i) Physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon his or her own person, as evidenced by threats or attempts to commit suicide or inflict physical harm on oneself;

(ii) Physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon another, as evidenced by behavior that has caused such harm or that places another person or persons in reasonable fear of sustaining such harm; or

(iii) Physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon the property of others, as evidenced by behavior that has caused substantial loss or damage to the property of others; or

(b) The individual has threatened the physical safety of another and has a history of one or more violent acts.

(19) "Mental disorder" means any organic, mental, or emotional impairment that has substantial adverse effects on an individual's cognitive or volitional functions.

(20) "Mental health professional" means a psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric nurse, or social worker, and such other mental health professionals as may be defined by rules adopted by the secretary under the authority of chapter 71.05 RCW.

(21) "Professional person" means a mental health professional and also means a physician, registered nurse, and such

others as may be defined in rules adopted by the secretary pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(22) "Psychiatrist" means a person having a license as a physician and surgeon in this state who has in addition completed three years of graduate training in psychiatry in a program approved by the American medical association or the American osteopathic association and is certified or eligible to be certified by the American board of psychiatry and neurology.

(23) "Psychologist" means a person who has been licensed as a psychologist under chapter 18.83 RCW.

(24) "Registration records" include all the records of the department, behavioral health organizations, treatment facilities, and other persons providing services to the department, county departments, or facilities which identify individuals who are receiving or who at any time have received services for mental illness.

(25) "Release" means legal termination of the commitment under chapter 70.96A or 71.05 RCW.

(26) "Resident" means a person admitted to an enhanced services facility.

(27) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department or the secretary's designee.

(28) "Significant change" means:

(a) A deterioration in a resident's physical, mental, or psychosocial condition that has caused or is likely to cause clinical complications or life-threatening conditions; or

(b) An improvement in the resident's physical, mental, or psychosocial condition that may make the resident eligible for release or for treatment in a less intensive or less secure setting.

(29) "Social worker" means a person with a master's or further advanced degree from a social work educational program accredited and approved as provided in RCW 18.320.010.

(30) "Treatment" means the broad range of emergency, detoxification, residential, inpatient, and outpatient services and care, including diagnostic evaluation, mental health or chemical dependency education and counseling, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and social service care, vocational rehabilitation, and career counseling, which may be extended to persons with mental disorders, chemical dependency disorders, or both, and their families.

(31) "Treatment records" include registration and all other records concerning individuals who are receiving or who at any time have received services for mental illness, which are maintained by the department, by behavioral health organizations and their staffs, and by treatment facilities. "Treatment records" do not include notes or records maintained for personal use by an individual providing treatment services for the department, behavioral health organizations, or a treatment facility if the notes or records are not available to others.

(32) "Violent act" means behavior that resulted in homicide, attempted suicide, nonfatal injuries, or substantial damage to property. [2014 c 225 § 78; 2011 c 89 § 11; 2005 c 504 § 403.]

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**Effective date—2011 c 89:** See note following RCW 18.320.005.

**Findings—2011 c 89:** See RCW 18.320.005.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

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**70.97.010 Definitions. (Effective April 1, 2018.)** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

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(4) "Chemical dependency professional" means a person certified as a chemical dependency professional by the department of health under chapter 18.205 RCW.

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(6) "Conditional release" means a modification of a commitment that may be revoked upon violation of any of its terms.

(7) "Custody" means involuntary detention under chapter 71.05 RCW, uninterrupted by any period of unconditional release from commitment from a facility providing involuntary care and treatment.

(8) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(9) "Designated crisis responder" has the same meaning as in chapter 71.05 RCW.

(10) "Detention" or "detain" means the lawful confinement of an individual under chapter 71.05 RCW.

(11) "Discharge" means the termination of facility authority. The commitment may remain in place, be terminated, or be amended by court order.

(12) "Enhanced services facility" means a facility that provides treatment and services to persons for whom acute inpatient treatment is not medically necessary and who have been determined by the department to be inappropriate for placement in other licensed facilities due to the complex needs that result in behavioral and security issues.

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(b) Manifests severe deterioration in routine functioning evidenced by repeated and escalating loss of cognitive or volitional control over his or her actions and is not receiving such care as is essential for his or her health or safety.

(16) "History of one or more violent acts" refers to the period of time ten years before the filing of a petition under this chapter or chapter 71.05 RCW, excluding any time spent, but not any violent acts committed, in a mental health facility or a long-term alcoholism or drug treatment facility, or in confinement as a result of a criminal conviction.

(17) "Licensed physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery in the state of Washington.

(18) "Likelihood of serious harm" means:

(a) A substantial risk that:

(i) Physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon his or her own person, as evidenced by threats or attempts to commit suicide or inflict physical harm on oneself;

(ii) Physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon another, as evidenced by behavior that has caused such harm or that places another person or persons in reasonable fear of sustaining such harm; or

(iii) Physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon the property of others, as evidenced by behavior that has caused substantial loss or damage to the property of others; or

(b) The individual has threatened the physical safety of another and has a history of one or more violent acts.

(19) "Mental disorder" means any organic, mental, or emotional impairment that has substantial adverse effects on an individual's cognitive or volitional functions.

(20) "Mental health professional" means a psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric nurse, or social worker, and such other mental health professionals as may be defined by rules adopted by the secretary under the authority of chapter 71.05 RCW.

(21) "Professional person" means a mental health professional and also means a physician, registered nurse, and such others as may be defined in rules adopted by the secretary pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(22) "Psychiatrist" means a person having a license as a physician and surgeon in this state who has in addition completed three years of graduate training in psychiatry in a program approved by the American medical association or the American osteopathic association and is certified or eligible to be certified by the American board of psychiatry and neurology.

(23) "Psychologist" means a person who has been licensed as a psychologist under chapter 18.83 RCW.

(24) "Registration records" include all the records of the department, behavioral health organizations, treatment facilities, and other persons providing services to the department, county departments, or facilities which identify individuals who are receiving or who at any time have received services for mental illness.

(25) "Release" means legal termination of the commitment under chapter 71.05 RCW.

(26) "Resident" means a person admitted to an enhanced services facility.

(27) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department or the secretary's designee.

(28) "Significant change" means:

(a) A deterioration in a resident's physical, mental, or psychosocial condition that has caused or is likely to cause clinical complications or life-threatening conditions; or

(b) An improvement in the resident's physical, mental, or psychosocial condition that may make the resident eligible for release or for treatment in a less intensive or less secure setting.

(29) "Social worker" means a person with a master's or further advanced degree from a social work educational program accredited and approved as provided in RCW 18.320.010.

(30) "Treatment" means the broad range of emergency, detoxification, residential, inpatient, and outpatient services and care, including diagnostic evaluation, mental health or chemical dependency education and counseling, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and social service care, vocational rehabilitation, and career counseling, which may be extended to persons with mental disorders, chemical dependency disorders, or both, and their families.

(31) "Treatment records" include registration and all other records concerning individuals who are receiving or who at any time have received services for mental illness, which are maintained by the department, by behavioral health organizations and their staffs, and by treatment facilities. "Treatment records" do not include notes or records maintained for personal use by an individual providing treatment services for the department, behavioral health organizations, or a treatment facility if the notes or records are not available to others.

(32) "Violent act" means behavior that resulted in homicide, attempted suicide, nonfatal injuries, or substantial damage to property. [2016 1st sp.s. c 29 § 419; 2014 c 225 § 78; 2011 c 89 § 11; 2005 c 504 § 403.]

**Effective dates—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See note following RCW 71.05.760.

**Short title—Right of action—2016 1st sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 71.05.010.

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**Effective date—2011 c 89:** See note following RCW 18.320.005.

**Findings—2011 c 89:** See RCW 18.320.005.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.020 Advance directives.** A facility shall honor an advance directive that was validly executed pursuant to chapter 70.122 RCW and a mental health advance directive that was validly executed pursuant to chapter 71.32 RCW. [2005 c 504 § 404.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.030 Admission criteria.** A person, eighteen years old or older, may be admitted to an enhanced services facility if he or she meets the criteria in subsections (1) through (3) of this section:

(1) The person requires: (a) Daily care by or under the supervision of a mental health professional, chemical dependency professional, or nurse; or (b) assistance with three or more activities of daily living; and

(2) The person has: (a) A mental disorder, chemical dependency disorder, or both; (b) an organic or traumatic brain injury; or (c) a cognitive impairment that results in symptoms or behaviors requiring supervision and facility services; [and]

(3) The person has two or more of the following:

(a) Self-endangering behaviors that are frequent or difficult to manage;

(b) Aggressive, threatening, or assaultive behaviors that create a risk to the health or safety of other residents or staff, or a significant risk to property and these behaviors are frequent or difficult to manage;

(c) Intrusive behaviors that put residents or staff at risk;

(d) Complex medication needs and those needs include psychotropic medications;

(e) A history of or likelihood of unsuccessful placements in either a licensed facility or other state facility or a history of rejected applications for admission to other licensed facilities based on the person's behaviors, history, or security needs;

(f) A history of frequent or protracted mental health hospitalizations;

(g) A history of offenses against a person or felony offenses that created substantial damage to property. [2005 c 504 § 405.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.040 Rights of residents.** (1)(a) Every person who is a resident of an enhanced services facility shall be entitled to all the rights set forth in this chapter, and chapters 71.05 and \*70.96A RCW, and shall retain all rights not denied him or her under these chapters.

(b) No person shall be presumed incompetent as a consequence of receiving an evaluation or voluntary or involuntary treatment for a mental disorder, chemical dependency disorder, or both, under this chapter, or chapter 71.05 or \*70.96A RCW, or any prior laws of this state dealing with mental illness. Competency shall not be determined or withdrawn except under the provisions of chapter 10.77 or 11.88 RCW.

(c) At the time of his or her treatment planning meeting, every resident of an enhanced services facility shall be given a written statement setting forth the substance of this section. The department shall by rule develop a statement and process for informing residents of their rights in a manner that is likely to be understood by the resident.

(2) Every resident of an enhanced services facility shall have the right to adequate care and individualized treatment.

(3) The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to deny to any person treatment by spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a church or religious denomination.

(4) Persons receiving evaluation or treatment under this chapter shall be given a reasonable choice of an available

physician or other professional person qualified to provide such services.

(5) The physician-patient privilege or the psychologist-client privilege shall be deemed waived in proceedings under this chapter relating to the administration of antipsychotic medications. As to other proceedings under chapter 10.77, \*70.96A, or 71.05 RCW, the privileges shall be waived when a court of competent jurisdiction in its discretion determines that such waiver is necessary to protect either the detained person or the public.

(6) Insofar as danger to the person or others is not created, each resident of an enhanced services facility shall have, in addition to other rights not specifically withheld by law, the following rights, a list of which shall be prominently posted in all facilities, institutions, and hospitals providing such services:

(a) To wear his or her own clothes and to keep and use his or her own personal possessions, except when deprivation of same is essential to protect the safety of the resident or other persons;

(b) To keep and be allowed to spend a reasonable sum of his or her own money for canteen expenses and small purchases;

(c) To have access to individual storage space for his or her private use;

(d) To have visitors at reasonable times;

(e) To have reasonable access to a telephone, both to make and receive confidential calls, consistent with an effective treatment program;

(f) To have ready access to letter writing materials, including stamps, and to send and receive uncensored correspondence through the mails;

(g) Not to consent to the administration of antipsychotic medications beyond the hearing conducted pursuant to RCW 71.05.215 or 71.05.217, or the performance of electroconvulsant therapy, or surgery, except emergency lifesaving surgery, unless ordered by a court under RCW 71.05.217;

(h) To discuss and actively participate in treatment plans and decisions with professional persons;

(i) Not to have psychosurgery performed on him or her under any circumstances;

(j) To dispose of property and sign contracts unless such person has been adjudicated an incompetent in a court proceeding directed to that particular issue; and

(k) To complain about rights violations or conditions and request the assistance of a mental health ombuds or representative of Washington protection and advocacy. The facility may not prohibit or interfere with a resident's decision to consult with an advocate of his or her choice.

(7) Nothing contained in this chapter shall prohibit a resident from petitioning by writ of habeas corpus for release.

(8) Nothing in this section permits any person to knowingly violate a no-contact order or a condition of an active judgment and sentence or active supervision by the department of corrections.

(9) A person has a right to refuse placement, except where subject to commitment, in an enhanced services facility. No person shall be denied other department services solely on the grounds that he or she has made such a refusal.

(10) A person has a right to appeal the decision of the department that he or she is eligible for placement at an

enhanced services facility, and shall be given notice of the right to appeal in a format that is accessible to the person with instructions regarding what to do if the person wants to appeal. [2013 c 23 § 179; 2005 c 504 § 406.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 70.96A RCW was repealed and/or recodified in its entirety pursuant to 2016 1st sp.s. c 29 §§ 301, effective April 1, 2018, 601, and 701.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **70.97.050 Right to refuse antipsychotic medication.**

A person who is gravely disabled or presents a likelihood of serious harm as a result of a mental or chemical dependency disorder or co-occurring mental and chemical dependency disorders has a right to refuse antipsychotic medication. Antipsychotic medication may be administered over the person's objections only pursuant to RCW 71.05.215 or 71.05.217. [2005 c 504 § 407.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.060 Capacity—Security—Licensing—Application of state and local rules.** (1)(a) The department shall not license an enhanced services facility that serves any residents under sixty-five years of age for a capacity to exceed sixteen residents.

(b) The department may contract for services for the operation of enhanced services facilities only to the extent that funds are specifically provided for that purpose.

(2) The facility shall provide an appropriate level of security for the characteristics, behaviors, and legal status of the residents.

(3) An enhanced services facility may hold only one license but, to the extent permitted under state and federal law and medicaid requirements, a facility may be located in the same building as another licensed facility, provided that:

(a) The enhanced services facility is in a location that is totally separate and discrete from the other licensed facility; and

(b) The two facilities maintain separate staffing, unless an exception to this is permitted by the department in rule.

(4) Nursing homes under chapter 18.51 RCW, assisted living facilities under chapter 18.20 RCW, or adult family homes under chapter 70.128 RCW, that become licensed as facilities under this chapter shall be deemed to meet the applicable state and local rules, regulations, permits, and code requirements. All other facilities are required to meet all applicable state and local rules, regulations, permits, and code requirements. [2012 c 10 § 51; 2005 c 504 § 408.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.070 Comprehensive assessments—Individualized treatment plan.** (1) The enhanced services facility shall complete a comprehensive assessment for each resident

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within fourteen days of admission, and the assessments shall be repeated upon a significant change in the resident's condition or, at a minimum, every one hundred eighty days if there is no significant change in condition.

(2) The enhanced services facility shall develop an individualized treatment plan for each resident based on the comprehensive assessment and any other information in the person's record. The plan shall be updated as necessary, and shall include a plan for appropriate transfer or discharge and reintegration into the community. Where the person is under the supervision of the department of corrections, the facility shall collaborate with the department of corrections to maximize treatment outcomes and reduce the likelihood of reoffense.

(3) The plan shall maximize the opportunities for independence, recovery, employment, the resident's participation in treatment decisions, and collaboration with peer-supported services, and provide for care and treatment in the least restrictive manner appropriate to the individual resident, and, where relevant, to any court orders with which the resident must comply. [2005 c 504 § 409.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.080 Staffing levels—Staff credentials and training—Background checks.** (1) An enhanced services facility must have sufficient numbers of staff with the appropriate credentials and training to provide residents with the appropriate care and treatment:

- (a) Mental health treatment;
- (b) Medication services;
- (c) Assistance with the activities of daily living;
- (d) Medical or habilitative treatment;
- (e) Dietary services;
- (f) Security; and
- (g) Chemical dependency treatment.

(2) Where an enhanced services facility specializes in medically fragile persons with mental disorders, the on-site staff must include at least one licensed nurse twenty-four hours per day. The nurse must be a registered nurse for at least sixteen hours per day. If the nurse is not a registered nurse, a registered nurse or a doctor must be on-call during the remaining eight hours.

(3) Any employee or other individual who will have unsupervised access to vulnerable adults must successfully pass a background inquiry check. [2005 c 504 § 410.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.090 Facilities exempted.** This chapter does not apply to the following residential facilities:

- (1) Nursing homes licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW;
- (2) Assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW;
- (3) Adult family homes licensed under chapter 70.128 RCW;
- (4) Facilities approved and certified under chapter 71A.22 RCW;

(5) Residential treatment facilities licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW; and

(6) Hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW. [2012 c 10 § 52; 2005 c 504 § 411.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.100 Licensing requirements—Information available to public, residents, families.** (1) The department shall establish licensing rules for enhanced services facilities to serve the populations defined in this chapter.

(2) No person or public or private agency may operate or maintain an enhanced services facility without a license, which must be renewed annually.

(3) A licensee shall have the following readily accessible and available for review by the department, residents, families of residents, and the public:

(a) Its license to operate and a copy of the department's most recent inspection report and any recent complaint investigation reports issued by the department;

(b) Its written policies and procedures for all treatment, care, and services provided directly or indirectly by the facility; and

(c) The department's toll-free complaint number, which shall also be posted in a clearly visible place and manner.

(4) Enhanced services facilities shall maintain a grievance procedure that meets the requirements of rules established by the department.

(5) No facility shall discriminate or retaliate in any manner against a resident or employee because the resident, employee, or any other person made a complaint or provided information to the department, the long-term care ombuds, Washington protection and advocacy system, or a mental health ombuds.

(6) Each enhanced services facility will post in a prominent place in a common area a notice by the Washington protection and advocacy system providing contact information. [2013 c 23 § 180; 2005 c 504 § 412.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.110 Enforcement authority—Penalties, sanctions.** (1) In any case in which the department finds that a licensee of a facility, or any partner, officer, director, owner of five percent or more of the assets of the facility, or managing employee failed or refused to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the rules established under them, the department may take any or all of the following actions:

(a) Suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew a license;

(b) Order stop placement; or

(c) Assess civil monetary penalties.

(2) The department may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license, assess civil monetary penalties, or both, in any case in which it finds that the licensee of a facility, or any

partner, officer, director, owner of five percent or more of the assets of the facility, or managing employee:

(a) Operated a facility without a license or under a revoked or suspended license;

(b) Knowingly or with reason to know made a false statement of a material fact in the license application or any data attached thereto, or in any matter under investigation by the department;

(c) Refused to allow representatives or agents of the department to inspect all books, records, and files required to be maintained or any portion of the premises of the facility;

(d) Willfully prevented, interfered with, or attempted to impede in any way the work of any duly authorized representative of the department and the lawful enforcement of any provision of this chapter;

(e) Willfully prevented or interfered with any representative of the department in the preservation of evidence of any violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or of the rules adopted under it; or

(f) Failed to pay any civil monetary penalty assessed by the department under this chapter within ten days after the assessment becomes final.

(3)(a) Civil penalties collected under this chapter shall be deposited into a special fund administered by the department.

(b) Civil monetary penalties, if imposed, may be assessed and collected, with interest, for each day the facility is or was out of compliance. Civil monetary penalties shall not exceed three thousand dollars per day. Each day upon which the same or a substantially similar action occurs is a separate violation subject to the assessment of a separate penalty.

(4) The department may use the civil penalty monetary fund for the protection of the health or property of residents of facilities found to be deficient including:

(a) Payment for the cost of relocation of residents to other facilities;

(b) Payment to maintain operation of a facility pending correction of deficiencies or closure; and

(c) Reimbursement of a resident for personal funds or property loss.

(5)(a) The department may issue a stop placement order on a facility, effective upon oral or written notice, when the department determines:

(i) The facility no longer substantially meets the requirements of this chapter; and

(ii) The deficiency or deficiencies in the facility:

(A) Jeopardizes the health and safety of the residents; or

(B) Seriously limits the facility's capacity to provide adequate care.

(b) When the department has ordered a stop placement, the department may approve a readmission to the facility from a hospital, residential treatment facility, or crisis intervention facility when the department determines the readmission would be in the best interest of the individual seeking readmission.

(6) If the department determines that an emergency exists and resident health and safety is immediately jeopardized as a result of a facility's failure or refusal to comply with this chapter, the department may summarily suspend the facility's license and order the immediate closure of the facility, or the immediate transfer of residents, or both.

(7) If the department determines that the health or safety of the residents is immediately jeopardized as a result of a facility's failure or refusal to comply with requirements of this chapter, the department may appoint temporary management to:

- (a) Oversee the operation of the facility; and
- (b) Ensure the health and safety of the facility's residents while:
  - (i) Orderly closure of the facility occurs; or
  - (ii) The deficiencies necessitating temporary management are corrected. [2005 c 504 § 413.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.120 Enforcement orders—Hearings.** (1) All orders of the department denying, suspending, or revoking the license or assessing a monetary penalty shall become final twenty days after the same has been served upon the applicant or licensee unless a hearing is requested.

(2) All orders of the department imposing stop placement, temporary management, emergency closure, emergency transfer, or summary license suspension shall be effective immediately upon notice, pending any hearing.

(3) Subject to the requirements of subsection (2) of this section, all hearings under this chapter and judicial review of such determinations shall be in accordance with the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. [2005 c 504 § 414.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.130 Unlicensed operation—Application of consumer protection act.** Operation of a facility without a license in violation of this chapter and discrimination against medicaid recipients is a matter vitally affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Operation of an enhanced services facility without a license in violation of this chapter is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business. Such a violation is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. [2005 c 504 § 415.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.140 Unlicensed operation—Criminal penalty.** A person operating or maintaining a facility without a license under this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and each day of a continuing violation after conviction shall be considered a separate offense. [2005 c 504 § 416.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

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Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.150 Unlicensed operation—Injunction or other remedies.** Notwithstanding the existence or use of any other remedy, the department may, in the manner provided by law, maintain an action in the name of the state for an injunction, civil penalty, or other process against a person to restrain or prevent the operation or maintenance of a facility without a license issued under this chapter. [2005 c 504 § 417.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.160 Inspections.** (1) The department shall make or cause to be made at least one inspection of each facility prior to licensure and an unannounced full inspection of facilities at least once every eighteen months. The statewide average interval between full facility inspections must be fifteen months.

(2) Any duly authorized officer, employee, or agent of the department may enter and inspect any facility at any time to determine that the facility is in compliance with this chapter and applicable rules, and to enforce any provision of this chapter. Complaint inspections shall be unannounced and conducted in such a manner as to ensure maximum effectiveness. No advance notice shall be given of any inspection unless authorized or required by federal law.

(3) During inspections, the facility must give the department access to areas, materials, and equipment used to provide care or support to residents, including resident and staff records, accounts, and the physical premises, including the buildings, grounds, and equipment. The department has the authority to privately interview the provider, staff, residents, and other individuals familiar with resident care and treatment.

(4) Any public employee giving advance notice of an inspection in violation of this section shall be suspended from all duties without pay for a period of not less than five nor more than fifteen days.

(5) The department shall prepare a written report describing the violations found during an inspection, and shall provide a copy of the inspection report to the facility.

(6) The facility shall develop a written plan of correction for any violations identified by the department and provide a plan of correction to the department within ten working days from the receipt of the inspection report. [2005 c 504 § 418.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.170 Persons eligible for admittance.** The facility shall only admit individuals:

- (1) Who are over the age of eighteen;
- (2) Who meet the resident eligibility requirements described in RCW 70.97.030; and
- (3) Whose needs the facility can safely and appropriately meet through qualified and trained staff, services, equipment, security, and building design. [2005 c 504 § 419.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.180 Services of qualified professional.** If the facility does not employ a qualified professional able to furnish needed services, the facility must have a written contract with a qualified professional or agency outside the facility to furnish the needed services. [2005 c 504 § 420.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.190 Notice of change of ownership or management.** At least sixty days before the effective date of any change of ownership, or change of management of a facility, the current operating entity must provide written notification about the proposed change separately and in writing, to the department, each resident of the facility, or the resident's guardian or representative. [2005 c 504 § 421.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.200 Recordkeeping—Compliance with state, federal regulations—Health care information releases.** The facility shall:

(1) Maintain adequate resident records to enable the provision of necessary treatment, care, and services and to respond appropriately in emergency situations;

(2) Comply with all state and federal requirements related to documentation, confidentiality, and information sharing, including chapters 10.77, 70.02, 70.24, \*70.96A, and 71.05 RCW; and

(3) Where possible, obtain signed releases of information designating the department, the facility, and the department of corrections where the person is under its supervision, as recipients of health care information. [2005 c 504 § 422.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 70.96A RCW was repealed and/or recodified in its entirety pursuant to 2016 1st sp.s. c 29 §§ 301, effective April 1, 2018, 601, and 701.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.210 Standards for fire protection.** (1) Standards for fire protection and the enforcement thereof, with respect to all facilities licensed under this chapter, are the responsibility of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, who must adopt recognized standards as applicable to facilities for the protection of life against the cause and spread of fire and fire hazards. If the facility to be licensed meets with the approval of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, the director of fire protection must submit to the department a written report approving the facility with respect to fire protection before a full license can be issued. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall conduct an unannounced full inspection

of facilities at least once every eighteen months. The statewide average interval between full facility inspections must be fifteen months.

(2) Inspections of facilities by local authorities must be consistent with the requirements adopted by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. Findings of a serious nature must be coordinated with the department and the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, for determination of appropriate actions to ensure a safe environment for residents. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, has exclusive authority to determine appropriate corrective action under this section. [2005 c 504 § 423.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.220 Exemption from liability.** No facility providing care and treatment for individuals placed in a facility, or agency licensing or placing residents in a facility, acting in the course of its duties, shall be civilly or criminally liable for performing its duties under this chapter, provided that such duties were performed in good faith and without gross negligence. [2005 c 504 § 424.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.230 Rules for implementation of chapter.** (1) The secretary shall adopt rules to implement this chapter.

(2) Such rules shall at the minimum: (a) Promote safe treatment and necessary care of individuals residing in the facility and provide for safe and clean conditions; (b) establish licensee qualifications, licensing and enforcement, and license fees sufficient to cover the cost of licensing and enforcement. [2005 c 504 § 425.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.97.800 Request for proposal.** To the extent that funds are specifically appropriated for this purpose, the department must issue a request for a proposal for enhanced services facility services by June 1, 2014, and complete the procurement process by January 1, 2015. [2013 c 338 § 3.]

## Chapter 70.98 RCW NUCLEAR ENERGY AND RADIATION

### Sections

70.98.010	Declaration of policy.
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70.98.130	Administrative procedure.
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70.98.180	Exemptions.
70.98.190	Professional uses.
70.98.200	Penalties.
70.98.220	Adoption of rules for administering site use permit program.
70.98.910	Effective date—1961 c 207.
70.98.920	Section headings not part of law.

**Reviser's note:** Powers and duties of the department of social and health services and the secretary of social and health services transferred to the department of health and the secretary of health. See RCW 43.70.060.

*Nuclear, thermal power facilities, joint city, public utility district, electrical companies development: Chapter 54.44 RCW.*

*Radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response programs, state coordinator: RCW 38.52.030.*

*Radioactive waste act: Chapter 43.200 RCW.*

**70.98.010 Declaration of policy.** It is the policy of the state of Washington in furtherance of its responsibility to protect the public health and safety and to encourage, insofar as consistent with this responsibility, the industrial and economic growth of the state and to institute and maintain a regulatory and inspection program for sources and uses of ionizing radiation so as to provide for (1) compatibility with the standards and regulatory programs of the federal government, (2) a single, effective system of regulation within the state, and (3) a system consonant insofar as possible with those of other states. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 § 12; 1961 c 207 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.98.020 Purpose.** It is the purpose of this chapter to effectuate the policies set forth in RCW 70.98.010 as now or hereafter amended by providing for:

(1) A program of effective regulation of sources of ionizing radiation for the protection of the occupational and public health and safety;

(2) A program to promote an orderly regulatory pattern within the state, among the states and between the federal government and the state and facilitate intergovernmental cooperation with respect to use and regulation of sources of ionizing radiation to the end that duplication of regulation may be minimized;

(3) A program to establish procedures for assumption and performance of certain regulatory responsibilities with respect to by-product, source, and special nuclear materials. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 § 13; 1965 c 88 § 1; 1961 c 207 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.98.030 Definitions.** (1) "By-product material" means any radioactive material (except special nuclear material) yielded in or made radioactive by exposure to the radia-

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tion incident to the process of producing or utilizing special nuclear material.

(2)(a) "General license" means a license effective pursuant to rules promulgated by the state radiation control agency, without the filing of an application, to transfer, acquire, own, possess, or use quantities of, or devices or equipment utilizing, by-product, source, special nuclear materials, or other radioactive material occurring naturally or produced artificially.

(b) "Specific license" means a license, issued after application to use, manufacture, produce, transfer, receive, acquire, own, or possess quantities of, or devices or equipment utilizing by-product, source, special nuclear materials, or other radioactive materials occurring naturally or produced artificially.

(3) "Ionizing radiation" means gamma rays and x-rays, alpha and beta particles, high-speed electrons, neutrons, protons, and other atomic or subatomic particles; but not sound or radio waves, or visible, infrared, or ultraviolet light.

(4) "Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, firm, association, trust, estate, public or private institution, group, agency, political subdivision of this state, any other state or political subdivision or agency thereof, and any legal successor, representative, agent, or agency of the foregoing, other than the United States Atomic Energy Commission, or any successor thereto, and other than federal government agencies licensed by the United States Atomic Energy Commission, or any successor thereto.

(5) "Radiation source" means any type of device or substance which is capable of producing or emitting ionizing radiation.

(6) "Registration" means registration with the state department of health by any person possessing a source of ionizing radiation in accordance with rules adopted by the department of health.

(7) "Site use permit" means a permit, issued after application, to use the commercial low-level radioactive waste disposal facility.

(8) "Source material" means (a) uranium, thorium, or any other material which is determined by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission or its successor pursuant to the provisions of section 61 of the United States Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. Sec. 209) to be source material; or (b) ores containing one or more of the foregoing materials, in such concentration as the commission may by regulation determine from time to time.

(9) "Special nuclear material" means (a) plutonium, uranium enriched in the isotope 233 or in the isotope 235, and any other material which the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission or its successor, pursuant to the provisions of section 51 of the United States Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. Sec. 2071), determines to be special nuclear material, but does not include source material; or (b) any material artificially enriched by any of the foregoing, but does not include source material. [2012 c 19 § 8; 1991 c 3 § 355; 1983 1st ex.s. c 19 § 9; 1979 c 141 § 125; 1965 c 88 § 2; 1961 c 207 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective date—2012 c 19:** See note following RCW 43.200.015.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.98.050 State radiation control agency.** (1) The department of health is designated as the state radiation control agency, hereinafter referred to as the agency, and shall be the state agency having sole responsibility for administration of the regulatory, licensing, and radiation control provisions of this chapter.

(2) The secretary of health shall be director of the agency, hereinafter referred to as the secretary, who shall perform the functions vested in the agency pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(3) The agency shall appoint a state radiological control officer, and in accordance with the laws of the state, fix his or her compensation and prescribe his or her powers and duties.

(4) The agency shall for the protection of the occupational and public health and safety:

(a) Develop programs for evaluation of hazards associated with use of ionizing radiation;

(b) Develop a statewide radiological baseline beginning with the establishment of a baseline for the Hanford reservation;

(c) Implement an independent statewide program to monitor ionizing radiation emissions from radiation sources within the state;

(d) Develop programs with due regard for compatibility with federal programs for regulation of by-product, source, and special nuclear materials;

(e) Conduct environmental radiation monitoring programs which will determine the presence and significance of radiation in the environment and which will verify the adequacy and accuracy of environmental radiation monitoring programs conducted by the federal government at its installations in Washington and by radioactive materials licensees at their installations;

(f) Formulate, adopt, promulgate, and repeal codes, rules, and regulations relating to control of sources of ionizing radiation;

(g) Advise, consult, and cooperate with other agencies of the state, the federal government, other states and interstate agencies, political subdivisions, and with groups concerned with control of sources of ionizing radiation;

(h) Have the authority to accept and administer loans, grants, or other funds or gifts, conditional or otherwise, in furtherance of its functions, from the federal government and from other sources, public or private;

(i) Encourage, participate in, or conduct studies, investigations, training, research, and demonstrations relating to control of sources of ionizing radiation, including the collection of statistical data and epidemiological research, where available, on diseases that result from exposure to sources of ionizing radiation;

(j) Collect and disseminate information relating to control of sources of ionizing radiation; including:

(i) Maintenance of a file of all license applications, issuances, denials, amendments, transfers, renewals, modifications, suspensions, and revocations;

(ii) Maintenance of a file of registrants possessing sources of ionizing radiation requiring registration under the provisions of this chapter and any administrative or judicial action pertaining thereto; and

(iii) Maintenance of a file of all rules and regulations relating to regulation of sources of ionizing radiation, pending or promulgated, and proceedings thereon;

(k) Collect and disseminate information relating to non-ionizing radiation, including:

(i) Maintaining a state clearinghouse of information pertaining to sources and effects of nonionizing radiation with an emphasis on electric and magnetic fields;

(ii) Maintaining current information on the status and results of studies pertaining to health effects resulting from exposure to nonionizing radiation with an emphasis on studies pertaining to electric and magnetic fields;

(iii) Serving as the lead state agency on matters pertaining to electric and magnetic fields and periodically informing state agencies of relevant information pertaining to nonionizing radiation;

(l) In connection with any adjudicative proceeding as defined by RCW 34.05.010 or any other administrative proceedings as provided for in this chapter, have the power to issue subpoenas in order to compel the attendance of necessary witnesses and/or the production of records or documents.

(5) In order to avoid duplication of efforts, the agency may acquire the data requested under this section from public and private entities that possess this information. [2012 c 117 § 414; 1990 c 173 § 2; 1989 c 175 § 132; 1985 c 383 § 1; 1985 c 372 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 189 § 10; 1970 ex.s. c 18 § 16; 1965 c 88 § 3; 1961 c 207 § 5.]

**Finding—1990 c 173:** "The legislature finds that concern has been raised over possible health effects resulting from exposure to nonionizing radiation, and specifically exposure to electric and magnetic fields. The legislature further finds that there is no clear responsibility in state government for following this issue and that this responsibility is best suited for the department of health." [1990 c 173 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.98.080 Rules and regulations—Licensing requirements and procedure—Notice of license application—Objections—Notice upon granting of license—Registration of sources of ionizing radiation—Exemptions from registration or licensing.** (1) The agency shall provide by rule or regulation for general or specific licensing of by-product, source, special nuclear materials, or devices or equipment utilizing such materials, or other radioactive material occurring naturally or produced artificially. Such rule or regulation shall provide for amendment, suspension, or revocation of licenses. Such rule or regulation shall provide that:

(a) Each application for a specific license shall be in writing and shall state such information as the agency, by rule or regulation, may determine to be necessary to decide the technical, insurance, and financial qualifications, or any other qualification of the applicant as the agency may deem reasonable and necessary to protect the occupational and public health and safety. The agency may at any time after the filing of the application, and before the expiration of the license, require further written statements and shall make such inspections as the agency deems necessary in order to determine whether the license should be granted or denied or whether the license should be modified, suspended, or revoked. In no event shall the agency grant a specific license to any applicant who has never possessed a specific license issued by a recognized state or federal authority until the

agency has conducted an inspection which insures that the applicant can meet the rules, regulations and standards adopted pursuant to this chapter. All applications and statements shall be signed by the applicant or licensee. The agency may require any applications or statements to be made under oath or affirmation;

(b) Each license shall be in such form and contain such terms and conditions as the agency may by rule or regulation prescribe;

(c) No license issued under the authority of this chapter and no right to possess or utilize sources of ionizing radiation granted by any license shall be assigned or in any manner disposed of; and

(d) The terms and conditions of all licenses shall be subject to amendment, revision, or modification by rules, regulations or orders issued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) Before the agency issues a license to an applicant under this section, it shall give notice of such application to the chief executive officer of the incorporated city or town, if the application is for a license within an incorporated city or town, or to the county legislative authority, if the application is for a license outside the boundaries of incorporated cities or towns. The incorporated city or town, through the official or employee selected by it, or the county legislative authority or the official or employee selected by it, shall have the right to file with the agency within twenty days after date of transmittal of such notice, written objections against the applicant or against the activity for which the license is sought, and shall include with such objections a statement of all facts upon which such objections are based, and in case written objections are filed, may request and the agency may in its discretion hold a formal hearing under chapter 34.05 RCW. Upon the granting of a license under this section the agency shall send a duplicate of the license or written notification to the chief executive officer of the incorporated city or town in which the license is granted, or to the county legislative authority if the license is granted outside the boundaries of incorporated cities or towns.

This subsection shall not apply to activities conducted within the boundaries of the Hanford reservation.

(3) The agency may require registration of all sources of ionizing radiation.

(4) The agency may exempt certain sources of ionizing radiation or kinds of uses or users from the registration or licensing requirements set forth in this section when the agency makes a finding after approval of the technical advisory board that the exemption of such sources of ionizing radiation or kinds of uses or users will not constitute a significant risk to the health and safety of the public.

(5) In promulgating rules and regulations pursuant to this chapter the agency shall, insofar as practical, strive to avoid requiring dual licensing, and shall provide for such recognition of other state or federal licenses as the agency shall deem desirable, subject to such registration requirements as the agency may prescribe. [1984 c 96 § 1; 1965 c 88 § 5; 1961 c 207 § 8.]

**70.98.085 User permit system—Fees—Indemnify and hold state harmless—Adoption of rules.** (1) The agency is empowered to administer a user permit system and

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issue site use permits for generators, packagers, or brokers to use the commercial low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. The agency may issue a site use permit consistent with the requirements of this chapter and the rules adopted under it and the requirements of the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management under chapter 43.145 RCW. The agency may deny an application for a site use permit or modify, suspend, or revoke a site use permit in any case in which it finds that the permit was obtained by fraud or there is or has been a failure, refusal, or inability to comply with the requirements of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter or the requirements of the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management under chapter 43.145 RCW. The agency may also deny or suspend a site use permit for failure to comply with RCW 43.200.230.

(2) Any permit issued by the department of ecology for a site use permit pursuant to chapter 43.200 RCW is valid until the first expiration date that occurs after July 1, 2012.

(3) The agency shall collect a fee from the applicants for site use permits that is sufficient to fund the costs to the agency to administer the user permit system. The site use permit fee must be set at a level that is also sufficient to fund state participation in activities related to the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management under chapter 43.145 RCW. The site use permit fees must be deposited in the site closure account established in RCW 43.200.080(2). Appropriations to the department of health or the department of ecology are required to permit expenditures using site use permit fee funds from the site closure account.

(4) The agency shall collect a surveillance fee as an added charge on each cubic foot of low-level radioactive waste disposed of at the commercial low-level radioactive waste disposal site in this state which shall be set at a level that is sufficient to fund completely the radiation control activities of the agency directly related to the disposal site, including but not limited to the management, licensing, monitoring, and regulation of the site. The fee shall also provide funds to the Washington state patrol for costs incurred from inspection of low-level radioactive waste shipments entering this state. Disbursements for this purpose shall be by authorization of the secretary of the department of health or the secretary's designee.

(5) The agency shall require that any person who holds or applies for a permit under this chapter indemnify and hold harmless the state from claims, suits, damages, or expenses on account of injuries to or death of persons and property damage, arising or growing out of any operations and activities for which the person holds the permit, and any necessary or incidental operations.

(6) The agency may adopt such rules as are necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this section. [2012 c 19 § 9; 1990 c 21 § 7; 1989 c 106 § 1; 1986 c 2 § 2; 1985 c 383 § 3.]

**Effective date—2012 c 19:** See note following RCW 43.200.015.

**70.98.090 Inspection.** The agency or its duly authorized representative shall have the power to enter at all reasonable times upon any private or public property for the purpose of determining whether or not there is compliance with

or violation of the provisions of this chapter and rules and regulations issued thereunder. [1985 c 372 § 2; 1961 c 207 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.98.095 Financial assurance—Noncompliance.** (1) The radiation control agency may require any person who applies for, or holds, a license under this chapter to demonstrate that the person has financial assurance sufficient to assure that liability incurred as a result of licensed operations and activities can be fully satisfied. Financial assurance may be in the form of insurance, cash deposits, surety bonds, corporate guarantees, letters of credit, or other financial instruments or guarantees determined by the agency to be acceptable financial assurance. The agency may require financial assurance in an amount determined by the secretary pursuant to RCW 70.98.098.

(2) The radiation control agency may require site use permit holders to demonstrate financial assurance in an amount that is adequate to protect the state and its citizens from all claims, suits, losses, damages, or expenses on account of injuries to persons and property damage arising or growing out of the transportation or disposal of commercial low-level radioactive waste. The financial assurance may be in the form of insurance, cash deposits, surety bonds, corporate guarantees, and other acceptable instruments or guarantees determined by the secretary to be acceptable evidence of financial assurance. The agency may require financial assurance in an amount determined by the secretary pursuant to RCW 70.98.098.

(3) The radiation control agency shall refuse to issue a license or permit or suspend the license or permit of any person required by this section to demonstrate financial assurance who fails to demonstrate compliance with this section. The license or permit shall not be issued or reinstated until the person demonstrates compliance with this section.

(4) The radiation control agency shall require (a) that any person required to demonstrate financial assurance, maintain with the agency current copies of any insurance policies, certificates of insurance, letters of credit, surety bonds, or any other documents used to comply with this section, (b) that the agency be notified of any changes in the financial assurance or financial condition of the person, and (c) that the state be named as an insured party on any insurance policy used to comply with this section. [2012 c 19 § 10; 1992 c 61 § 3; 1990 c 82 § 4; 1986 c 191 § 3.]

**Effective date—2012 c 19:** See note following RCW 43.200.015.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.98.098 Financial assurance—Generally.** (1) In making the determination of the appropriate level of financial assurance, the secretary shall consider: (a) Any report prepared by the department of ecology pursuant to RCW 43.200.200; (b) the potential cost of decontamination, treatment, disposal, decommissioning, and cleanup of facilities or equipment; (c) federal cleanup and decommissioning requirements; and (d) the legal defense cost, if any, that might be paid from the required financial assurance.

(2) The secretary may establish different levels of required financial assurance for various classes of permit or license holders.

(3) The secretary shall establish by rule the instruments or mechanisms by which a person may demonstrate financial assurance as required by RCW 70.98.095.

(4) To the extent that money in the site closure account together with the amount of money identified for repayment to the site closure account pursuant to RCW 43.200.080 equals or exceeds the cost estimate approved by the department of health for closure and decommissioning of the commercial low-level radioactive waste disposal facility, the money in the site closure account together with the amount of money identified for repayment to the site closure account shall constitute adequate financial assurance for purposes of the department of health financial assurance requirements under RCW 70.98.095. [2012 c 19 § 11; 2003 1st sp.s. c 21 § 2; 1992 c 61 § 4; 1990 c 82 § 3.]

**Effective date—2012 c 19:** See note following RCW 43.200.015.

**70.98.100 Records.** (1) The agency shall require each person who possesses or uses a source of ionizing radiation to maintain necessary records relating to its receipt, use, storage, transfer, or disposal and such other records as the agency may require which will permit the determination of the extent of occupational and public exposure from the radiation source. Copies of these records shall be submitted to the agency on request. These requirements are subject to such exemptions as may be provided by rules.

(2) The agency may by rule and regulation establish standards requiring that personnel monitoring be provided for any employee potentially exposed to ionizing radiation and may provide for the reporting to any employee of his or her radiation exposure record. [2012 c 117 § 415; 1961 c 207 § 10.]

**70.98.110 Federal-state agreements—Authorized—Effect as to federal licenses.** (1) The governor, on behalf of this state, is authorized to enter into agreements with the federal government providing for discontinuance of certain of the federal government's responsibilities with respect to sources of ionizing radiation and the assumption thereof by this state pursuant to this chapter.

(2) Any person who, on the effective date of an agreement under subsection (1) above, possesses a license issued by the federal government shall be deemed to possess the same pursuant to a license issued under this chapter which shall expire either ninety days after the receipt from the state radiation control agency of a notice of expiration of such license or on the date of expiration specified in the federal license, whichever is earlier. [1965 c 88 § 6; 1961 c 207 § 11.]

**70.98.120 Inspection agreements and training programs.** (1) The agency is authorized to enter into an agreement or agreements with the federal government, other states, or interstate agencies, whereby this state will perform on a cooperative basis with the federal government, other states, or interstate agencies, inspections or other functions relating to control of sources of ionizing radiation.

(2) The agency may institute training programs for the purpose of qualifying personnel to carry out the provisions of this chapter and may make said personnel available for participation in any program or programs of the federal govern-

ment, other states, or interstate agencies in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter. [1961 c 207 § 12.]

**70.98.122 Department of ecology to seek federal funding for environmental radiation monitoring.** The department of ecology shall seek federal funding, such as is available under the clean air act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1857 et seq.) and the nuclear waste policy act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.) to carry out the purposes of \*RCW 70.98.050(4)(c). [1985 c 372 § 3.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The subparagraph "(c)" in this reference has been redesignated "(c)(e)" in the published version of RCW 70.98.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.98.125 Federal assistance to be sought for high-level radioactive waste program.** (1) The agency shall seek federal financial assistance as authorized by the nuclear waste policy act of 1982, P.L. 97-425 section 116(c), for activities related to the high-level radioactive waste program in the state of Washington. The activities for which federal funding is sought shall include, but are not limited to, the development of a radiological baseline for the Hanford reservation; the implementation of a program to monitor ionizing radiation emissions on the Hanford reservation; the collection of statistical data and epidemiological research, where available, on diseases that result from exposure to sources of ionizing radiation on the Hanford reservation.

(2) In the event the federal government refuses to grant financial assistance for the activities under subsection (1) of this section, the agency is directed to investigate potential legal action. [1985 c 383 § 2.]

**70.98.130 Administrative procedure.** (1) In any proceeding under this chapter for the issuance or modification or repeal of rules relating to control of sources of ionizing radiation, the agency shall comply with the requirements of chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, whenever the agency finds that an emergency exists requiring immediate action to protect the public health, safety, or general welfare, the agency may, in accordance with RCW 34.05.350 without notice or hearing, adopt a rule reciting the existence of such emergency and require that such action be taken as is necessary to meet the emergency. As specified in RCW 34.05.350, such rules are effective immediately.

(3) In any case in which the department denies, modifies, suspends, or revokes a license or permit, RCW 43.70.115 governs notice of the action and provides the right to an adjudicative proceeding to the applicant or licensee or permittee. Such an adjudicative proceeding is governed by chapter 34.05 RCW. [2012 c 19 § 12; 1989 c 175 § 133; 1961 c 207 § 13.]

*Effective date—2012 c 19:* See note following RCW 43.200.015.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.98.140 Injunction proceedings.** Notwithstanding the existence or use of any other remedy, whenever any person has engaged in, or is about to engage in, any acts or practices which constitute or will constitute a violation of any provision of this chapter, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, the attorney general upon the request of

the agency, after notice to such person and opportunity to comply, may make application to the appropriate court for an order enjoining such acts or practices, or for an order directing compliance, and upon a showing by the agency that such person has engaged in, or is about to engage in, any such acts or practices, a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order may be granted. [1961 c 207 § 14.]

**70.98.150 Prohibited uses.** It shall be unlawful for any person to use, manufacture, produce, transport, transfer, receive, acquire, own, or possess any source of ionizing radiation unless licensed by or registered with, or exempted by the agency in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. [1965 c 88 § 7; 1961 c 207 § 15.]

**70.98.160 Impounding of materials.** The agency shall have the authority in the event of an emergency to impound or order the impounding of sources of ionizing radiation in the possession of any person who is not equipped to observe or fails to observe the provisions of this chapter or any rules or regulations issued thereunder. [1961 c 207 § 16.]

**70.98.170 Prohibition—Fluoroscopic X-ray shoe-fitting devices.** The operation or maintenance of any X-ray, fluoroscopic, or other equipment or apparatus employing roentgen rays, in the fitting of shoes or other footwear or in the viewing of bones in the feet is prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to any licensed physician, surgeon, \*podiatrist, or any person practicing a licensed healing art, or any technician working under the direct and immediate supervision of such persons. [1973 c 77 § 27; 1961 c 207 § 17.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The term "podiatrist" was changed to "podiatric physician and surgeon" by 1990 c 147.

**70.98.180 Exemptions.** This chapter shall not apply to the following sources or conditions:

(1) Radiation machines during process of manufacture, or in storage or transit: PROVIDED, That this exclusion shall not apply to functional testing of such machines.

(2) Any radioactive material while being transported in conformity with regulations adopted by any federal agency having jurisdiction therein, and specifically applicable to the transportation of such radioactive materials.

(3) No exemptions under this section are granted for those quantities or types of activities which do not comply with the established rules and regulations promulgated by the Atomic Energy Commission, or any successor thereto. [1965 c 88 § 8; 1961 c 207 § 18.]

**70.98.190 Professional uses.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the kind or amount of radiation that may be intentionally applied to a person for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes by or under the immediate direction of a licensed practitioner of the healing arts acting within the scope of his or her professional license. [2012 c 117 § 416; 1961 c 207 § 19.]

**70.98.200 Penalties.** Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter or rules, regulations, or orders in effect pursuant thereto shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1961 c 207 § 20.]

**70.98.220 Adoption of rules for administering site use permit program.** The agency shall adopt rules for administering a site use permit program under RCW 70.98.085. [2012 c 19 § 13.]

**Effective date—2012 c 19:** See note following RCW 43.200.015.

**70.98.910 Effective date—1961 c 207.** The provisions of this act relating to the control of by-product, source and special nuclear materials shall become effective on the effective date of the agreement between the federal government and this state as authorized in RCW 70.98.110. All other provisions of this act shall become effective on the 30th day of June, 1961. [1961 c 207 § 23.]

**70.98.920 Section headings not part of law.** Section headings as used in this chapter do not constitute any part of the law. [1961 c 207 § 25.]

### Chapter 70.99 RCW

## RADIOACTIVE WASTE STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1980

#### Sections

70.99.010	Finding.
70.99.020	Definitions.
70.99.030	Storage of radioactive waste from outside the state prohibited—Exceptions.
70.99.040	Transportation of radioactive waste from outside the state for storage within the state prohibited—Exception.
70.99.050	Violations—Penalties—Injunctions—Jurisdiction and venue—Fees and costs.
70.99.060	Interstate compact for regional storage.
70.99.900	Construction—1981 c 1.
70.99.910	Short title.

*Nuclear energy and radiation: Chapter 70.98 RCW.*

*Radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response programs, state coordinator: RCW 38.52.030.*

*Uranium and thorium mill tailings—Licensing and perpetual care: Chapter 70.121 RCW.*

**70.99.010 Finding.** The people of the state of Washington find that:

(1) Radioactive wastes are highly dangerous, in that releases of radioactive materials and emissions to the environment are inimical to the health and welfare of the people of the state of Washington, and contribute to the occurrences of harmful diseases, including excessive cancer and leukemia. The dangers posed by the transportation and presence of radioactive wastes are increased further by the long time periods that the wastes remain radioactive and highly dangerous;

(2) Transporting, handling, storing, or otherwise caring for radioactive waste presents a hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of the individual citizens of the state of Washington because of the ever-present risk that an accident or incident will occur while the wastes are being cared for;

(3) The likelihood that an accident will occur in this state involving the release of radioactive wastes to the environment becomes greater as the volume of wastes transported, handled, stored, or otherwise cared for in this state increases;

(4) The effects of unplanned releases of radioactive wastes into the environment, especially into the air and water of the state, are potentially both widespread and harmful to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of this state.

The burdens and hazards posed by increasing the volume of radioactive wastes transported, handled, stored, or otherwise cared for in this state by the importation of such wastes from outside this state is not a hazard the state government may reasonably ask its citizens to bear. The people of the state of Washington believe that the principles of federalism do not require the sacrifice of the health, safety, and welfare of the people of one state for the convenience of other states or nations. [1981 c 1 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 383, approved November 4, 1980).]

**70.99.020 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Radioactive waste" means unwanted radioactive material, including radioactive residues produced as a result of electric power generation or other reactor operation.

(2) "Medical waste" means radioactive waste from all therapy, diagnosis, or research in medical fields and radioactive waste which results from the production and manufacture of radioactive material used for therapy, diagnosis, or research in medical fields, except that "medical waste" does not include spent fuel or waste from the fuel of an isotope production reactor.

(3) "Radioactive waste generated or otherwise produced outside the geographic boundaries of the state of Washington" means radioactive waste which was located outside the state of Washington at the time of removal from a reactor vessel. [1981 c 1 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 383, approved November 4, 1980).]

**70.99.030 Storage of radioactive waste from outside the state prohibited—Exceptions.** Notwithstanding any law, order, or regulation to the contrary, after July 1, 1981, no area within the geographic boundaries of the state of Washington may be used by any person or entity as a temporary, interim, or permanent storage site for radioactive waste, except medical waste, generated or otherwise produced outside the geographic boundaries of the state of Washington. This section does not apply to radioactive waste stored within the state of Washington prior to July 1, 1981. [1981 c 1 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 383, approved November 4, 1980).]

**70.99.040 Transportation of radioactive waste from outside the state for storage within the state prohibited—Exception.** Notwithstanding any law, order, or regulation to the contrary, after July 1, 1981, no person or entity may transport radioactive waste, except medical waste, generated or otherwise produced outside the geographic boundaries of the state of Washington to any site within the geographic boundaries of the state of Washington for temporary, interim, or permanent storage. [1981 c 1 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 383, approved November 4, 1980).]

**70.99.050 Violations—Penalties—Injunctions—Jurisdiction and venue—Fees and costs.** (1) A violation of or failure to comply with the provisions of RCW 70.99.030 or 70.99.040 is a gross misdemeanor.

(2) Any person or entity that violates or fails to comply with the provisions of RCW 70.99.030 or 70.99.040 is subject to a civil penalty of one thousand dollars for each violation or failure to comply.

(3) Each day upon which a violation occurs constitutes a separate violation for the purposes of subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

(4) Any person or entity violating this chapter may be enjoined from continuing the violation. The attorney general or any person residing in the state of Washington may bring an action to enjoin violations of this chapter, on his or her own behalf and on the behalf of all persons similarly situated. Such action may be maintained in the person's own name or in the name of the state of Washington. No bond may be required as a condition to obtaining any injunctive relief. The superior courts have jurisdiction over actions brought under this section, and venue shall lie in the county of the plaintiff's residence, in the county in which the violation is alleged to occur, or in Thurston county. In addition to other relief, the court in its discretion may award attorney's and expert witness fees and costs of the suit to a party who demonstrates that a violation of this chapter has occurred. [1981 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 383, approved November 4, 1980).]

**70.99.060 Interstate compact for regional storage.** Notwithstanding the other provisions of this chapter, the state of Washington may enter into an interstate compact, which will become effective upon ratification by a majority of both houses of the United States Congress, to provide for the regional storage of radioactive wastes. [1981 c 1 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 383, approved November 4, 1980).]

*Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management: Chapter 43.145 RCW.*

**70.99.900 Construction—1981 c 1.** This chapter shall be liberally construed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the individual citizens of the state of Washington. [1981 c 1 § 7 (Initiative Measure No. 383, approved November 4, 1980).]

**70.99.910 Short title.** This act may be known as the Radioactive Waste Storage and Transportation Act of 1980. [1981 c 1 § 9 (Initiative Measure No. 383, approved November 4, 1980).]

**Chapter 70.100 RCW**

**EYE PROTECTION—PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

Sections

- 70.100.010 "Eye protection areas" defined.
- 70.100.020 Wearing of eye protection devices required—Furnishing of—Costs.
- 70.100.030 Standard requirement for eye protection devices.
- 70.100.040 Superintendent of public instruction to circulate instruction manual to public and private educational institutions.

**70.100.010 "Eye protection areas" defined.** As used in this chapter:

"Eye protection areas" means areas within vocational or industrial arts shops, science or other school laboratories, or schools within state institutional facilities as designated by the state superintendent of public instruction in which activities take place involving:

- (1) Hot molten metals or other molten materials;

- (2) Milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials;

- (3) Heat treatment, tempering or kiln firing of any metal or other materials;

- (4) Gas or electric arc welding, or other forms of welding processes;

- (5) Corrosive, caustic, or explosive materials;

- (6) Custodial or other service activity potentially hazardous to the eye: PROVIDED, That nothing in this chapter shall supersede regulations heretofore or hereafter established by the department of labor and industries respecting such activity; or

- (7) Any other activity or operation involving mechanical or manual work in any area that is potentially hazardous to the eye. [1969 ex.s. c 179 § 1.]

**70.100.020 Wearing of eye protection devices required—Furnishing of—Costs.** Every person shall wear eye protection devices when participating in, observing, or performing any function in connection with any courses or activities taking place in eye protection areas of any private or public school, college, university, or other public or private educational institution in this state, as designated by the superintendent of public instruction. The governing board or authority of any public school shall furnish the eye protection devices prescribed in RCW 70.100.030 without cost to all teachers and students in grades K-12 engaged in activities potentially dangerous to the human eye, and the governing body of each institution of higher education and vocational technical institute shall furnish such eye protection devices free or at cost to all teachers and students similarly engaged at the institutions of higher education and vocational technical institutes. Eye protection devices shall be furnished on a loan basis to all visitors observing activities hazardous to the eye. [1969 ex.s. c 179 § 2.]

**70.100.030 Standard requirement for eye protection devices.** Eye protection devices, which shall include plano safety spectacles, plastic face shields or goggles, shall comply with the U.S.A. Standard Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection, Z87.1-1968 or later revisions thereof. [1969 ex.s. c 179 § 3.]

**70.100.040 Superintendent of public instruction to circulate instruction manual to public and private educational institutions.** The superintendent of public instruction, after consulting with the department of labor and industries, and the division of vocational education shall prepare and circulate to each public and private educational institution in this state within six months of the date of passage of this chapter, a manual containing instructions and recommendations for the guidance of such institutions in implementing the eye safety provisions of this chapter. [1969 ex.s. c 179 § 4.]

**Chapter 70.102 RCW**

**HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE INFORMATION**

Sections

- 70.102.010 Definitions.

70.102.020 Hazardous substance information and education office—Duties.

**70.102.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the definitions in this section shall apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Agency" means any state agency or local government entity.

(2) "Hazardous household substances" means those substances identified by the department as hazardous household substances in the guidelines developed by the department.

(3) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(4) "Director" means the director of the department.

(5) "Hazardous substances" or "hazardous materials" means those substances or materials identified as such under regulations adopted pursuant to the federal hazardous materials transportation act, the toxic substances control act, the resource recovery and conservation act, the comprehensive environmental response compensation and liability act, the federal insecticide, fungicide, and rodenticide act, the occupational safety and health act hazardous communications standards, and the state hazardous waste act.

(6) "Moderate risk waste" means any waste that exhibits any of the properties of dangerous waste but is exempt from regulation under this chapter solely because the waste is generated in quantities below the threshold for regulation and any household wastes that are generated from the disposal of substances identified by the department as hazardous household substances. [1985 c 410 § 2.]

**70.102.020 Hazardous substance information and education office—Duties.** There is hereby created the hazardous substance information and education office. Through this office the department shall:

(1) Facilitate access to existing information on hazardous substances within a community;

(2) Request and obtain information about hazardous substances at specified locations and facilities from agencies that regulate those locations and facilities. The department shall review, approve, and provide confidentiality as provided by statute. Upon request of the department, each agency shall provide the information within forty-five days;

(3) At the request of citizens or public health or public safety organizations, compile existing information about hazardous substance use at specified locations and facilities. This information shall include but not be limited to:

(a) Point and nonpoint air and water emissions;

(b) Extremely hazardous, moderate risk wastes and dangerous wastes as defined in chapter 70.105 RCW produced, used, stored, transported from, or disposed of by any facility;

(c) A list of the hazardous substances present at a given site and data on their acute and chronic health and environmental effects;

(d) Data on governmental pesticide use at a given site;

(e) Data on commercial pesticide use at a given site if such data is only given to individuals who are chemically sensitive; and

(f) Compliance history of any facility.

(4) Provide education to the public on the proper production, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances, including but not limited to:

(a) A technical resource center on hazardous substance management for industry and the public;

(b) Programs, in cooperation with local government, to educate generators of moderate risk waste, and provide information regarding the potential hazards to human health and the environment resulting from improper use and disposal of the waste and proper methods of handling, reducing, recycling, and disposing of the waste;

(c) Public information and education relating to the safe handling and disposal of hazardous household substances; and

(d) Guidelines to aid counties in developing and implementing a hazardous household substances program.

Requests for information from the hazardous substance information and education office may be made by letter or by a toll-free telephone line, if one is established by the department. Requests shall be responded to in accordance with chapter 42.56 RCW.

This section shall not require any agency to compile information that is not required by existing laws or rules. [2005 c 274 § 339; 1985 c 410 § 1.]

*Worker and community right to know fund, use to provide hazardous substance information under chapter 70.102 RCW: RCW 49.70.175.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 70.103 RCW LEAD-BASED PAINT

### Sections

70.103.010	Finding.
70.103.020	Definitions.
70.103.030	Certification and training—Local governments—Rules.
70.103.040	Certification and accreditation—Rules.
70.103.050	Rules—Report.
70.103.060	Lead paint account.
70.103.070	Inspections.
70.103.080	Certification required to perform lead-based paint activities—Certificate revocation—Penalties.
70.103.090	Chapter contingent on federal action.

**70.103.010 Finding.** (1) The legislature finds that lead hazards associated with lead-based paint represent a significant and preventable environmental health problem. Lead-based paint is the most widespread of the various sources of lead exposure to the public. Census data show that one million five hundred sixty thousand homes in Washington state were built prior to 1978 when the sale of residential lead-based paint was banned. These are homes that are believed to contain some lead-based paint.

Lead negatively affects every system of the body. It is harmful to individuals of all ages and is especially harmful to children, fetuses, and adults of childbearing age. The effects of lead on a child's cognitive, behavioral, and developmental abilities may necessitate large expenditures of public funds for health care and special education. The irreversible damage to children and subsequent expenditures could be avoided if exposure to lead is reduced.

(2) The federal government regulates lead poisoning and lead hazard reduction through:

(a)(i) The lead-based paint poisoning prevention act;

(ii) The lead contamination control act;

(iii) The safe drinking water act;

(iv) The resource conservation and recovery act of 1976; and

(v) The residential lead-based paint hazard reduction act of 1992; and

(b) Implementing regulations of:

(i) The environmental protection agency;

(ii) The department of housing and urban development;

(iii) The occupational safety and health administration; and

(iv) The centers for disease control and prevention.

(3) In 1992, congress passed the federal residential lead-based paint hazard reduction act, which allows states to provide for the accreditation of lead-based paint activities programs, the certification of persons completing such training programs, and the licensing of lead-based paint activities contractors under standards developed by the United States environmental protection agency.

(4) The legislature recognizes the state's need to protect the public from exposure to lead hazards. A qualified and properly trained workforce is needed to assist in the prevention, detection, reduction, and elimination of hazards associated with lead-based paint. The purpose of training workers, supervisors, inspectors, risk assessors, project designers, renovators, and dust sampling technicians engaged in lead-based paint activities is to protect building occupants, particularly children ages six years and younger from potential lead-based paint hazards and exposures both during and after lead-based paint activities. Qualified and properly trained individuals and firms will help to ensure lead-based paint activities are conducted in a way that protects the health of the citizens of Washington state and safeguards the environment. The state lead-based paint activities program requires that all lead-based paint activities be performed by certified personnel trained by an accredited program, and that all lead-based paint activities meet minimum work practice standards established by the department of commerce. Therefore, the lead-based paint activities accreditation, training, and certification program shall be established in accordance with this chapter. The lead-based paint activities accreditation, training, and certification program shall be administered by the department of commerce and shall be used as a means to assure the protection of the general public from exposure to lead hazards.

(5) For the welfare of the people of the state of Washington, this chapter establishes a lead-based paint activities program within the department of commerce to protect the general public from exposure to lead hazards and to ensure the availability of a trained and qualified workforce to identify and address lead-based paint hazards. The legislature recognizes the department of commerce is not a regulatory agency and may delegate enforcement responsibilities under chapter 322, Laws of 2003 to local governments or private entities. [2010 c 158 § 1; 2003 c 322 § 1.]

**70.103.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Abatement" means any measure or set of measures designed to permanently eliminate lead-based paint hazards.

(a) Abatement includes, but is not limited to:

(i) The removal of paint and dust, the permanent enclosure or encapsulation of lead-based paint, the replacement of

painted surfaces or fixtures, or the removal or permanent covering of soil, when lead-based paint hazards are present in such paint, dust, or soil; and

(ii) All preparation, cleanup, disposal, and postabatement clearance testing activities associated with such measures.

(b) Specifically, abatement includes, but is not limited to:

(i) Projects for which there is a written contract or other documentation, which provides that an individual or firm will be conducting activities in or to a residential dwelling or child-occupied facility that:

(A) Shall result in the permanent elimination of lead-based paint hazards; or

(B) Are designed to permanently eliminate lead-based paint hazards and are described in (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection;

(ii) Projects resulting in the permanent elimination of lead-based paint hazards, conducted by certified firms or individuals, unless such projects are covered by (c) of this subsection;

(iii) Projects resulting in the permanent elimination of lead-based paint hazards, conducted by firms or individuals who, through their company name or promotional literature, represent, advertise, or hold themselves out to be in the business of performing lead-based paint activities as identified and defined by this section, unless such projects are covered by (c) of this subsection; or

(iv) Projects resulting in the permanent elimination of lead-based paint hazards, that are conducted in response to state or local abatement orders.

(c) Abatement does not include renovation, remodeling, landscaping, or other activities, when such activities are not designed to permanently eliminate lead-based paint hazards, but, instead, are designed to repair, restore, or remodel a given structure or dwelling, even though these activities may incidentally result in a reduction or elimination of lead-based paint hazards. Furthermore, abatement does not include interim controls, operations and maintenance activities, or other measures and activities designed to temporarily, but not permanently, reduce lead-based paint hazards.

(2) "Accredited training program" means a training program that has been accredited by the department to provide training for individuals engaged in lead-based paint activities.

(3) "Certified abatement worker" means an individual who has been trained by an accredited training program, meets all the qualifications established by the department, and is certified by the department to perform abatements.

(4) "Certified dust sampling technician" means an individual who has been trained by an accredited training program, meets all the qualifications established by the department, and is certified by the department to conduct dust sampling for renovation projects.

(5) "Certified firm" includes a company, partnership, corporation, sole proprietorship, association, agency, or other business entity that meets all the qualifications established by the department and performs lead-based paint activities to which the department has issued a certificate.

(6) "Certified inspector" means an individual who has been trained by an accredited training program, meets all the

qualifications established by the department, and is certified by the department to conduct inspections.

(7) "Certified project designer" means an individual who has been trained by an accredited training program, meets all the qualifications established by the department, and is certified by the department to prepare abatement project designs, occupant protection plans, and abatement reports.

(8) "Certified renovator" means an individual who has been trained by an accredited training program, meets all the qualifications established by the department, and is certified by the department to perform renovations or direct workers in the performance of renovation work.

(9) "Certified risk assessor" means an individual who has been trained by an accredited training program, meets all the qualifications established by the department, and is certified by the department to conduct risk assessments and sample for the presence of lead in dust and soil for the purposes of abatement clearance testing.

(10) "Certified supervisor" means an individual who has been trained by an accredited training program, meets all the qualifications established by the department, and is certified by the department to supervise and conduct abatements, and to prepare occupant protection plans and abatement reports.

(11) "Department" means the Washington state department of commerce.

(12) "Director" means the director of the Washington state department of commerce.

(13) "Federal laws and rules" means:

(a) Title IV, toxic substances control act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 2681 et seq.) and the rules adopted by the United States environmental protection agency under that law for authorization of state programs;

(b) Any regulations or requirements adopted by the United States department of housing and urban development regarding eligibility for grants to states and local governments; and

(c) Any other requirements adopted by a federal agency with jurisdiction over lead-based paint hazards.

(14) "Lead-based paint" means paint or other surface coatings that contain lead equal to or in excess of 1.0 milligrams per square centimeter or more than 0.5 percent by weight.

(15) "Lead-based paint activity" includes inspection, testing, risk assessment, lead-based paint hazard reduction project design or planning, abatement, or renovation of lead-based paint hazards.

(16) "Lead-based paint hazard" means any condition that causes exposure to lead from lead-contaminated dust, lead-contaminated soil, or lead-contaminated paint that is deteriorated or present in accessible surfaces, friction surfaces, or impact surfaces that would result in adverse human health effects as identified by the administrator of the United States environmental protection agency under the toxic substances control act, section 403.

(17) "Person" includes an individual, corporation, firm, partnership, or association, an Indian tribe, state, or political subdivision of a state, and a state department or agency.

(18) "Renovation" means the modification of any existing structure, or portion thereof, that results in the disturbance of painted surfaces, unless that activity is performed as

part of an abatement as defined in this section. The term includes but is not limited to:

(a) The removal, modification, or repair of painted surface or painted components;

(b) Modification of painted doors;

(c) Surface restoration;

(d) Window repair;

(e) Surface preparation, such as sanding, scraping, or activities that generates paint dust;

(f) Removal of building components, such as walls, windows, or other like structures;

(g) Weatherization projects, such as cutting holes in painted surfaces to install blown-in insulation;

(h) Interim controls that disturb painted surfaces; or

(i) A renovation performed for the purposes of converting a building or part of a building in target housing or a child-occupied facility.

The term renovation as defined in this subsection (18) does not include minor repair and maintenance activities.

(19) "Risk assessment" means:

(a) An on-site investigation to determine the existence, nature, severity, and location of lead-based paint hazards; and

(b) The provision of a report by the individual or the firm conducting the risk assessment, explaining the results of the investigation and options for reducing lead-based paint hazards.

(20) "State program" means a state administered lead-based paint activities certification and training program that meets the federal environmental protection agency requirements. [2010 c 158 § 2; 2009 c 565 § 49; 2003 c 322 § 2.]

#### **70.103.030 Certification and training—Local governments—Rules.**

(1) The department shall administer and enforce a state program for worker training and certification, and training program accreditation, which shall include those program elements necessary to assume responsibility for federal requirements for a program as set forth in Title IV of the toxic substances control act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 2601 et seq.), the residential lead-based paint hazard reduction act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4851 et seq.), 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subparts L and Q (1996), and Title X of the housing and community development act of 1992 (P.L. 102-550). The department may delegate or enter into a memorandum of understanding with local governments or private entities for implementation of components of the state program.

(2) The department is authorized to adopt rules that are consistent with federal requirements to implement a state program. Rules adopted under this section shall:

(a) Establish minimum accreditation requirements for lead-based paint activities for training providers;

(b) Establish work practice standards for conduct of lead-based paint activities;

(c) Establish certification requirements for individuals and firms engaged in lead-based paint activities including provisions for recognizing certifications accomplished under existing certification programs;

(d) Require the use of certified personnel in all lead-based paint activities;

(e) Be revised as necessary to comply with federal law and rules and to maintain eligibility for federal funding;

(f) Facilitate reciprocity and communication with other states having a lead-based paint certification program;

(g) Provide for decertification, deaccreditation, and financial assurance for a person certified by or a training provider accredited by the department; and

(h) Be issued in accordance with the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

(3) The department may accept federal funds for the administration of the program.

(4) This program shall equal, but not exceed, legislative authority under federal requirements as set forth in Title IV of the toxic substances control act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 2601 et seq.), the residential lead-based paint hazard reduction act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4851 et seq.), and Title X of the housing and community development act of 1992 (P.L. 102-550).

(5) Any rules adopted by the department shall be consistent with federal laws, regulations, and requirements relating to lead-based paint activities specified by the residential lead-based paint hazard reduction act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4851 et seq.) and Title X of the housing and community development act of 1992 (P.L. 102-550), and rules adopted pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW, to ensure consistency in regulatory action. The rules may not be more restrictive than corresponding federal and state regulations unless such stringency is specifically authorized by this chapter.

(6) The department shall collect a fee in the amount of twenty-five dollars for certification and recertification of lead paint firms, inspectors, project developers, risk assessors, supervisors, abatement workers, renovators, and dust sampling technicians.

(7) The department shall collect a fee in the amount of two hundred dollars for the accreditation of lead paint training programs. [2010 c 158 § 3; 2003 c 322 § 3.]

#### **70.103.040 Certification and accreditation—Rules.**

(1) The department shall establish a program for certification of persons involved in lead-based paint activities and for accreditation of training providers in compliance with federal laws and rules.

(2) Rules adopted under this section shall:

(a) Establish minimum accreditation requirements for lead-based paint activities for training providers;

(b) Establish work practice standards for conduct of lead-based paint activities;

(c) Establish certification requirements for individuals and firms engaged in lead-based paint activities including provisions for recognizing certifications accomplished under existing certification programs;

(d) Require the use of certified personnel in any lead-based paint hazard reduction activity;

(e) Be revised as necessary to comply with federal law and rules and to maintain eligibility for federal funding;

(f) Facilitate reciprocity and communication with other states having a lead-based paint certification program;

(g) Provide for decertification, deaccreditation, and financial assurance for a person certified or accredited by the department; and

(h) Be issued in accordance with the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

(3) This program shall equal, but not exceed, legislative authority under federal requirements as set forth in Title IV of

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the toxic substances control act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 2601 et seq.), the residential lead-based paint hazard reduction act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4851 et seq.), 40 C.F.R. Part 745 (1996), Subparts L and Q, and Title X of the housing and community development act of 1992 (P.L. 102-550).

(4) Any rules adopted by the department shall be consistent with federal laws, regulations, and requirements relating to lead-based paint activities specified by the residential lead-based paint hazard reduction act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4851 et seq.) and Title X of the housing and community development act of 1992 (P.L. 102-550), and rules adopted pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW, to ensure consistency in regulatory action. The rules may not be more restrictive than corresponding federal and state regulations unless such stringency is specifically authorized by this chapter.

(5) The department may accept federal funds for the administration of the program.

(6) For the purposes of certification under the federal requirements as set forth in section 2682 of the toxic substances control act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 2682), the department may require renovators and dust sampling technicians to apply for a certification badge issued by the department. The department may impose a fee on the applicant for processing the application. The application shall include a photograph of the applicant and a fee in the amount imposed by the department. [2010 c 158 § 4; 2003 c 322 § 4.]

**70.103.050 Rules—Report.** The department shall adopt rules to:

(1) Establish procedures and requirements for the accreditation of lead-based paint activities training programs including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) Training curriculum;

(b) Training hours;

(c) Hands-on training;

(d) Trainee competency and proficiency;

(e) Training program quality control;

(f) Procedures for the reaccreditation of training programs;

(g) Procedures for the oversight of training programs; and

(h) Procedures for the suspension, revocation, or modification of training program accreditations, or acceptance of training offered by an accredited training provider in another state or Indian tribe authorized by the environmental protection agency;

(2) Establish procedures for the purposes of certification, for the acceptance of training offered by an accredited training provider in a state or Indian tribe authorized by the environmental protection agency;

(3) Certify individuals involved in lead-based paint activities to ensure that certified individuals are trained by an accredited training program and possess appropriate educational or experience qualifications for certification;

(4) Establish procedures for recertification;

(5) Require the conduct of lead-based paint activities in accordance with work practice standards;

(6) Establish procedures for the suspension, revocation, or modification of certifications;

(7) Establish requirements for the administration of third-party certification exams;

(8) Use laboratories accredited under the environmental protection agency's national lead laboratory accreditation program;

(9) Establish work practice standards for the conduct of lead-based paint activities, as defined in RCW 70.103.020;

(10) Establish an enforcement response policy that shall include:

(a) Warning letters, notices of noncompliance, notices of violation, or the equivalent;

(b) Administrative or civil actions, including penalty authority, including accreditation or certification suspension, revocation, or modification; and

(c) Authority to apply criminal sanctions or other criminal authority using existing state laws as applicable.

The department shall prepare and submit a biennial report to the legislature regarding the program's status, its costs, and the number of persons certified by the program. [2010 c 158 § 5; 2003 c 322 § 5.]

**70.103.060 Lead paint account.** The lead paint account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from RCW 70.103.030 shall be deposited into the account. Monies in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes of this chapter. [2003 c 322 § 6.]

**70.103.070 Inspections.** (1)(a) The director or the director's designee is authorized to inspect at reasonable times and, when feasible, with at least twenty-four hours prior notification:

(i) Premises or facilities where those engaged in training for lead-based paint activities conduct business; and

(ii) The business records of, and take samples at, the businesses accredited or certified under this chapter to conduct lead-based paint training or activities.

(b) Any accredited training program or any firm or individual certified under this chapter that denies access to the department for the purposes of (a) of this subsection is subject to deaccreditation or decertification under RCW 70.103.040.

(2) The director or the director's designee is authorized to inspect premises or facilities, with the consent of the owner or owner's agent, where violations may occur concerning lead-based paint activities, as defined under RCW 70.103.020, at reasonable times and, when feasible, with at least forty-eight hours prior notification of the inspection.

(3) Prior to receipt of federal lead-based paint abatement funding, all premise or facility owners shall be notified by any entity that receives and disburses the federal funds that an inspection may be conducted. If a premise or facility owner does not wish to have an inspection conducted, that owner is not eligible to receive lead-based paint abatement funding. [2003 c 322 § 7.]

**70.103.080 Certification required to perform lead-based paint activities—Certificate revocation—Penalties.**

(1) The department is designated as the official agency of this state for purposes of cooperating with, and implementing the state lead-based paint activities program under the jurisdiction of the United States environmental protection agency.

(2) No individual or firm can perform, offer, or claim to perform lead-based paint activities without certification from the department to conduct these activities.

(3) The department may deny, suspend, or revoke a certificate for failure to comply with the requirements of this chapter or any rule adopted under this chapter. No person whose certificate is revoked under this chapter shall be eligible to apply for a certificate for one year from the effective date of the final order of revocation. A certificate may be denied, suspended, or revoked on any of the following grounds:

(a) A risk assessor, inspector, contractor, project designer, worker, dust sampling technician, or renovator violates work practice standards established by the United States environmental protection agency or the United States department of housing and urban development governing work practices and procedures; or

(b) The certificate was obtained by error, misrepresentation, or fraud.

(4) Any person convicted of violating any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor. A conviction is an unvacated forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure the defendant's appearance in court, the payment of a fine, a plea of guilty, or a finding of guilt on a violation of this chapter, regardless of whether imposition of sentence is deferred or the penalty is suspended, and shall be treated as a violation conviction for purposes of certification forfeiture under this chapter. Violations of this chapter include:

(a) Failure to comply with any requirement of this chapter;

(b) Failure or refusal to establish, maintain, provide, copy, or permit access to records or reports as required;

(c) Obtaining certification through fraud or misrepresentation;

(d) Failure to obtain certification from the department and performing work requiring certification at a job site; or

(e) Fraudulently obtaining certification and engaging in any lead-based paint activities requiring certification. [2010 c 158 § 6; 2003 c 322 § 8.]

**70.103.090 Chapter contingent on federal action.** (1) The department's duties under chapter 322, Laws of 2003 are subject to authorization of the state program from the federal government within two years of July 27, 2003. Chapter 322, Laws of 2003 expires if the federal environmental protection agency does not authorize a state program within two years of July 27, 2003.

(2) The department's duties under chapter 322, Laws of 2003, as amended, are subject to the availability of sufficient funding from the federal government for this purpose. The director or his or her designee shall seek funding of the department's efforts under this chapter from the federal government. By October 15th of each year, the director shall determine if sufficient federal funding has been provided or guaranteed by the federal government. If the director determines sufficient funding has not been provided, the department shall:

(a) Cease efforts under this chapter due to the lack of federal funding; and

(b) Inform the code reviser that it has ceased its efforts due to the lack of federal funding. [2010 c 158 § 7; 2003 c 322 § 9.]

**Reviser's note:** The federal environmental protection agency authorized Washington's program which was established June 10, 2004.

### Chapter 70.104 RCW PESTICIDES—HEALTH HAZARDS

#### Sections

70.104.010	Declaration.
70.104.020	"Pesticide" defined.
70.104.030	Powers and duties of department of health.
70.104.040	Pesticide emergencies—Authority of department of agriculture not infringed upon.
70.104.050	Investigation of human exposure to pesticides.
70.104.055	Pesticide poisonings—Reports.
70.104.057	Pesticide poisonings—Medical education program.
70.104.060	Technical assistance, consultations and services to physicians and agencies authorized.
70.104.070	Pesticide incident reporting and tracking review panel—Intent.
70.104.090	Pesticide panel—Responsibilities.
70.104.100	Industrial insurance statutes not affected.

**Reviser's note:** Powers and duties of the department of social and health services and the secretary of social and health services transferred to the department of health and the secretary of health. See RCW 43.70.060.

**70.104.010 Declaration.** The department of health has responsibility to protect and enhance the public health and welfare. As a consequence, it must be concerned with both natural and artificial environmental factors which may adversely affect the public health and welfare. Dangers to the public health and welfare related to the use of pesticides require specific legislative recognition of departmental authority and responsibility in this area. [1991 c 3 § 356; 1971 ex.s. c 41 § 1.]

**70.104.020 "Pesticide" defined.** For the purposes of this chapter pesticide means, but is not limited to:

- (1) Any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, control, repel, or mitigate any insect, rodent, nematode, snail, slug, fungus, weed and any other form of plant or animal life or virus, except virus on or in a living human being or other animal, which is normally considered to be a pest or which the director of agriculture may declare to be a pest; or
- (2) Any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant; or
- (3) Any spray adjuvant, such as a wetting agent, spreading agent, deposit builder, adhesive, emulsifying agent, deflocculating agent, water modifier, or similar agent with or without toxic properties of its own intended to be used with any other pesticide as an aid to the application or effect thereof, and sold in a package or container separate from that of the pesticide with which it is to be used; or
- (4) Any fungicide, rodenticide, herbicide, insecticide, and nematocide. [2009 c 549 § 1026; 1971 ex.s. c 41 § 2.]

**70.104.030 Powers and duties of department of health.** (1) The department of health may investigate all suspected human cases of pesticide poisoning and such cases of suspected pesticide poisoning of animals that may relate to human illness. The department shall establish time periods by rule to determine investigation response time. Time periods

shall range from immediate to forty-eight hours to initiate an investigation, depending on the severity of the case or suspected case of pesticide poisoning.

In order to adequately investigate such cases, the department shall have the power to:

(a) Take all necessary samples and human or animal tissue specimens for diagnostic purposes: PROVIDED, That tissue, if taken from a living human, shall be taken from a living human only with the consent of a person legally qualified to give such consent;

(b) Secure any and all such information as may be necessary to adequately determine the nature and causes of any case of pesticide poisoning.

(2) The department shall immediately notify the department of agriculture, the department of labor and industries, and other appropriate agencies of the results of its investigation for such action as the other departments or agencies deem appropriate. The notification of such investigations and their results may include recommendations for further action by the appropriate department or agency. [2009 c 495 § 10; 1991 c 3 § 357; 1989 c 380 § 71; 1971 ex.s. c 41 § 3.]

**Effective date—2009 c 495:** See note following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.104.040 Pesticide emergencies—Authority of department of agriculture not infringed upon.** (1) In any case where an emergency relating to pesticides occurs that represents a hazard to the public due to toxicity of the material, the quantities involved or the environment in which the incident takes place, such emergencies including but not limited to fires, spillage, and accidental contamination, the person or agent of such person having actual or constructive control of the pesticides involved shall immediately notify the department of health by telephone or the fastest available method.

(2) Upon notification or discovery of any pesticide emergency the department of health shall:

(a) Make such orders and take such actions as are appropriate to assume control of the property and to dispose of hazardous substances, prevent further contamination, and restore any property involved to a nonhazardous condition. In the event of failure of any individual to obey and carry out orders pursuant to this section, the department shall have all power and authority to accomplish those things necessary to carry out such order. Any expenses incurred by the department as a result of intentional failure of any individual to obey its lawful orders shall be charged as a debt against such individual.

(3) In any case where the department of health has assumed control of property pursuant to this chapter, such property shall not be reoccupied or used until such time as written notification of its release for use is received from the secretary of the department or his or her designee. Such action shall take into consideration the economic hardship, if any, caused by having the department assume control of property, and release shall be accomplished as expeditiously as possible. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a farmer from continuing to process his or her crops and/or animals provided that the processing does not endanger the public health.

(4) The department shall recognize the pesticide industry's responsibility and active role in minimizing the effect of

pesticide emergencies and shall provide for maximum utilization of these services.

(5) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed in any way to infringe upon or negate the authority and responsibility of the department of agriculture in its application and enforcement of the Washington Pesticide Control Act, chapter 15.58 RCW and the Washington Pesticide Application Act, chapter 17.21 RCW. The department of health shall work closely with the department of agriculture in the enforcement of this chapter and shall keep it appropriately advised. [1991 c 3 § 358; 1983 c 3 § 178; 1971 ex.s. c 41 § 4.]

**70.104.050 Investigation of human exposure to pesticides.** The department of health shall investigate human exposure to pesticides according to the degree of risk that the exposure presents to the individual and the greater population as well as the level of funding appropriated in the operating budget, and in order to carry out such investigations shall have authority to secure and analyze appropriate specimens of human tissue and samples representing sources of possible exposure. [2009 c 495 § 11; 1991 c 3 § 359; 1971 ex.s. c 41 § 5.]

**Effective date—2009 c 495:** See note following RCW 43.20.050.

**70.104.055 Pesticide poisonings—Reports.** (1) Any attending physician or other health care provider recognized as primarily responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of a patient or, in the absence of a primary health care provider, the health care provider initiating diagnostic testing or therapy for a patient shall report a case or suspected case of pesticide poisoning to the department of health in the manner prescribed by, and within the reasonable time periods established by, rules of the state board of health. Time periods established by the board shall range from immediate reporting to reporting within seven days depending on the severity of the case or suspected case of pesticide poisoning. The reporting requirements shall be patterned after other board rules establishing requirements for reporting of diseases or conditions. Confidentiality requirements shall be the same as the confidentiality requirements established for other reportable diseases or conditions. The information to be reported may include information from relevant pesticide application records and shall include information required under board rules. Reports shall be made on forms provided to health care providers by the department of health. For purposes of any oral reporting, the department of health shall make available a toll-free telephone number.

(2) Within a reasonable time period as established by board rules, the department of health shall investigate the report of a case or suspected case of pesticide poisoning to document the incident. The department shall report the results of the investigation to the health care provider submitting the original report.

(3) Cases or suspected cases of pesticide poisoning shall be reported by the department of health to the \*pesticide reporting and tracking review panel within the time periods established by state board of health rules.

(4) Upon request of the primary health care provider, pesticide applicators or employers shall provide a copy of records of pesticide applications which may have affected the health of the provider's patient. This information is to be used

only for the purposes of providing health care services to the patient.

(5) Any failure of the primary health care provider to make the reports required under this section may be cause for the department of health to submit information about such nonreporting to the applicable disciplining authority for the provider under RCW 18.130.040.

(6) No cause of action shall arise as the result of: (a) The failure to report under this section; or (b) any report submitted to the department of health under this section.

(7) For the purposes of this section, a suspected case of pesticide poisoning is a case in which the diagnosis is thought more likely than not to be pesticide poisoning. [1992 c 173 § 4; 1991 c 3 § 360; 1989 c 380 § 72.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "pesticide incident reporting and tracking review panel" was eliminated pursuant to 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 132.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.104.057 Pesticide poisonings—Medical education program.** The department of health, after seeking advice from the state board of health, local health officers, and state and local medical associations, shall develop a program of medical education to alert physicians and other health care providers to the symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and reporting of pesticide poisonings. [1991 c 3 § 361; 1989 c 380 § 73.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.104.060 Technical assistance, consultations and services to physicians and agencies authorized.** In order effectively to prevent human illness due to pesticides and to carry out the requirements of this chapter, the department of health is authorized to provide technical assistance and consultation regarding health effects of pesticides to physicians and other agencies, and is authorized to operate an analytical chemical laboratory and may provide analytical and laboratory services to physicians and other agencies to determine pesticide levels in human and other tissues, and appropriate environmental samples. [1991 c 3 § 362; 1971 ex.s. c 41 § 6.]

**70.104.070 \*Pesticide incident reporting and tracking review panel—Intent.** The legislature finds that heightened concern regarding health and environmental impacts from pesticide use and misuse has resulted in an increased demand for full-scale health investigations, assessment of resource damages, and health effects information. Increased reporting, comprehensive unbiased investigation capability, and enhanced community education efforts are required to maintain this state's responsibilities to provide for public health and safety.

It is the intent of the legislature that the various state agencies responsible for pesticide regulation coordinate their activities in a timely manner to ensure adequate monitoring of pesticide use and protection of workers and the public from the effects of pesticide misuse. [1989 c 380 § 67.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "pesticide incident reporting and tracking review panel" was eliminated pursuant to 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 132.

**70.104.090 \*Pesticide panel—Responsibilities.** The responsibilities of the \*review panel shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Establishing guidelines for centralizing the receipt of information relating to actual or alleged health and environmental incidents involving pesticides;

(2) Reviewing and making recommendations for procedures for investigation of pesticide incidents, which shall be implemented by the appropriate agency unless a written statement providing the reasons for not adopting the recommendations is provided to the \*review panel;

(3) Monitoring the time periods required for response to reports of pesticide incidents by the departments of agriculture, health, and labor and industries;

(4) At the request of the chair or any \*panel member, reviewing pesticide incidents of unusual complexity or those that cannot be resolved;

(5) Identifying inadequacies in state and/or federal law that result in insufficient protection of public health and safety, with specific attention to advising the appropriate agencies on the adequacy of pesticide reentry intervals established by the federal environmental protection agency and registered pesticide labels to protect the health and safety of farmworkers. The \*panel shall establish a priority list for reviewing reentry intervals, which considers the following criteria:

(a) Whether the pesticide is being widely used in labor-intensive agriculture in Washington;

(b) Whether another state has established a reentry interval for the pesticide that is longer than the existing federal reentry interval;

(c) The toxicity category of the pesticide under federal law;

(d) Whether the pesticide has been identified by a federal or state agency or through a scientific review as presenting a risk of cancer, birth defects, genetic damage, neurological effects, blood disorders, sterility, menstrual dysfunction, organ damage, or other chronic or subchronic effects; and

(e) Whether reports or complaints of ill effects from the pesticide have been filed following worker entry into fields to which the pesticide has been applied; and

(6) Reviewing and approving an annual report prepared by the department of health to the governor, agency heads, and members of the legislature, with the same available to the public. The report shall include, at a minimum:

(a) A summary of the year's activities;

(b) A synopsis of the cases reviewed;

(c) A separate descriptive listing of each case in which adverse health or environmental effects due to pesticides were found to occur;

(d) A tabulation of the data from each case;

(e) An assessment of the effects of pesticide exposure in the workplace;

(f) The identification of trends, issues, and needs; and

(g) Any recommendations for improved pesticide use practices. [1991 c 3 § 364; 1989 c 380 § 69.]

\*Reviser's note: The "pesticide incident reporting and tracking review panel" was eliminated pursuant to 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 132.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.104.100 Industrial insurance statutes not affected.** Nothing in RCW 70.104.070 through 70.104.090 shall be construed to affect in any manner the administration of Title (2016 Ed.)

51 RCW by the department of labor and industries. [1989 c 380 § 70.]

**Chapter 70.105 RCW  
HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT**

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- 70.105.280 Service charges.
- 70.105.300 Metals mining and milling operations permits—Inspections by department of ecology.
- 70.105.310 Radioactive mixed waste account.
- 70.105.900 Short title—1985 c 448.

*Environmental certification programs—Fees—Rules—Liability: RCW 43.21A.175.*

*Hazardous materials incidents, handling and liability: RCW 70.136.010 through 70.136.070.*

*Radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response programs, state coordinator: RCW 38.52.030.*

*Transport of hazardous materials, state patrol authority over: Chapter 46.48 RCW.*

**70.105.005 Legislative declaration.** The legislature hereby finds and declares:

(1) The health and welfare of the people of the state depend on clean and pure environmental resources unaffected by hazardous waste contamination. At the same time, the quality of life of the people of the state is in part based upon a large variety of goods produced by the economy of the state. The complex industrial processes that produce these goods also generate waste by-products, some of which are hazardous to the public health and the environment if improperly managed.

(2) Safe and responsible management of hazardous waste is necessary to prevent adverse effects on the environment and to protect public health and safety.

(3) The availability of safe, effective, economical, and environmentally sound facilities for the management of hazardous waste is essential to protect public health and the environment and to preserve the economic strength of the state.

(4) Strong and effective enforcement of federal and state hazardous waste laws and regulations is essential to protect the public health and the environment and to meet the public's concerns regarding the acceptance of needed new hazardous waste management facilities.

(5) Negotiation, mediation, and similar conflict resolution techniques are useful in resolving concerns over the local impacts of siting hazardous waste management facilities.

(6) Safe and responsible management of hazardous waste requires an effective planning process that involves local and state governments, the public, and industry.

(7) Public acceptance and successful siting of needed new hazardous waste management facilities depends on several factors, including:

- (a) Public confidence in the safety of the facilities;
- (b) Assurance that the hazardous waste management priorities established in this chapter are being carried out to the maximum degree practical;

(c) Recognition that all state citizens benefit from certain products whose manufacture results in the generation of hazardous by-products, and that all state citizens must, therefore, share in the responsibility for finding safe and effective means to manage this hazardous waste; and

(d) Provision of adequate opportunities for citizens to meet with facility operators and resolve concerns about local hazardous waste management facilities.

(8) Due to the controversial and regional nature of facilities for the disposal and incineration of hazardous waste, the facilities have had difficulty in obtaining necessary local approvals. The legislature finds that there is a statewide interest in assuring that such facilities can be sited.

It is therefore the intent of the legislature to preempt local government's authority to approve, deny, or otherwise regulate disposal and incineration facilities, and to vest in the department of ecology the sole authority among state, regional, and local agencies to approve, deny, and regulate preempted facilities, as defined in this chapter.

In addition, it is the intent of the legislature that such complete preemptive authority also be vested in the department for treatment and storage facilities, in addition to disposal and incineration facilities, if a local government fails to carry out its responsibilities established in RCW 70.105.225.

It is further the intent of the legislature that no local ordinance, permit requirement, other requirement, or decision shall prohibit on the basis of land use considerations the construction of a hazardous waste management facility within any zone designated and approved in accordance with this chapter, provided that the proposed site for the facility is consistent with applicable state siting criteria.

(9) With the exception of the disposal site authorized for acquisition under this chapter, the private sector has had the primary role in providing hazardous waste management facilities and services in the state. It is the intent of the legislature that this role be encouraged and continue into the future to the extent feasible. Whether privately or publicly owned and operated, hazardous waste management facilities and services should be subject to strict governmental regulation as provided under this chapter.

(10) Wastes that are exempt or excluded from full regulation under this chapter due to their small quantity or household origin have the potential to pose significant risk to public health and the environment if not properly managed. It is the intent of the legislature that the specific risks posed by such waste be investigated and assessed and that programs be carried out as necessary to manage the waste appropriately. In addition, the legislature finds that, because local conditions vary substantially in regard to the quantities, risks, and management opportunities available for such wastes, local government is the appropriate level of government to plan for and carry out programs to manage moderate-risk waste, with assistance and coordination provided by the department. [1985 c 448 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.007 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish a comprehensive statewide framework for the planning, regulation, control, and management of hazardous waste which will prevent land, air, and water pollution and conserve the natural, economic, and energy resources of the state. To this end it is the purpose of this chapter:

(1) To provide broad powers of regulation to the department of ecology relating to management of hazardous wastes and releases of hazardous substances;

(2) To promote waste reduction and to encourage other improvements in waste management practices;

(3) To promote cooperation between state and local governments by assigning responsibilities for planning for haz-

ardous wastes to the state and planning for moderate-risk waste to local government;

(4) To provide for prevention of problems related to improper management of hazardous substances before such problems occur; and

(5) To assure that needed hazardous waste management facilities may be sited in the state, and to ensure the safe operation of the facilities. [1985 c 448 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.010 Definitions.** The words and phrases defined in this section shall have the meanings indicated when used in this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Dangerous wastes" means any discarded, useless, unwanted, or abandoned substances, including but not limited to certain pesticides, or any residues or containers of such substances which are disposed of in such quantity or concentration as to pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, wildlife, or the environment because such wastes or constituents or combinations of such wastes:

(a) Have short-lived, toxic properties that may cause death, injury, or illness or have mutagenic, teratogenic, or carcinogenic properties; or

(b) Are corrosive, explosive, flammable, or may generate pressure through decomposition or other means.

(2) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(3) "Designated zone facility" means any facility that requires an interim or final status permit under rules adopted under this chapter and that is not a preempted facility as defined in this section.

(4) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology or the director's designee.

(5) "Disposal site" means a geographical site in or upon which hazardous wastes are disposed of in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(6) "Dispose or disposal" means the discarding or abandoning of hazardous wastes or the treatment, decontamination, or recycling of such wastes once they have been discarded or abandoned.

(7) "Extremely hazardous waste" means any dangerous waste which:

(a) Will persist in a hazardous form for several years or more at a disposal site and which in its persistent form

(i) Presents a significant environmental hazard and may be concentrated by living organisms through a food chain or may affect the genetic make-up of human beings or wildlife, and

(ii) Is highly toxic to human beings or wildlife

(b) If disposed of at a disposal site in such quantities as would present an extreme hazard to human beings or the environment.

(8) "Facility" means all contiguous land and structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land used for recycling, storing, treating, incinerating, or disposing of hazardous waste.

(9) "Hazardous household substances" means those substances identified by the department as hazardous household substances in the guidelines developed under RCW 70.105.220.

(10) "Hazardous substances" means any liquid, solid, gas, or sludge, including any material, substance, product,

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commodity, or waste, regardless of quantity, that exhibits any of the characteristics or criteria of hazardous waste as described in rules adopted under this chapter.

(11) "Hazardous waste" means and includes all dangerous and extremely hazardous waste, including substances composed of both radioactive and hazardous components.

(12) "Local government" means a city, town, or county.

(13) "Moderate-risk waste" means (a) any waste that exhibits any of the properties of hazardous waste but is exempt from regulation under this chapter solely because the waste is generated in quantities below the threshold for regulation, and (b) any household wastes which are generated from the disposal of substances identified by the department as hazardous household substances.

(14) "Person" means any person, firm, association, county, public or municipal or private corporation, agency, or other entity whatsoever.

(15) "Pesticide" shall have the meaning of the term as defined in RCW 15.58.030 as now or hereafter amended.

(16) "Preempted facility" means any facility that includes as a significant part of its activities any of the following operations: (a) Landfill, (b) incineration, (c) land treatment, (d) surface impoundment to be closed as a landfill, or (e) waste pile to be closed as a landfill.

(17) "Service charge" means an assessment imposed under RCW 70.105.280 against those facilities that store, treat, incinerate, or dispose of dangerous or extremely hazardous waste that contains both a nonradioactive hazardous component and a radioactive component. Service charges shall also apply to facilities undergoing closure under this chapter in those instances where closure entails the physical characterization of remaining wastes which contain both a nonradioactive hazardous component and a radioactive component or the management of such wastes through treatment or removal, except any commercial low-level radioactive waste facility. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 88; 2009 c 549 § 1027; 1989 c 376 § 1; 1987 c 488 § 1; 1985 c 448 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 101 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.020 Standards and regulations—Adoption—Notice and hearing—Consultation with other agencies.** The department after notice and public hearing shall:

(1) Adopt regulations designating as extremely hazardous wastes subject to the provisions of this chapter those substances which exhibit characteristics consistent with the definition provided in \*RCW 70.105.010(6);

(2) Adopt and may revise when appropriate, minimum standards and regulations for disposal of extremely hazardous wastes to protect against hazards to the public, and to the environment. Before adoption of such standards and regulations, the department shall consult with appropriate agencies of interested local governments and secure technical assistance from the department of agriculture, the department of social and health services, the department of fish and wildlife, the department of natural resources, the department of labor and industries, and the \*\*department of community, trade, and economic development, through the director of fire

protection. [1994 c 264 § 42; 1988 c 36 § 28; 1986 c 266 § 119; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 101 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) Due to the alphabetization of RCW 70.105.010 pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), subsection (6) was changed to subsection (7).

\*\*\*(2) The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.025 Environmental excellence program agreements—Effect on chapter.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any legal requirement under this chapter, including any standard, limitation, rule, or order is superseded and replaced in accordance with the terms and provisions of an environmental excellence program agreement, entered into under chapter 43.21K RCW. [1997 c 381 § 23.]

**Purpose—1997 c 381:** See RCW 43.21K.005.

**70.105.030 List and information to be furnished by depositor of hazardous waste—Rules and regulations.** (1) After the effective date of the regulations adopted by the department designating extremely hazardous wastes, any person planning to dispose of extremely hazardous waste as designated by the department shall provide the operator of the disposal site with a list setting forth the extremely hazardous wastes for disposal, the amount of such wastes, the general chemical and mineral composition of such waste listed by approximate maximum and minimum percentages, and the origin of any such waste. Such list, when appropriate, shall include information on antidotes, first aid, or safety measures to be taken in case of accidental contact with the particular extremely hazardous waste being disposed.

(2) The department shall adopt and enforce all rules and regulations including the form and content of the list, necessary and appropriate to accomplish the purposes of subsection (1) of this section. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 101 § 3.]

**70.105.035 Solid wastes—Conditionally exempt from chapter.** Solid wastes that designate as dangerous waste or extremely hazardous waste but do not designate as hazardous waste under federal law are conditionally exempt from the requirements of this chapter, if:

(1) The waste is generated pursuant to a consent decree issued under chapter 70.105D RCW;

(2) The consent decree characterizes the solid waste and specifies management practices and a department-approved treatment or disposal location;

(3) The management practices are consistent with RCW 70.105.150 and are protective of human health and the environment as determined by the department of ecology; and

(4) Waste treated or disposed of on-site will be managed in a manner determined by the department to be as protective of human health and the environment as clean-up standards pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW.

This section shall not be interpreted to limit the ability of the department to apply any requirement of this chapter through a consent decree issued under chapter 70.105D RCW, if the department determines these requirements to be appropriate. Neither shall this section be interpreted to limit the application of this chapter to a cleanup conducted under the federal comprehensive environmental response, compen-

sation, and liability act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 9601 et seq., as amended). [1994 c 254 § 5.]

**70.105.040 Disposal site or facility—Acquisition—Disposal fee schedule.** (1) The department through the \*department of general administration, is authorized to acquire interests in real property from the federal government on the Hanford Reservation by gift, purchase, lease, or other means, to be used for the purpose of developing, operating, and maintaining an extremely hazardous waste disposal site or facility by the department, either directly or by agreement with public or private persons or entities: PROVIDED, That lands acquired under this section shall not be inconsistent with a local comprehensive plan approved prior to January 1, 1976: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That no lands acquired under this section shall be subject to land use regulation by a local government.

(2) The department may establish an appropriate fee schedule for use of such disposal facilities to offset the cost of administration of this chapter and the cost of development, operation, maintenance, and perpetual management of the disposal site. If operated by a private entity, the disposal fee may be such as to provide a reasonable profit. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 101 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**70.105.050 Disposal at other than approved site prohibited—Disposal of radioactive wastes.** (1) No person shall dispose of designated extremely hazardous wastes at any disposal site in the state other than the disposal site established and approved for such purpose under provisions of this chapter, except:

(a) When such wastes are going to a processing facility which will result in the waste being reclaimed, treated, detoxified, neutralized, or otherwise processed to remove its harmful properties or characteristics; or

(b) When such wastes are managed on-site as part of a remedial action conducted by the department or by potentially liable persons under a consent decree issued by the department pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW.

(2) Extremely hazardous wastes that contain radioactive components may be disposed at a radioactive waste disposal site that is (a) owned by the United States department of energy or a licensee of the nuclear regulatory commission and (b) permitted by the department and operated in compliance with the provisions of this chapter. However, prior to disposal, or as a part of disposal, all reasonable methods of treatment, detoxification, neutralization, or other waste management methodologies designed to mitigate hazards associated with these wastes shall be employed, as required by applicable federal and state laws and regulations. [1994 c 254 § 6; 1987 c 488 § 4; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 101 § 5.]

**70.105.070 Criteria for receiving waste at disposal site.** The department may elect to receive dangerous waste at the site provided under this chapter, provided

(1) it is upon request of the owner, producer, or person having custody of the waste, and

(2) upon the payment of a fee to cover disposal

(3) it can be reasonably demonstrated that there is no other disposal sites in the state that will handle such dangerous waste, and

(4) the site is designed to handle such a request or can be modified to the extent necessary to adequately dispose of the waste, or

(5) if a demonstrable emergency and potential threat to the public health and safety exists. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 101 § 7.]

**70.105.080 Violations—Civil penalties.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 43.05.060 through 43.05.080 and 43.05.150, every person who fails to comply with any provision of this chapter or of the rules adopted thereunder shall be subjected to a penalty in an amount of not more than ten thousand dollars per day for every such violation. Each and every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense. In case of continuing violation, every day's continuance shall be a separate and distinct violation. Every person who, through an act of commission or omission, procures, aids, or abets in the violation shall be considered to have violated the provisions of this section and shall be subject to the penalty herein provided.

(2) The penalty provided for in this section shall be imposed pursuant to the procedures in RCW 43.21B.300. [1995 c 403 § 631; 1987 c 109 § 12; 1983 c 172 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 101 § 8.]

**Findings—Short title—Intent—1995 c 403:** See note following RCW 34.05.328.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.085 Violations—Criminal penalties.** (1) Any person who knowingly transports, treats, stores, handles, disposes of, or exports a hazardous substance in violation of this chapter is guilty of: (a) A class B felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW if the person knows at the time that the conduct constituting the violation places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury; or (b) a class C felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW if the person knows that the conduct constituting the violation places any property of another person or any natural resources owned by the state of Washington or any of its local governments in imminent danger of harm.

(2) As used in this section: (a) "Imminent danger" means that there is a substantial likelihood that harm will be experienced within a reasonable period of time should the danger not be eliminated; and (b) "knowingly" refers to an awareness of facts, not awareness of law. [2003 c 53 § 357; 1989 c 2 § 15 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.090 Violations—Gross misdemeanor.** In addition to the penalties imposed pursuant to RCW 70.105.080, any person who violates any provisions of this chapter, or of the rules implementing this chapter, and any person who knowingly aids or abets another in conducting any violation of any provisions of this chapter, or of the rules implementing

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this chapter, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars, and/or by imprisonment in the county jail for up to three hundred sixty-four days, for each separate violation. Each and every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense. In case of continuing violation, every day's continuance shall be a separate and distinct offense. [2011 c 96 § 51; 1984 c 237 § 1; 1983 c 172 § 3; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 101 § 9.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.095 Violations—Orders—Penalty for non-compliance—Appeal.** (1) Whenever on the basis on any information the department determines that a person has violated or is about to violate any provision of this chapter, the department may issue an order requiring compliance either immediately or within a specified period of time. The order shall be delivered by registered mail or personally to the person against whom the order is directed.

(2) Any person who fails to take corrective action as specified in a compliance order shall be liable for a civil penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars for each day of continued noncompliance. In addition, the department may suspend or revoke any permits and/or certificates issued under the provisions of this chapter to a person who fails to comply with an order directed against him or her.

(3) Any order may be appealed pursuant to RCW 43.21B.310. [2012 c 117 § 417; 1987 c 109 § 16; 1983 c 172 § 4.]

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.097 Action for damages resulting from violation—Attorneys' fees.** A person injured as a result of a violation of this chapter or the rules adopted thereunder may bring an action in superior court for the recovery of the damages. A conviction or imposition of a penalty under this chapter is not a prerequisite to an action under this section.

The court may award reasonable attorneys' fees to a prevailing injured party in an action under this section. [1983 c 172 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.100 Powers and duties of department.** The department in performing its duties under this chapter may:

(1) Conduct studies and coordinate research programs pertaining to extremely hazardous waste management;

(2) Render technical assistance to generators of dangerous and extremely hazardous wastes and to state and local agencies in the planning and operation of hazardous waste programs;

(3) Encourage and provide technical assistance to waste generators to form and operate a "waste exchange" for the purpose of finding users for dangerous and extremely hazardous wastes that would otherwise be disposed of: PROVIDED, That such technical assistance shall not violate the confidentiality of manufacturing processes; and

(4) Provide for appropriate surveillance and monitoring of extremely hazardous waste disposal practices in the state. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 101 § 10.]

**70.105.105 Duty of department to regulate PCB waste.** The department of ecology shall regulate under chapter 70.105 RCW, wastes generated from the salvaging, rebuilding, or discarding of transformers or capacitors that have been sold or otherwise transferred for salvage or disposal after the completion or termination of their useful lives and which contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) and whose disposal is not regulated under 40 C.F.R. part 761. Nothing in this section shall prohibit such wastes from being incinerated or disposed of at facilities permitted to manage PCB wastes under 40 C.F.R. part 761. [1985 c 65 § 1.]

**70.105.109 Regulation of wastes with radioactive and hazardous components.** The department of ecology may regulate all hazardous wastes, including those composed of both radioactive and hazardous components, to the extent it is not preempted by federal law. [1987 c 488 § 2.]

**70.105.110 Regulation of dangerous wastes associated with energy facilities.** (1) Nothing in this chapter shall alter, amend, or supersede the provisions of chapter 80.50 RCW, except that, notwithstanding any provision of chapter 80.50 RCW, regulation of dangerous wastes associated with energy facilities from generation to disposal shall be solely by the department pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW. In the implementation of said section, the department shall consult and cooperate with the energy facility site evaluation council and, in order to reduce duplication of effort and to provide necessary coordination of monitoring and on-site inspection programs at energy facility sites, any on-site inspection by the department that may be required for the purposes of this chapter shall be performed pursuant to an interagency coordination agreement with the council.

(2) To facilitate the implementation of this chapter, the energy facility site evaluation council may require certificate holders to remove from their energy facility sites any dangerous wastes, controlled by this chapter, within ninety days of their generation. [1987 c 488 § 3; 1984 c 237 § 3; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 101 § 11.]

**70.105.111 Radioactive wastes—Authority of department of social and health services.** Nothing in this chapter diminishes the authority of the department of social and health services to regulate the radioactive portion of mixed wastes pursuant to chapter 70.98 RCW. [1987 c 488 § 5.]

**70.105.112 Application of chapter to special incinerator ash.** This chapter does not apply to special incinerator ash regulated under chapter 70.138 RCW except that, for purposes of RCW 4.22.070(3)(a), special incinerator ash shall be considered hazardous waste. [1987 c 528 § 9.]

**70.105.116 Hazardous substance remedial actions—Procedural requirements not applicable.** The procedural requirements of this chapter shall not apply to any person conducting a remedial action at a facility pursuant to a con-

sent decree, order, or agreed order issued pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW, or to the department of ecology when it conducts a remedial action under chapter 70.105D RCW. The department of ecology shall ensure compliance with the substantive requirements of this chapter through the consent decree, order, or agreed order issued pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW, or during the department-conducted remedial action, through the procedures developed by the department pursuant to RCW 70.105D.090. [1994 c 257 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.120 Authority of attorney general.** At the request of the department, the attorney general is authorized to bring such injunctive, declaratory, or other actions to enforce any requirement of this chapter. [1980 c 144 § 2.]

**70.105.130 Department's powers as designated agency under federal act.** (1) The department is designated as the state agency for implementing the federal resource conservation and recovery act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901 et seq.).

(2) The power granted to the department by this section is the authority to:

(a) Establish a permit system for owners or operators of facilities which treat, store, or dispose of dangerous wastes: PROVIDED, That spent containers of pesticides or herbicides which have been used in normal farm operations and which are not extremely hazardous wastes, shall not be subject to the permit system;

(b) Establish standards for the safe transport, treatment, storage, and disposal of dangerous wastes as may be necessary to protect human health and the environment;

(c) Establish, to implement this section:

(i) A manifest system to track dangerous wastes;

(ii) Reporting, monitoring, recordkeeping, labeling, sampling requirements; and

(iii) Owner, operator, and transporter responsibility;

(d) Enter at reasonable times establishments regulated under this section for the purposes of inspection, monitoring, and sampling; and

(e) Adopt rules necessary to implement this section. [1980 c 144 § 1.]

**70.105.135 Copies of notification forms or annual reports to officials responsible for fire protection.** Any person who generates, treats, stores, disposes, or otherwise handles dangerous or extremely hazardous wastes shall provide copies of any notification forms, or annual reports that are required pursuant to RCW 70.105.130 to the fire departments or fire districts that service the areas in which the wastes are handled upon the request of the fire departments or fire districts. In areas that are not serviced by a fire department or fire district, the forms or reports shall be provided to the sheriff or other county official designated pursuant to \*RCW 48.48.060 upon the request of the sheriff or other county official. This section shall not apply to the transportation of hazardous wastes. [1986 c 82 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 48.48.060 was recodified as RCW 43.44.050 pursuant to 2006 c 25 § 13.

**70.105.140 Rules implemented under RCW 70.105.130—Review.** Rules implementing RCW

70.105.130 shall be submitted to the house and senate committees on ecology for review prior to being adopted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. [1980 c 144 § 3.]

**70.105.145 Department's authority to participate in and administer federal act.** Notwithstanding any other provision of chapter 70.105 RCW, the department of ecology is empowered to participate fully in and is empowered to administer all aspects of the programs of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as it exists on June 7, 1984, (42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901 et seq.), contemplated for participation and administration by a state under that act. [1984 c 237 § 2; 1983 c 270 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.150 Declaration—Management of hazardous waste—Priorities—Definitions.** The legislature hereby declares that:

(1) The health and welfare of the people of the state depend on clean and pure environmental resources unaffected by hazardous waste contamination. Management and regulation of hazardous waste disposal should encourage practices which result in the least amount of waste being produced. Towards that end, the legislature finds that the following priorities in the management of hazardous waste are necessary and should be followed in order of descending priority as applicable:

- (a) Waste reduction;
- (b) Waste recycling;
- (c) Physical, chemical, and biological treatment;
- (d) Incineration;
- (e) Solidification/stabilization treatment;
- (f) Landfill.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Waste reduction" means reducing waste so that hazardous by-products are not produced;

(b) "Waste recycling" means reusing waste materials and extracting valuable materials from a waste stream;

(c) "Physical, chemical, and biological treatment" means processing the waste to render it completely innocuous, produce a recyclable by-product, reduce toxicity, or substantially reduce the volume of material requiring disposal;

(d) "Incineration" means reducing the volume or toxicity of wastes by use of an enclosed device using controlled flame combustion;

(e) "Solidification/stabilization treatment" means the use of encapsulation techniques to solidify wastes and make them less permeable or leachable; and

(f) "Landfill" means a disposal facility, or part of a facility, at which waste is placed in or on land and which is not a land treatment facility, surface impoundment, or injection well. [1983 1st ex.s. c 70 § 1.]

**70.105.160 Waste management study—Public hearings—Adoption or modification of rules.** The department shall conduct a study to determine the best management practices for categories of waste for the priority waste management methods established in RCW 70.105.150, with due consideration in the course of the study to sound environmental management and available technology. As an element of the study, the department shall review methods that will help

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achieve the priority of RCW 70.105.150(1)(a), waste reduction. Before issuing any proposed rules, the department shall conduct public hearings regarding the best management practices for the various waste categories studied by the department. After conducting the study, the department shall prepare new rules or modify existing rules as appropriate to promote implementation of the priorities established in RCW 70.105.150 for management practices which assure use of sound environmental management techniques and available technology. The preliminary study shall be completed by July 1, 1986, and the rules shall be adopted by July 1, 1987.

The studies shall be updated at least once every five years. The funding for these studies shall be from the hazardous waste control and elimination account, subject to legislative appropriation. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 89; 1998 c 245 § 110; 1984 c 254 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 70 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.165 Disposal of dangerous wastes at commercial off-site land disposal facilities—Limitations.** (1) Independent of the processing or issuance of any or all federal, state, and local permits for disposal of dangerous wastes, no disposal of dangerous wastes at a commercial off-site land disposal facility may be undertaken prior to July 1, 1986, unless:

(a) The disposal results from actions taken under \*RCW 70.105A.060 (2) and (3), or results from other emergency situations; or

(b) Studies undertaken by the department under RCW 70.105.160 to determine the best management practices for various waste categories under the priority waste management methods established in RCW 70.105.150 are completed for the particular wastes or waste categories to be disposed of and any regulatory revisions deemed necessary by the department are proposed and do not prohibit land disposal of such wastes; or

(c) Final regulations have been adopted by the department that allow for such disposal.

(2) Construction of facilities used solely for the purpose of disposal of wastes that have not met the requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall not be undertaken by any developer of a dangerous waste disposal facility.

(3) The department shall prioritize the studies of waste categories undertaken under RCW 70.105.160 to provide initial consideration of those categories most likely to be suitable for land disposal. Any regulatory changes deemed necessary by the department shall be proposed and subjected to the rule-making process by category as the study of each waste category is completed. All of the study shall be completed, and implementing regulations proposed, by July 1, 1986.

(4) Any final permit issued by the department before the adoption of rules promulgated as a result of the study conducted under RCW 70.105.160 shall be modified as necessary to be consistent with such rules. [1984 c 254 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.105A.060 was repealed by 1990 c 114 § 21.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.170 Waste management—Consultative services—Technical assistance—Confidentiality.** Consistent with the purposes of RCW 70.105.150 and 70.105.160, the department is authorized to promote the priority waste management methods listed in RCW 70.105.150 by establishing or assisting in the establishment of: (1) Consultative services which, in conjunction with any business or industry requesting such service, study and recommend alternative waste management practices; and (2) technical assistance, such as a toll-free telephone service, to persons interested in waste management alternatives. Any person receiving such service or assistance may, in accordance with state law, request confidential treatment of information about their manufacturing or business practices. [1983 1st ex.s. c 70 § 3.]

**70.105.180 Disposition of fines and penalties—Earnings.** All fines and penalties collected under this chapter shall be deposited in the hazardous waste control and elimination account, which is hereby created in the state treasury. Moneys in the account collected from fines and penalties shall be expended exclusively by the department of ecology for the purposes of chapter 70, Laws of 1983 1st ex. sess., subject to legislative appropriation. Other sources of funds deposited in this account may also be used for the purposes of chapter 70, Laws of 1983 1st ex. sess. All earnings of investments of balances in the hazardous waste control and elimination account shall be credited to the general fund. [1985 c 57 § 70; 1983 1st ex.s. c 70 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.200 Hazardous waste management plan.** (1) The department shall develop, and shall update at least once every five years, a state hazardous waste management plan. The plan shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following elements:

(a) A state inventory and assessment of the capacity of existing facilities to treat, store, dispose, or otherwise manage hazardous waste;

(b) A forecast of future hazardous waste generation;

(c) A description of the plan or program required by RCW 70.105.160 to promote the waste management priorities established in RCW 70.105.150;

(d) Siting criteria as appropriate for hazardous waste management facilities, including such criteria as may be appropriate for the designation of eligible zones for designated zone facilities. However, these criteria shall not prevent the continued operation, at or below the present level of waste management activity, of existing facilities on the basis of their location in areas other than those designated as eligible zones pursuant to RCW 70.105.225;

(e) Siting policies as deemed appropriate by the department; and

(f) A plan or program to provide appropriate public information and education relating to hazardous waste management. The department shall ensure to the maximum degree practical that these plans or programs are coordinated with public education programs carried out by local government under RCW 70.105.220.

(2) The department shall seek, encourage, and assist participation in the development, revision, and implementation of the state hazardous waste management plan by interested

citizens, local government, business and industry, environmental groups, and other entities as appropriate.

(3) Siting criteria shall be completed by December 31, 1986. Other plan components listed in subsection (1) of this section shall be completed by June 30, 1987.

(4) The department shall incorporate into the state hazardous waste management plan those elements of the local hazardous waste management plans that it deems necessary to assure effective and coordinated programs throughout the state. [1985 c 448 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.210 Hazardous waste management facilities—Department to develop criteria for siting.** By May 31, 1990, the department shall develop and adopt criteria for the siting of hazardous waste management facilities. These criteria will be part of the state hazardous waste management plan as described in RCW 70.105.200. To the extent practical, these criteria shall be designed to minimize the short-term and long-term risks and costs that may result from hazardous waste management facilities. These criteria may vary by type of facilities and may consider natural site characteristics and engineered protection. Criteria may be established for:

(1) Geology;

(2) Surface and groundwater hydrology;

(3) Soils;

(4) Flooding;

(5) Climatic factors;

(6) Unique or endangered flora and fauna;

(7) Transportation routes;

(8) Site access;

(9) Buffer zones;

(10) Availability of utilities and public services;

(11) Compatibility with existing uses of land;

(12) Shorelines and wetlands;

(13) Sole-source aquifers;

(14) Natural hazards; and

(15) Other factors as determined by the department.

[1989 1st ex.s. c 13 § 2; 1985 c 448 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.215 Department to adopt rules for permits for hazardous substances treatment facilities.** The legislature recognizes the need for new, modified, or expanded facilities to treat, incinerate, or otherwise process or dispose of hazardous substances safely. In order to encourage the development of such facilities, the department shall adopt rules as necessary regarding the permitting of such facilities to ensure the most expeditious permit processing possible consistent with the substantive requirements of applicable law. If owners and operators are not the same entity, the operator shall be the permit applicant and responsible for the development of the permit application and all accompanying materials, as long as the owner also signs the application and certifies its ownership of the real property described in the application, and acknowledges its awareness of the contents of the application and receipt of a copy thereof. [1986 c 210 § 3.]

**70.105.217 Local government regulatory authority to prohibit or condition.** Nothing in this chapter shall alter or affect the regulatory authority of a county, city, or jurisdictional health district to condition or prohibit the acceptance of hazardous waste in a county or city landfill. [1994 c 254 § 7.]

**70.105.220 Local governments to prepare local hazardous waste plans—Basis—Elements required.** (1) Each local government, or combination of contiguous local governments, is directed to prepare a local hazardous waste plan which shall be based on state guidelines and include the following elements:

(a) A plan or program to manage moderate-risk wastes that are generated or otherwise present within the jurisdiction. This element shall include an assessment of the quantities, types, generators, and fate of moderate-risk wastes in the jurisdiction. The purpose of this element is to develop a system of managing moderate-risk waste, appropriate to each local area, to ensure protection of the environment and public health;

(b) A plan or program to provide for ongoing public involvement and public education in regard to the management of moderate-risk waste. This element shall provide information regarding:

(i) The potential hazards to human health and the environment resulting from improper use and disposal of the waste; and

(ii) Proper methods of handling, reducing, recycling, and disposing of the waste;

(c) An inventory of all existing generators of hazardous waste and facilities managing hazardous waste within the jurisdiction. This inventory shall be based on data provided by the department;

(d) A description of the public involvement process used in developing the plan;

(e) A description of the eligible zones designated in accordance with RCW 70.105.225. However, the requirement to designate eligible zones shall not be considered part of the local hazardous waste planning requirements; and

(f) Other elements as deemed appropriate by local government.

(2) To the maximum extent practicable, the local hazardous waste plan shall be coordinated with other hazardous materials-related plans and policies in the jurisdiction.

(3) Local governments shall coordinate with those persons involved in providing privately owned hazardous and moderate-risk waste facilities and services as follows: If a local government determines that a moderate-risk waste will be or is adequately managed by one or more privately owned facilities or services at a reasonable price, the local government shall take actions to encourage the use of that private facility or service. Actions taken by a local government under this subsection may include, but are not limited to, restricting or prohibiting the land disposal of a moderate-risk waste at any transfer station or land disposal facility within its jurisdiction.

(4)(a) The department shall prepare guidelines for the development of local hazardous waste plans. The guidelines shall be prepared in consultation with local governments and shall be completed by December 31, 1986. The guidelines

shall include a list of substances identified as hazardous household substances.

(b) In preparing the guidelines under (a) of this subsection, the department shall review and assess information on pilot projects that have been conducted for moderate-risk waste management. The department shall encourage additional pilot projects as needed to provide information to improve and update the guidelines.

(5) The department shall consult with retailers, trade associations, public interest groups, and appropriate units of local government to encourage the development of voluntary public education programs on the proper handling of hazardous household substances.

(6) Local hazardous waste plans shall be completed and submitted to the department no later than June 30, 1990. Local governments may from time to time amend the local plan.

(7) Each local government, or combination of contiguous local governments, shall submit its local hazardous waste plan or amendments thereto to the department. The department shall approve or disapprove local hazardous waste plans or amendments by December 31, 1990, or within ninety days of submission, whichever is later. The department shall approve a local hazardous waste plan if it determines that the plan is consistent with this chapter and the guidelines under subsection (4) of this section. If approval is denied, the department shall submit its objections to the local government within ninety days of submission. However, for plans submitted between January 1, 1990, and June 30, 1990, the department shall have one hundred eighty days to submit its objections. No local government is eligible for grants under RCW 70.105.235 for implementing a local hazardous waste plan unless the plan for that jurisdiction has been approved by the department.

(8) Each local government, or combination of contiguous local governments, shall implement the local hazardous waste plan for its jurisdiction by December 31, 1991.

(9) The department may waive the specific requirements of this section for any local government if such local government demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department that the objectives of the planning requirements have been met. [1992 c 17 § 1; 1986 c 210 § 1; 1985 c 448 § 6.]

*Used oil recycling element: RCW 70.951.020.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.221 Local governments to prepare local hazardous waste plans—Used oil recycling element.** Local governments and combinations of local governments shall amend their local hazardous waste plans required under RCW 70.105.220 to comply with RCW 70.951.020. [1991 c 319 § 312.]

**70.105.225 Local governments to designate zones—Departmental guidelines—Approval of local government zone designations or amendments—Exemption.** (1) Each local government, or combination of contiguous local governments, is directed to: (a) Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that existing zoning allows designated zone facilities as permitted uses; or (b) designate land use zones within its jurisdiction in which designated zone facilities are permitted uses. The zone designations shall be consistent

with the state siting criteria adopted in accordance with RCW 70.105.210, except as may be approved by the department in accordance with subsection (6) of this section.

(2) Local governments shall not prohibit the processing or handling of hazardous waste in zones in which the processing or handling of hazardous substances is not prohibited. This subsection does not apply in residential zones.

(3) The department shall prepare guidelines, as appropriate, for the designation of zones under this section. The guidelines shall be prepared in consultation with local governments and shall be completed by December 31, 1986.

(4) The initial designation of zones shall be completed or revised, and submitted to the department within eighteen months after the enactment of siting criteria in accordance with RCW 70.105.210. Local governments that do not comply with this submittal deadline shall be subject to the preemptive provisions of RCW 70.105.240(4) until such time as zone designations are completed and approved by the department. Local governments may from time to time amend their designated zones.

(5) Local governments without land use zoning provisions shall designate eligible geographic areas within their jurisdiction, based on siting criteria adopted in accordance with RCW 70.105.210. The area designation shall be subject to the same requirements as if they were zone designations.

(6) Each local government, or combination of contiguous local governments, shall submit its designation of zones or amendments thereto to the department. The department shall approve or disapprove zone designations or amendments within ninety days of submission. The department shall approve eligible zone designations if it determines that the proposed zone designations are consistent with this chapter, the applicable siting criteria, and guidelines for developing designated zones: PROVIDED, That the department shall consider local zoning in place as of January 1, 1985, or other special situations or conditions which may exist in the jurisdiction. If approval is denied, the department shall state within ninety days from the date of submission the facts upon which that decision is based and shall submit the statement to the local government together with any other comments or recommendations it deems appropriate. The local government shall have ninety days after it receives the statement from the department to make modifications designed to eliminate the inconsistencies and resubmit the designation to the department for approval. Any designations shall take effect when approved by the department.

(7) The department may exempt a local government from the requirements of this section if:

(a) Regulated quantities of hazardous waste have not been generated within the jurisdiction during the two calendar years immediately preceding the calendar year during which the exemption is requested; and

(b) The local government can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that no significant portion of land within the jurisdiction can meet the siting criteria adopted in accordance with RCW 70.105.210. [1989 1st ex. s. c 13 § 1; 1985 c 448 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.230 Local governments to submit letter of intent to identify or designate zones and submit management plans—Department to prepare plan in event of failure to act.** (1) Each local government is directed to submit to the director of the department by October 31, 1987, a letter of intent stating that it intends to (a) identify, or designate if necessary, eligible zones for designated zone facilities no later than June 30, 1988, and (b) submit a complete local hazardous waste management plan to the department no later than June 30, 1990. The letters shall also indicate whether these requirements will be completed in conjunction with other local governments.

(2) If any local government fails to submit a letter as provided in subsection (1)(b) of this section, or fails to adopt a local hazardous waste plan for its jurisdiction in accordance with the time schedule provided in this chapter, or fails to secure approval from the department for its local hazardous waste plan in accordance with the time schedule provided in this chapter, the department shall prepare a hazardous waste plan for the local jurisdiction. [1985 c 448 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.235 Grants to local governments for plan preparation, implementation, and designation of zones—Matching funds—Qualifications.** (1) Subject to legislative appropriations, the department may make and administer grants to local governments for (a) preparing and updating local hazardous waste plans, (b) implementing approved local hazardous waste plans, and (c) designating eligible zones for designated zone facilities as required under this chapter.

(2) Local governments shall match the funds provided by the department for planning or designating zones with an amount not less than twenty-five percent of the estimated cost of the work to be performed. Local governments may meet their share of costs with cash or contributed services. Local governments, or combination of contiguous local governments, conducting pilot projects pursuant to RCW 70.105.220(4) may subtract the cost of those pilot projects conducted for hazardous household substances from their share of the cost. If a pilot project has been conducted for all moderate-risk wastes, only the portion of the cost that applies to hazardous household substances shall be subtracted. The matching funds requirement under this subsection shall be waived for local governments, or combination of contiguous local governments, that complete and submit their local hazardous waste plans under RCW 70.105.220(6) prior to June 30, 1988.

(3) Recipients of grants shall meet such qualifications and follow such procedures in applying for and using grants as may be established by the department. [1986 c 210 § 2; 1985 c 448 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.240 State preemption—Department sole authority—Local requirements superseded—State authority over designated zone facilities.** (1) As of July 28, 1985, the state preempts the field of state, regional, or local permitting and regulating of all preempted facilities as defined in this chapter. The department of ecology is designated the sole decision-making authority with respect to per-

mitting and regulating such facilities and no other state agency, department, division, bureau, commission, or board, or any local or regional political subdivision of the state, shall have any permitting or regulatory authority with respect to such facilities including, but not limited to, the location, construction, and operation of such facilities. Permits issued by the department shall be in lieu of any and all permits, approvals, certifications, or conditions of any other state, regional, or local governmental authority which would otherwise apply.

(2) The department shall ensure that any permits issued under this chapter invoking the preemption authority of this section meet the substantive requirements of existing state laws and regulations to the extent such laws and regulations are not inconsistent or in conflict with any of the provisions of this chapter. In the event that any of the provisions of this chapter, or any of the regulations promulgated hereunder, are in conflict with any other state law or regulations, such other law or regulations shall be deemed superseded for purposes of this chapter.

(3) As of July 28, 1985, any ordinances, regulations, requirements, or restrictions of regional or local governmental authorities regarding the location, construction, or operation of preempted facilities shall be deemed superseded. However, in issuing permits under this section, the department shall consider local fire and building codes and condition such permits as appropriate in compliance therewith.

(4) Effective July 1, 1988, the department shall have the same preemptive authority as defined in subsections (1) through (3) of this section in regard to any designated zone facility that may be proposed in any jurisdiction where the designation of eligible zones pursuant to RCW 70.105.225 has not been completed and approved by the department. Unless otherwise preempted by this subsection, designated zone facilities shall be subject to all applicable state and local laws, regulations, plans, and other requirements. [1985 c 448 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.245 Department may require notice of intent for management facility permit.** The department may adopt rules to require any person who intends to file an application for a permit for a hazardous waste management facility to file a notice of intent with the department prior to submitting the application. [1985 c 448 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.250 Appeals to pollution control hearings board.** Any disputes between the department and the governing bodies of local governments in regard to the local planning requirements under RCW 70.105.220 and the designation of zones under RCW 70.105.225 may be appealed by the department or the governing body of the local government to the pollution control hearings board established under chapter 43.21B RCW. [1985 c 448 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.255 Department to provide technical assistance with local plans.** The department shall provide technical assistance to local governments in the preparation,

review, revision, and implementation of local hazardous waste plans. [1985 c 448 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.260 Department to assist conflict resolution activities related to siting facilities—Agreements may constitute conditions for permit.** (1) In order to promote identification, discussion, negotiation, and resolution of issues related to siting of hazardous waste management facilities, the department:

(a) Shall compile and maintain information on the use and availability of conflict resolution techniques and make this information available to industries, state and local government officials, and other citizens;

(b) Shall encourage and assist in facilitating conflict resolution activities, as appropriate, between facility proponents, host communities, and other interested persons;

(c) May adopt rules specifying procedures for facility proponents, host communities, and citizens to follow in providing opportunities for conflict resolution activities, including the use of dispute resolution centers established pursuant to chapter 7.75 RCW; and

(d) May expend funds to support such conflict resolution activities, and may adopt rules as appropriate to govern the support.

(2) Any agreements reached under the processes described in subsection (1) of this section and deemed valid by the department may be written as conditions binding on a permit issued under this chapter. [1985 c 448 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.270 Requirements of RCW 70.105.200 through 70.105.230 and 70.105.240(4) not mandatory without legislative appropriation.** The requirements of RCW 70.105.200 through 70.105.230 and 70.105.240(4) shall not become mandatory until funding is appropriated by the legislature. [1985 c 448 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.280 Service charges.** (1) The department may assess reasonable service charges against those facilities that store, treat, incinerate, or dispose of dangerous or extremely hazardous waste that contains both a nonradioactive hazardous component and a radioactive component or which are undergoing closure under this chapter in those instances where closure entails the physical characterization of remaining wastes which contain both a nonradioactive hazardous component and a radioactive component or the management of such wastes through treatment or removal, except any commercial low-level radioactive waste facility. Service charges may not exceed the costs to the department in carrying out the duties of this section.

(2) Program elements or activities for which service charges may be assessed include:

(a) Office, staff, and staff support for the purposes of facility or unit permit development, review, and issuance; and

(b) Actions taken to determine and ensure compliance with the state's hazardous waste management act.

(3) Moneys collected through the imposition of such service charges shall be deposited in the radioactive mixed waste account created in RCW 70.105.310.

(4) The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section. Facilities that store, treat, incinerate, or dispose of dangerous or extremely hazardous waste that contains both a nonradioactive hazardous component and a radioactive component shall not be subject to service charges prior to such rule making. Facilities undergoing closure under this chapter in those instances where closure entails the physical characterization of remaining wastes which contain both a nonradioactive hazardous component and a radioactive component or the management of such wastes through treatment or removal shall not be subject to service charges prior to such rule making. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 14; 1989 c 376 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 70.105D.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.300 Metals mining and milling operations permits—Inspections by department of ecology.** If a metals mining and milling operation is issued a permit pursuant to this chapter, then it will be subject to special inspection requirements. The department of ecology shall inspect these mining operations at least quarterly in order to ensure that the operation is in compliance with the conditions of any permit issued to it pursuant to this chapter. The department shall conduct additional inspections during the construction phase of the mining operation in order to ensure compliance with this chapter. [1994 c 232 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105.310 Radioactive mixed waste account.** The radioactive mixed waste account is created within the state treasury. All receipts received from facilities assessed service charges established under RCW 70.105.280 must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may only be used for carrying out the department's powers and duties under this chapter related to the regulation of facilities that treat, store, or dispose of mixed waste or mixed waste facilities that are undergoing closure. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 12.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 70.105D.020.

**70.105.900 Short title—1985 c 448.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the hazardous waste management act. [1985 c 448 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 70.105A RCW HAZARDOUS WASTE FEES

### Sections

70.105A.035 Revision of fees to provide a waste reduction and recycling incentive.

*Hazardous waste management: Chapter 70.105 RCW.*

[Title 70 RCW—page 376]

**70.105A.035 Revision of fees to provide a waste reduction and recycling incentive.** The legislature is encouraged to revise the hazardous waste fees prescribed in \*RCW 70.105A.030 in a manner which provides an incentive for waste reduction and recycling. If prior to March 1, 1989, \*RCW 70.105A.030 as it existed on August 1, 1987, has not been amended in a manner which specifically provides an incentive for hazardous waste reduction and recycling, then (1) the requirement to pay the fees prescribed in that section is eliminated solely for fees due and payable on June 30, 1989; and (2) the department of ecology shall prepare, and submit to the legislature by January 1, 1990, a proposed revision designed to provide an incentive for hazardous waste reduction and recycling. [1989 c 2 § 16 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.105A.030 was repealed by 1990 c 114 § 21.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 70.105D RCW HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP—MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT

### Sections

70.105D.010 Declaration of policy.  
70.105D.020 Definitions.  
70.105D.030 Department's powers and duties.  
70.105D.040 Standard of liability—Settlement.  
70.105D.050 Enforcement.  
70.105D.055 Lien authority.  
70.105D.060 Timing of review.  
70.105D.070 Toxics control accounts.  
70.105D.080 Private right of action—Remedial action costs.  
70.105D.090 Remedial actions—Exemption from procedural requirements.  
70.105D.100 Grants to local governments—Statement of environmental benefits—Development of outcome-focused performance measures.  
70.105D.110 Releases of hazardous substances—Notice—Exemptions.  
70.105D.120 Puget Sound partners.  
70.105D.130 Cleanup settlement account—Reporting requirements.  
70.105D.140 Brownfield redevelopment trust fund account—Created—Report to the office of financial management and the legislature—Rules.  
70.105D.150 Designation of a redevelopment opportunity zone—Criteria.  
70.105D.160 Brownfield renewal authority.  
70.105D.170 Environmental legacy stewardship account.  
70.105D.900 Short title—1989 c 2.  
70.105D.905 Captions—1989 c 2.  
70.105D.910 Construction—1989 c 2.  
70.105D.915 Existing agreements—1989 c 2.  
70.105D.920 Effective date—1989 c 2.

*Environmental certification programs—Fees—Rules—Liability: RCW 43.21A.175.*

**70.105D.010 Declaration of policy.** (1) Each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment, and each person has a responsibility to preserve and enhance that right. The beneficial stewardship of the land, air, and waters of the state is a solemn obligation of the present generation for the benefit of future generations.

(2) A healthful environment is now threatened by the irresponsible use and disposal of hazardous substances. There are hundreds of hazardous waste sites in this state, and more will be created if current waste practices continue. Hazardous waste sites threaten the state's water resources, including those used for public drinking water. Many of our municipal landfills are current or potential hazardous waste sites and present serious threats to human health and environment.

(2016 Ed.)

The costs of eliminating these threats in many cases are beyond the financial means of our local governments and ratepayers. The main purpose of chapter 2, Laws of 1989 is to raise sufficient funds to clean up all hazardous waste sites and to prevent the creation of future hazards due to improper disposal of toxic wastes into the state's land and waters.

(3) Many farmers and small business owners who have followed the law with respect to their uses of pesticides and other chemicals nonetheless may face devastating economic consequences because their uses have contaminated the environment or the water supplies of their neighbors. With a source of funds, the state may assist these farmers and business owners, as well as those persons who sustain damages, such as the loss of their drinking water supplies, as a result of the contamination.

(4) It is in the public's interest to efficiently use our finite land base, to integrate our land use planning policies with our clean-up policies, and to clean up and reuse contaminated industrial properties in order to minimize industrial development pressures on undeveloped land and to make clean land available for future social use.

(5) Because it is often difficult or impossible to allocate responsibility among persons liable for hazardous waste sites and because it is essential that sites be cleaned up well and expeditiously, each responsible person should be liable jointly and severally.

(6) Because releases of hazardous substances can adversely affect the health and welfare of the public, the environment, and property values, it is in the public interest that affected communities be notified of where releases of hazardous substances have occurred and what is being done to clean them up. [2002 c 288 § 1; 1994 c 254 § 1; 1989 c 2 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105D.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agreed order" means an order issued by the department under this chapter with which the potentially liable person or prospective purchaser receiving the order agrees to comply. An agreed order may be used to require or approve any cleanup or other remedial actions but it is not a settlement under RCW 70.105D.040(4) and shall not contain a covenant not to sue, or provide protection from claims for contribution, or provide eligibility for public funding of remedial actions under RCW 70.105D.070(3) (k) and (q).

(2) "Area-wide groundwater contamination" means groundwater contamination on multiple adjacent properties with different ownerships consisting of hazardous substances from multiple sources that have resulted in commingled plumes of contaminated groundwater that are not practicable to address separately.

(3) "Brownfield property" means previously developed and currently abandoned or underutilized real property and adjacent surface waters and sediment where environmental, economic, or community reuse objectives are hindered by the release or threatened release of hazardous substances that the department has determined requires remedial action under this chapter or that the United States environmental protec-

tion agency has determined requires remedial action under the federal cleanup law.

(4) "City" means a city or town.

(5) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(6) "Director" means the director of ecology or the director's designee.

(7) "Environmental covenant" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 64.70.020.

(8) "Facility" means (a) any building, structure, installation, equipment, pipe or pipeline (including any pipe into a sewer or publicly owned treatment works), well, pit, pond, lagoon, impoundment, ditch, landfill, storage container, motor vehicle, rolling stock, vessel, or aircraft, or (b) any site or area where a hazardous substance, other than a consumer product in consumer use, has been deposited, stored, disposed of, or placed, or otherwise come to be located.

(9) "Federal cleanup law" means the federal comprehensive environmental response, compensation, and liability act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9601 et seq., as amended by Public Law 99-499.

(10)(a) "Fiduciary" means a person acting for the benefit of another party as a bona fide trustee; executor; administrator; custodian; guardian of estates or guardian ad litem; receiver; conservator; committee of estates of incapacitated persons; trustee in bankruptcy; trustee, under an indenture agreement, trust agreement, lease, or similar financing agreement, for debt securities, certificates of interest or certificates of participation in debt securities, or other forms of indebtedness as to which the trustee is not, in the capacity of trustee, the lender. Except as provided in subsection (22)(b)(iii) of this section, the liability of a fiduciary under this chapter shall not exceed the assets held in the fiduciary capacity.

(b) "Fiduciary" does not mean:

(i) A person acting as a fiduciary with respect to a trust or other fiduciary estate that was organized for the primary purpose of, or is engaged in, actively carrying on a trade or business for profit, unless the trust or other fiduciary estate was created as part of, or to facilitate, one or more estate plans or because of the incapacity of a natural person;

(ii) A person who acquires ownership or control of a facility with the objective purpose of avoiding liability of the person or any other person. It is prima facie evidence that the fiduciary acquired ownership or control of the facility to avoid liability if the facility is the only substantial asset in the fiduciary estate at the time the facility became subject to the fiduciary estate;

(iii) A person who acts in a capacity other than that of a fiduciary or in a beneficiary capacity and in that capacity directly or indirectly benefits from a trust or fiduciary relationship;

(iv) A person who is a beneficiary and fiduciary with respect to the same fiduciary estate, and who while acting as a fiduciary receives benefits that exceed customary or reasonable compensation, and incidental benefits permitted under applicable law;

(v) A person who is a fiduciary and receives benefits that substantially exceed customary or reasonable compensation, and incidental benefits permitted under applicable law; or

(vi) A person who acts in the capacity of trustee of state or federal lands or resources.

(11) "Fiduciary capacity" means the capacity of a person holding title to a facility, or otherwise having control of an interest in the facility pursuant to the exercise of the responsibilities of the person as a fiduciary.

(12) "Foreclosure and its equivalents" means purchase at a foreclosure sale, acquisition, or assignment of title in lieu of foreclosure, termination of a lease, or other repossession, acquisition of a right to title or possession, an agreement in satisfaction of the obligation, or any other comparable formal or informal manner, whether pursuant to law or under warranties, covenants, conditions, representations, or promises from the borrower, by which the holder acquires title to or possession of a facility securing a loan or other obligation.

(13) "Hazardous substance" means:

(a) Any dangerous or extremely hazardous waste as defined in RCW 70.105.010 (1) and (7), or any dangerous or extremely dangerous waste designated by rule pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW;

(b) Any hazardous substance as defined in RCW 70.105.010(10) or any hazardous substance as defined by rule pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW;

(c) Any substance that, on March 1, 1989, is a hazardous substance under section 101(14) of the federal cleanup law, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9601(14);

(d) Petroleum or petroleum products; and

(e) Any substance or category of substances, including solid waste decomposition products, determined by the director by rule to present a threat to human health or the environment if released into the environment.

The term hazardous substance does not include any of the following when contained in an underground storage tank from which there is not a release: Crude oil or any fraction thereof or petroleum, if the tank is in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local law.

(14) "Holder" means a person who holds indicia of ownership primarily to protect a security interest. A holder includes the initial holder such as the loan originator, any subsequent holder such as a successor-in-interest or subsequent purchaser of the security interest on the secondary market, a guarantor of an obligation, surety, or any other person who holds indicia of ownership primarily to protect a security interest, or a receiver, court-appointed trustee, or other person who acts on behalf or for the benefit of a holder. A holder can be a public or privately owned financial institution, receiver, conservator, loan guarantor, or other similar persons that loan money or guarantee repayment of a loan. Holders typically are banks or savings and loan institutions but may also include others such as insurance companies, pension funds, or private individuals that engage in loaning of money or credit.

(15) "Independent remedial actions" means remedial actions conducted without department oversight or approval, and not under an order, agreed order, or consent decree.

(16) "Indicia of ownership" means evidence of a security interest, evidence of an interest in a security interest, or evidence of an interest in a facility securing a loan or other obligation, including any legal or equitable title to a facility acquired incident to foreclosure and its equivalents. Evidence of such interests includes, mortgages, deeds of trust, sellers interest in a real estate contract, liens, surety bonds, and guarantees of obligations, title held pursuant to a lease financing

transaction in which the lessor does not select initially the leased facility, or legal or equitable title obtained pursuant to foreclosure and their equivalents. Evidence of such interests also includes assignments, pledges, or other rights to or other forms of encumbrance against the facility that are held primarily to protect a security interest.

(17) "Industrial properties" means properties that are or have been characterized by, or are to be committed to, traditional industrial uses such as processing or manufacturing of materials, marine terminal and transportation areas and facilities, fabrication, assembly, treatment, or distribution of manufactured products, or storage of bulk materials, that are either:

(a) Zoned for industrial use by a city or county conducting land use planning under chapter 36.70A RCW; or

(b) For counties not planning under chapter 36.70A RCW and the cities within them, zoned for industrial use and adjacent to properties currently used or designated for industrial purposes.

(18) "Institutional controls" means measures undertaken to limit or prohibit activities that may interfere with the integrity of a remedial action or result in exposure to or migration of hazardous substances at a site. "Institutional controls" include environmental covenants.

(19) "Local government" means any political subdivision of the state, including a town, city, county, special purpose district, or other municipal corporation, including brownfield renewal authority created under RCW 70.105D.160.

(20) "Model remedy" or "model remedial action" means a set of technologies, procedures, and monitoring protocols identified by the department for use in routine types of clean-up projects at facilities that have common features and lower risk to human health and the environment.

(21) "Operating a facility primarily to protect a security interest" occurs when all of the following are met: (a) Operating the facility where the borrower has defaulted on the loan or otherwise breached the security agreement; (b) operating the facility to preserve the value of the facility as an ongoing business; (c) the operation is being done in anticipation of a sale, transfer, or assignment of the facility; and (d) the operation is being done primarily to protect a security interest. Operating a facility for longer than one year prior to foreclosure or its equivalents shall be presumed to be operating the facility for other than to protect a security interest.

(22) "Owner or operator" means:

(a) Any person with any ownership interest in the facility or who exercises any control over the facility; or

(b) In the case of an abandoned facility, any person who had owned, or operated, or exercised control over the facility any time before its abandonment;

The term does not include:

(i) An agency of the state or unit of local government which acquired ownership or control through a drug forfeiture action under RCW 69.50.505, or involuntarily through bankruptcy, tax delinquency, abandonment, or other circumstances in which the government involuntarily acquires title. This exclusion does not apply to an agency of the state or unit of local government which has caused or contributed to the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance from the facility;

(ii) A person who, without participating in the management of a facility, holds indicia of ownership primarily to protect the person's security interest in the facility. Holders after foreclosure and its equivalent and holders who engage in any of the activities identified in subsection (23)(e) through (g) of this section shall not lose this exemption provided the holder complies with all of the following:

(A) The holder properly maintains the environmental compliance measures already in place at the facility;

(B) The holder complies with the reporting requirements in the rules adopted under this chapter;

(C) The holder complies with any order issued to the holder by the department to abate an imminent or substantial endangerment;

(D) The holder allows the department or potentially liable persons under an order, agreed order, or settlement agreement under this chapter access to the facility to conduct remedial actions and does not impede the conduct of such remedial actions;

(E) Any remedial actions conducted by the holder are in compliance with any preexisting requirements identified by the department, or, if the department has not identified such requirements for the facility, the remedial actions are conducted consistent with the rules adopted under this chapter; and

(F) The holder does not exacerbate an existing release. The exemption in this subsection (22)(b)(ii) does not apply to holders who cause or contribute to a new release or threatened release or who are otherwise liable under RCW 70.105D.040(1) (b), (c), (d), and (e); provided, however, that a holder shall not lose this exemption if it establishes that any such new release has been remediated according to the requirements of this chapter and that any hazardous substances remaining at the facility after remediation of the new release are divisible from such new release;

(iii) A fiduciary in his, her, or its personal or individual capacity. This exemption does not preclude a claim against the assets of the estate or trust administered by the fiduciary or against a nonemployee agent or independent contractor retained by a fiduciary. This exemption also does not apply to the extent that a person is liable under this chapter independently of the person's ownership as a fiduciary or for actions taken in a fiduciary capacity which cause or contribute to a new release or exacerbate an existing release of hazardous substances. This exemption applies provided that, to the extent of the fiduciary's powers granted by law or by the applicable governing instrument granting fiduciary powers, the fiduciary complies with all of the following:

(A) The fiduciary properly maintains the environmental compliance measures already in place at the facility;

(B) The fiduciary complies with the reporting requirements in the rules adopted under this chapter;

(C) The fiduciary complies with any order issued to the fiduciary by the department to abate an imminent or substantial endangerment;

(D) The fiduciary allows the department or potentially liable persons under an order, agreed order, or settlement agreement under this chapter access to the facility to conduct remedial actions and does not impede the conduct of such remedial actions;

(E) Any remedial actions conducted by the fiduciary are in compliance with any preexisting requirements identified by the department, or, if the department has not identified such requirements for the facility, the remedial actions are conducted consistent with the rules adopted under this chapter; and

(F) The fiduciary does not exacerbate an existing release.

The exemption in this subsection (22)(b)(iii) does not apply to fiduciaries who cause or contribute to a new release or threatened release or who are otherwise liable under RCW 70.105D.040(1) (b), (c), (d), and (e); provided however, that a fiduciary shall not lose this exemption if it establishes that any such new release has been remediated according to the requirements of this chapter and that any hazardous substances remaining at the facility after remediation of the new release are divisible from such new release. The exemption in this subsection (22)(b)(iii) also does not apply where the fiduciary's powers to comply with this subsection (22)(b)(iii) are limited by a governing instrument created with the objective purpose of avoiding liability under this chapter or of avoiding compliance with this chapter; or

(iv) Any person who has any ownership interest in, operates, or exercises control over real property where a hazardous substance has come to be located solely as a result of migration of the hazardous substance to the real property through the groundwater from a source off the property, if:

(A) The person can demonstrate that the hazardous substance has not been used, placed, managed, or otherwise handled on the property in a manner likely to cause or contribute to a release of the hazardous substance that has migrated onto the property;

(B) The person has not caused or contributed to the release of the hazardous substance;

(C) The person does not engage in activities that damage or interfere with the operation of remedial actions installed on the person's property or engage in activities that result in exposure of humans or the environment to the contaminated groundwater that has migrated onto the property;

(D) If requested, the person allows the department, potentially liable persons who are subject to an order, agreed order, or consent decree, and the authorized employees, agents, or contractors of each, access to the property to conduct remedial actions required by the department. The person may attempt to negotiate an access agreement before allowing access; and

(E) Legal withdrawal of groundwater does not disqualify a person from the exemption in this subsection (22)(b)(iv).

(23) "Participation in management" means exercising decision-making control over the borrower's operation of the facility, environmental compliance, or assuming or manifesting responsibility for the overall management of the enterprise encompassing the day-to-day decision making of the enterprise.

The term does not include any of the following: (a) A holder with the mere capacity or ability to influence, or the unexercised right to control facility operations; (b) a holder who conducts or requires a borrower to conduct an environmental audit or an environmental site assessment at the facility for which indicia of ownership is held; (c) a holder who requires a borrower to come into compliance with any applicable laws or regulations at the facility for which indicia of

ownership is held; (d) a holder who requires a borrower to conduct remedial actions including setting minimum requirements, but does not otherwise control or manage the borrower's remedial actions or the scope of the borrower's remedial actions except to prepare a facility for sale, transfer, or assignment; (e) a holder who engages in workout or policing activities primarily to protect the holder's security interest in the facility; (f) a holder who prepares a facility for sale, transfer, or assignment or requires a borrower to prepare a facility for sale, transfer, or assignment; (g) a holder who operates a facility primarily to protect a security interest, or requires a borrower to continue to operate, a facility primarily to protect a security interest; and (h) a prospective holder who, as a condition of becoming a holder, requires an owner or operator to conduct an environmental audit, conduct an environmental site assessment, come into compliance with any applicable laws or regulations, or conduct remedial actions prior to holding a security interest is not participating in the management of the facility.

(24) "Person" means an individual, firm, corporation, association, partnership, consortium, joint venture, commercial entity, state government agency, unit of local government, federal government agency, or Indian tribe.

(25) "Policing activities" means actions the holder takes to ensure that the borrower complies with the terms of the loan or security interest or actions the holder takes or requires the borrower to take to maintain the value of the security. Policing activities include: Requiring the borrower to conduct remedial actions at the facility during the term of the security interest; requiring the borrower to comply or come into compliance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental and other laws, regulations, and permits during the term of the security interest; securing or exercising authority to monitor or inspect the facility including on-site inspections, or to monitor or inspect the borrower's business or financial condition during the term of the security interest; or taking other actions necessary to adequately police the loan or security interest such as requiring a borrower to comply with any warranties, covenants, conditions, representations, or promises from the borrower.

(26) "Potentially liable person" means any person whom the department finds, based on credible evidence, to be liable under RCW 70.105D.040. The department shall give notice to any such person and allow an opportunity for comment before making the finding, unless an emergency requires otherwise.

(27) "Prepare a facility for sale, transfer, or assignment" means to secure access to the facility; perform routine maintenance on the facility; remove inventory, equipment, or structures; properly maintain environmental compliance measures already in place at the facility; conduct remedial actions to cleanup releases at the facility; or to perform other similar activities intended to preserve the value of the facility where the borrower has defaulted on the loan or otherwise breached the security agreement or after foreclosure and its equivalents and in anticipation of a pending sale, transfer, or assignment, primarily to protect the holder's security interest in the facility. A holder can prepare a facility for sale, transfer, or assignment for up to one year prior to foreclosure and its equivalents and still stay within the security interest exemption in subsection (22)(b)(ii) of this section.

(28) "Primarily to protect a security interest" means the indicia of ownership is held primarily for the purpose of securing payment or performance of an obligation. The term does not include indicia of ownership held primarily for investment purposes nor indicia of ownership held primarily for purposes other than as protection for a security interest. A holder may have other, secondary reasons, for maintaining indicia of ownership, but the primary reason must be for protection of a security interest. Holding indicia of ownership after foreclosure or its equivalents for longer than five years shall be considered to be holding the indicia of ownership for purposes other than primarily to protect a security interest. For facilities that have been acquired through foreclosure or its equivalents prior to July 23, 1995, this five-year period shall begin as of July 23, 1995.

(29) "Prospective purchaser" means a person who is not currently liable for remedial action at a facility and who proposes to purchase, redevelop, or reuse the facility.

(30) "Public notice" means, at a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made timely request of the department and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the newspaper of largest circulation in the city or county of the proposed action; and opportunity for interested persons to comment.

(31) "Redevelopment opportunity zone" means a geographic area designated under RCW 70.105D.150.

(32) "Release" means any intentional or unintentional entry of any hazardous substance into the environment, including but not limited to the abandonment or disposal of containers of hazardous substances.

(33) "Remedy" or "remedial action" means any action or expenditure consistent with the purposes of this chapter to identify, eliminate, or minimize any threat or potential threat posed by hazardous substances to human health or the environment including any investigative and monitoring activities with respect to any release or threatened release of a hazardous substance and any health assessments or health effects studies conducted in order to determine the risk or potential risk to human health.

(34) "Security interest" means an interest in a facility created or established for the purpose of securing a loan or other obligation. Security interests include deeds of trusts, sellers interest in a real estate contract, liens, legal, or equitable title to a facility acquired incident to foreclosure and its equivalents, and title pursuant to lease financing transactions. Security interests may also arise from transactions such as sale and leasebacks, conditional sales, installment sales, trust receipt transactions, certain assignments, factoring agreements, accounts receivable financing arrangements, easements, and consignments, if the transaction creates or establishes an interest in a facility for the purpose of securing a loan or other obligation.

(35) "Workout activities" means those actions by which a holder, at any time prior to foreclosure and its equivalents, seeks to prevent, cure, or mitigate a default by the borrower or obligor; or to preserve, or prevent the diminution of, the value of the security. Workout activities include: Restructuring or renegotiating the terms of the security interest; requiring payment of additional rent or interest; exercising forbearance; requiring or exercising rights pursuant to an assignment

of accounts or other amounts owed to an obligor; requiring or exercising rights pursuant to an escrow agreement pertaining to amounts owed to an obligor; providing specific or general financial or other advice, suggestions, counseling, or guidance; and exercising any right or remedy the holder is entitled to by law or under any warranties, covenants, conditions, representations, or promises from the borrower. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 2; 2007 c 104 § 18; 2005 c 191 § 1; 1998 c 6 § 1; 1997 c 406 § 2; 1995 c 70 § 1; 1994 c 254 § 2; 1989 c 2 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Findings—Intent—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** "The legislature finds that there are a large number of toxic waste sites that have been identified in the department of ecology's priority list as ready for immediate cleanup. The legislature further finds that addressing the cleanup of these toxic waste sites will provide needed jobs to citizens of Washington state. It is the intent of the legislature to prioritize the spending of revenues under chapter 70.105D RCW, the model toxics control act, on cleaning up the most toxic sites, while also providing jobs in communities around the state." [2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 1.]

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2013." [2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 20.]

**Application—Construction—2007 c 104:** See RCW 64.70.015.

### **70.105D.030 Department's powers and duties. (1)**

The department may exercise the following powers in addition to any other powers granted by law:

(a) Investigate, provide for investigating, or require potentially liable persons to investigate any releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, including but not limited to inspecting, sampling, or testing to determine the nature or extent of any release or threatened release. If there is a reasonable basis to believe that a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance may exist, the department's authorized employees, agents, or contractors may enter upon any property and conduct investigations. The department shall give reasonable notice before entering property unless an emergency prevents such notice. The department may by subpoena require the attendance or testimony of witnesses and the production of documents or other information that the department deems necessary;

(b) Conduct, provide for conducting, or require potentially liable persons to conduct remedial actions (including investigations under (a) of this subsection) to remedy releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances. In carrying out such powers, the department's authorized employees, agents, or contractors may enter upon property. The department shall give reasonable notice before entering property unless an emergency prevents such notice. In conducting, providing for, or requiring remedial action, the department shall give preference to permanent solutions to the maximum extent practicable and shall provide for or require adequate monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the remedial action;

(c) Indemnify contractors retained by the department for carrying out investigations and remedial actions, but not for any contractor's reckless or willful misconduct;

(d) Carry out all state programs authorized under the federal cleanup law and the federal resource, conservation, and recovery act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901 et seq., as amended;

(e) Classify substances as hazardous substances for purposes of RCW 70.105D.020 and classify substances and

products as hazardous substances for purposes of RCW 82.21.020(1);

(f) Issue orders or enter into consent decrees or agreed orders that include, or issue written opinions under (i) of this subsection that may be conditioned upon, environmental covenants where necessary to protect human health and the environment from a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance from a facility. Prior to establishing an environmental covenant under this subsection, the department shall consult with and seek comment from a city or county department with land use planning authority for real property subject to the environmental covenant;

(g) Enforce the application of permanent and effective institutional controls that are necessary for a remedial action to be protective of human health and the environment and the notification requirements established in RCW 70.105D.110, and impose penalties for violations of that section consistent with RCW 70.105D.050;

(h) Require holders to conduct remedial actions necessary to abate an imminent or substantial endangerment pursuant to RCW 70.105D.020(22)(b)(ii)(C);

(i) Provide informal advice and assistance to persons regarding the administrative and technical requirements of this chapter. This may include site-specific advice to persons who are conducting or otherwise interested in independent remedial actions. Any such advice or assistance shall be advisory only, and shall not be binding on the department. As a part of providing this advice and assistance for independent remedial actions, the department may prepare written opinions regarding whether the independent remedial actions or proposals for those actions meet the substantive requirements of this chapter or whether the department believes further remedial action is necessary at the facility. Nothing in this chapter may be construed to preclude the department from issuing a written opinion on whether further remedial action is necessary at any portion of the real property located within a facility, even if further remedial action is still necessary elsewhere at the same facility. Such a written opinion on a portion of a facility must also provide an opinion on the status of the facility as a whole. The department may collect, from persons requesting advice and assistance, the costs incurred by the department in providing such advice and assistance; however, the department shall, where appropriate, waive collection of costs in order to provide an appropriate level of technical assistance in support of public participation. The state, the department, and officers and employees of the state are immune from all liability, and no cause of action of any nature may arise from any act or omission in providing, or failing to provide, informal advice and assistance. The department must track the number of requests for reviews of planned or completed independent remedial actions and establish performance measures to track how quickly the department is able to respond to those requests. By November 1, 2015, the department must submit to the governor and the appropriate legislative fiscal and policy committees a report on achieving the performance measures and provide recommendations for improving performance, including staffing needs;

(j) In fulfilling the objectives of this chapter, the department shall allocate staffing and financial assistance in a manner that considers both the reduction of human and environ-

mental risks and the land reuse potential and planning for the facilities to be cleaned up. This does not preclude the department from allocating resources to a facility based solely on human or environmental risks;

(k) Establish model remedies for common categories of facilities, types of hazardous substances, types of media, or geographic areas to streamline and accelerate the selection of remedies for routine types of cleanups at facilities;

(i) When establishing a model remedy, the department shall:

(A) Identify the requirements for characterizing a facility to select a model remedy, the applicability of the model remedy for use at a facility, and monitoring requirements;

(B) Describe how the model remedy meets clean-up standards and the requirements for selecting a remedy established by the department under this chapter; and

(C) Provide public notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed model remedy and the conditions under which it may be used at a facility;

(ii) When developing model remedies, the department shall solicit and consider proposals from qualified persons. The proposals must, in addition to describing the model remedy, provide the information required under (k)(i)(A) and (B) of this subsection;

(iii) If a facility meets the requirements for use of a model remedy, an analysis of the feasibility of alternative remedies is not required under this chapter. For department-conducted and department-supervised remedial actions, the department must provide public notice and consider public comments on the proposed use of a model remedy at a facility. The department may waive collection of its costs for providing a written opinion under (i) of this subsection on a cleanup that qualifies for and appropriately uses a model remedy; and

(l) Take any other actions necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, including the power to adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW.

(2) The department shall immediately implement all provisions of this chapter to the maximum extent practicable, including investigative and remedial actions where appropriate. The department shall adopt, and thereafter enforce, rules under chapter 34.05 RCW to:

(a) Provide for public participation, including at least (i) public notice of the development of investigative plans or remedial plans for releases or threatened releases and (ii) concurrent public notice of all compliance orders, agreed orders, enforcement orders, or notices of violation;

(b) Establish a hazard ranking system for hazardous waste sites;

(c) Provide for requiring the reporting by an owner or operator of releases of hazardous substances to the environment that may be a threat to human health or the environment within ninety days of discovery, including such exemptions from reporting as the department deems appropriate, however this requirement shall not modify any existing requirements provided for under other laws;

(d) Establish reasonable deadlines not to exceed ninety days for initiating an investigation of a hazardous waste site after the department receives notice or otherwise receives information that the site may pose a threat to human health or

the environment and other reasonable deadlines for remedying releases or threatened releases at the site;

(e) Publish and periodically update minimum clean-up standards for remedial actions at least as stringent as the clean-up standards under section 121 of the federal cleanup law, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9621, and at least as stringent as all applicable state and federal laws, including health-based standards under state and federal law; and

(f) Apply industrial clean-up standards at industrial properties. Rules adopted under this subsection shall ensure that industrial properties cleaned up to industrial standards cannot be converted to nonindustrial uses without approval from the department. The department may require that a property cleaned up to industrial standards is cleaned up to a more stringent applicable standard as a condition of conversion to a nonindustrial use. Industrial clean-up standards may not be applied to industrial properties where hazardous substances remaining at the property after remedial action pose a threat to human health or the environment in adjacent nonindustrial areas.

(3) To achieve and protect the state's long-term ecological health, the department shall plan to clean up hazardous waste sites and prevent the creation of future hazards due to improper disposal of toxic wastes at a pace that matches the estimated cash resources in the state and local toxics control accounts and the environmental legacy stewardship account created in RCW 70.105D.170. Estimated cash resources must consider the annual cash flow requirements of major projects that receive appropriations expected to cross multiple biennia. To effectively monitor toxic accounts expenditures, the department shall develop a comprehensive ten-year financing report that identifies long-term remedial action project costs, tracks expenses, and projects future needs.

(4) By November 1, 2016, the department must submit to the governor and the appropriate legislative committees a report on the status of developing model remedies and their use under this chapter. The report must include: The number and types of model remedies identified by the department under subsection (1)(k) of this section; the number and types of model remedy proposals prepared by qualified private sector engineers, consultants, or contractors that were accepted or rejected under subsection (1)(k) of this section and the reasons for rejection; and the success of model remedies in accelerating the cleanup as measured by the number of jobs created by the cleanup, where this information is available to the department, acres of land restored, and the number and types of hazardous waste sites successfully remediated using model remedies.

(5) Before September 20th of each even-numbered year, the department shall:

(a) Develop a comprehensive ten-year financing report in coordination with all local governments with clean-up responsibilities that identifies the projected biennial hazardous waste site remedial action needs that are eligible for funding from the state and local toxics control account and the environmental legacy stewardship account;

(b) Work with local governments to develop working capital reserves to be incorporated in the ten-year financing report;

(c) Identify the projected remedial action needs for orphaned, abandoned, and other clean-up sites that are eligible for funding from the state toxics control account;

(d) Project the remedial action need, cost, revenue, and any recommended working capital reserve estimate to the next biennium's long-term remedial action needs from both the local and state toxics control account and the environmental legacy stewardship account, and submit this information to the appropriate standing fiscal and environmental committees of the senate and house of representatives. This submittal must also include a ranked list of such remedial action projects for both accounts. The submittal must also identify separate budget estimates for large, multiyear clean-up projects that exceed ten million dollars. The department shall prepare its ten-year capital budget plan that is submitted to the office of financial management to reflect the separate budget estimates for these large clean-up projects and include information on the anticipated private and public funding obligations for completion of the relevant projects.

(6) By December 1st of each odd-numbered year, the department must provide the legislature and the public a report of the department's activities supported by appropriations from the state and local toxics control accounts and the environmental legacy stewardship account. The report must be prepared and displayed in a manner that allows the legislature and the public to easily determine the statewide and local progress made in cleaning up hazardous waste sites under this chapter. The report must include, at a minimum:

(a) The name, location, hazardous waste ranking, and a short description of each site on the hazardous sites list, and the date the site was placed on the hazardous waste sites list; and

(b) For sites where there are state contracts, grants, loans, or direct investments by the state:

(i) The amount of money from the state and local toxics control accounts and the environmental legacy stewardship account used to conduct remedial actions at the site and the amount of that money recovered from potentially liable persons;

(ii) The actual or estimated start and end dates and the actual or estimated expenditures of funds authorized under this chapter for the following project phases:

(A) Emergency or interim actions, if needed;

(B) Remedial investigation;

(C) Feasibility study and selection of a remedy;

(D) Engineering design and construction of the selected remedy;

(E) Operation and maintenance or monitoring of the constructed remedy; and

(F) The final completion date.

(7) The department shall establish a program to identify potential hazardous waste sites and to encourage persons to provide information about hazardous waste sites.

(8) For all facilities where an environmental covenant has been required under subsection (1)(f) of this section, including all facilities where the department has required an environmental covenant under an order, agreed order, or consent decree, or as a condition of a written opinion issued under the authority of subsection (1)(i) of this section, the department shall periodically review the environmental covenant for effectiveness. Except as otherwise provided in (c)

of this subsection, the department shall conduct a review at least once every five years after an environmental covenant is recorded.

(a) The review shall consist of, at a minimum:

(i) A review of the title of the real property subject to the environmental covenant to determine whether the environmental covenant was properly recorded and, if applicable, amended or terminated;

(ii) A physical inspection of the real property subject to the environmental covenant to determine compliance with the environmental covenant, including whether any development or redevelopment of the real property has violated the terms of the environmental covenant; and

(iii) A review of the effectiveness of the environmental covenant in limiting or prohibiting activities that may interfere with the integrity of the remedial action or that may result in exposure to or migration of hazardous substances. This shall include a review of available monitoring data.

(b) If an environmental covenant has been amended or terminated without proper authority, or if the terms of an environmental covenant have been violated, or if the environmental covenant is no longer effective in limiting or prohibiting activities that may interfere with the integrity of the remedial action or that may result in exposure to or migration of hazardous substances, then the department shall take any and all appropriate actions necessary to ensure compliance with the environmental covenant and the policies and requirements of this chapter.

(c) For facilities where an environmental covenant required by the department under subsection (1)(f) of this section was required before July 1, 2007, the department shall:

(i) Enter all required information about the environmental covenant into the registry established under RCW 64.70.120 by June 30, 2008;

(ii) For those facilities where more than five years has elapsed since the environmental covenant was required and the department has yet to conduct a review, conduct an initial review according to the following schedule:

(A) By December 30, 2008, fifty facilities;

(B) By June 30, 2009, fifty additional facilities; and

(C) By June 30, 2010, the remainder of the facilities;

(iii) Once this initial review has been completed, conduct subsequent reviews at least once every five years. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 6; 2009 c 560 § 10. Prior: 2007 c 446 § 1; 2007 c 225 § 1; 2007 c 104 § 19; 2002 c 288 § 3; 2001 c 291 § 401; 1997 c 406 § 3; 1995 c 70 § 2; prior: 1994 c 257 § 11; 1994 c 254 § 3; 1989 c 2 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 70.105D.020.

**Intent—Effective date—Disposition of property and funds—Assignment/delegation of contractual rights or duties—2009 c 560:** See notes following RCW 18.06.080.

**Application—Construction—2007 c 104:** See RCW 64.70.015.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105D.040 Standard of liability—Settlement.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the following persons are liable with respect to a facility:

(a) The owner or operator of the facility;

(b) Any person who owned or operated the facility at the time of disposal or release of the hazardous substances;

(c) Any person who owned or possessed a hazardous substance and who by contract, agreement, or otherwise arranged for disposal or treatment of the hazardous substance at the facility, or arranged with a transporter for transport for disposal or treatment of the hazardous substances at the facility, or otherwise generated hazardous wastes disposed of or treated at the facility;

(d) Any person (i) who accepts or accepted any hazardous substance for transport to a disposal, treatment, or other facility selected by such person from which there is a release or a threatened release for which remedial action is required, unless such facility, at the time of disposal or treatment, could legally receive such substance; or (ii) who accepts a hazardous substance for transport to such a facility and has reasonable grounds to believe that such facility is not operated in accordance with chapter 70.105 RCW; and

(e) Any person who both sells a hazardous substance and is responsible for written instructions for its use if (i) the substance is used according to the instructions and (ii) the use constitutes a release for which remedial action is required at the facility.

(2) Each person who is liable under this section is strictly liable, jointly and severally, for all remedial action costs and for all natural resource damages resulting from the releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances. The attorney general, at the request of the department, is empowered to recover all costs and damages from persons liable therefor.

(3) The following persons are not liable under this section:

(a) Any person who can establish that the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance for which the person would be otherwise responsible was caused solely by:

(i) An act of God;

(ii) An act of war; or

(iii) An act or omission of a third party (including but not limited to a trespasser) other than (A) an employee or agent of the person asserting the defense, or (B) any person whose act or omission occurs in connection with a contractual relationship existing, directly or indirectly, with the person asserting this defense to liability. This defense only applies where the person asserting the defense has exercised the utmost care with respect to the hazardous substance, the foreseeable acts or omissions of the third party, and the foreseeable consequences of those acts or omissions;

(b) Any person who is an owner, past owner, or purchaser of a facility and who can establish by a preponderance of the evidence that at the time the facility was acquired by the person, the person had no knowledge or reason to know that any hazardous substance, the release or threatened release of which has resulted in or contributed to the need for the remedial action, was released or disposed of on, in, or at the facility. This subsection (3)(b) is limited as follows:

(i) To establish that a person had no reason to know, the person must have undertaken, at the time of acquisition, all appropriate inquiry into the previous ownership and uses of the property, consistent with good commercial or customary practice in an effort to minimize liability. Any court interpreting this subsection (3)(b) shall take into account any specialized knowledge or experience on the part of the person, the

relationship of the purchase price to the value of the property if uncontaminated, commonly known or reasonably ascertainable information about the property, the obviousness of the presence or likely presence of contamination at the property, and the ability to detect such contamination by appropriate inspection;

(ii) The defense contained in this subsection (3)(b) is not available to any person who had actual knowledge of the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance when the person owned the real property and who subsequently transferred ownership of the property without first disclosing such knowledge to the transferee;

(iii) The defense contained in this subsection (3)(b) is not available to any person who, by any act or omission, caused or contributed to the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at the facility;

(c) Any natural person who uses a hazardous substance lawfully and without negligence for any personal or domestic purpose in or near a dwelling or accessory structure when that person is: (i) A resident of the dwelling; (ii) a person who, without compensation, assists the resident in the use of the substance; or (iii) a person who is employed by the resident, but who is not an independent contractor;

(d) Any person who, for the purpose of growing food crops, applies pesticides or fertilizers without negligence and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

(4) There may be no settlement by the state with any person potentially liable under this chapter except in accordance with this section.

(a) The attorney general may agree to a settlement with any potentially liable person only if the department finds, after public notice and any required hearing, that the proposed settlement would lead to a more expeditious cleanup of hazardous substances in compliance with clean-up standards under RCW 70.105D.030(2)(e) and with any remedial orders issued by the department. Whenever practicable and in the public interest, the attorney general may expedite such a settlement with persons whose contribution is insignificant in amount and toxicity. A hearing shall be required only if at least ten persons request one or if the department determines a hearing is necessary.

(b) A settlement agreement under this section shall be entered as a consent decree issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(c) A settlement agreement may contain a covenant not to sue only of a scope commensurate with the settlement agreement in favor of any person with whom the attorney general has settled under this section. Any covenant not to sue shall contain a reopener clause which requires the court to amend the covenant not to sue if factors not known at the time of entry of the settlement agreement are discovered and present a previously unknown threat to human health or the environment.

(d) A party who has resolved its liability to the state under this section shall not be liable for claims for contribution regarding matters addressed in the settlement. The settlement does not discharge any of the other liable parties but it reduces the total potential liability of the others to the state by the amount of the settlement.

(e) If the state has entered into a consent decree with an owner or operator under this section, the state shall not

enforce this chapter against any owner or operator who is a successor in interest to the settling party unless under the terms of the consent decree the state could enforce against the settling party, if:

(i) The successor owner or operator is liable with respect to the facility solely due to that person's ownership interest or operator status acquired as a successor in interest to the owner or operator with whom the state has entered into a consent decree; and

(ii) The stay of enforcement under this subsection does not apply if the consent decree was based on circumstances unique to the settling party that do not exist with regard to the successor in interest, such as financial hardship. For consent decrees entered into before July 27, 1997, at the request of a settling party or a potential successor owner or operator, the attorney general shall issue a written opinion on whether a consent decree contains such unique circumstances. For all other consent decrees, such unique circumstances shall be specified in the consent decree.

(f) Any person who is not subject to enforcement by the state under (e) of this subsection is not liable for claims for contribution regarding matters addressed in the settlement.

(5)(a) In addition to the settlement authority provided under subsection (4) of this section, the attorney general may agree to a settlement with a prospective purchaser, provided that:

(i) The settlement will yield substantial new resources to facilitate cleanup;

(ii) The settlement will expedite remedial action at the facility consistent with the rules adopted under this chapter; and

(iii) Based on available information, the department determines that the redevelopment or reuse of the facility is not likely to contribute to the existing release or threatened release, interfere with remedial actions that may be needed at the facility, or increase health risks to persons at or in the vicinity of the facility.

(b) The legislature recognizes that the state does not have adequate resources to participate in all property transactions involving contaminated property. The primary purpose of this subsection (5) is to promote the cleanup and reuse of brownfield property. The attorney general and the department may give priority to settlements that will provide a substantial public benefit in addition to cleanup.

(c) A settlement entered under this subsection is governed by subsection (4) of this section.

(6) As an alternative to a settlement under subsection (5) of this section, the department may enter into an agreed order with a prospective purchaser of a property within a designated redevelopment opportunity zone. The agreed order is subject to the limitations in RCW 70.105D.020(1), but stays enforcement by the department under this chapter regarding remedial actions required by the agreed order as long as the prospective purchaser complies with the requirements of the agreed order.

(7) Nothing in this chapter affects or modifies in any way any person's right to seek or obtain relief under other statutes or under common law, including but not limited to damages for injury or loss resulting from a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance. No settlement by the department or remedial action ordered by a court or the

department affects any person's right to obtain a remedy under common law or other statutes. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 7; 1997 c 406 § 4; 1994 c 254 § 4; 1989 c 2 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 70.105D.020.

**70.105D.050 Enforcement.** (1) With respect to any release, or threatened release, for which the department does not conduct or contract for conducting remedial action and for which the department believes remedial action is in the public interest, the director shall issue orders or agreed orders requiring potentially liable persons to provide the remedial action. Any liable person, or prospective purchaser who has entered into an agreed order under RCW 70.105D.040(6), who refuses, without sufficient cause, to comply with an order or agreed order of the director is liable in an action brought by the attorney general for:

(a) Up to three times the amount of any costs incurred by the state as a result of the party's refusal to comply; and

(b) A civil penalty of up to twenty-five thousand dollars for each day the party refuses to comply.

The treble damages and civil penalty under this subsection apply to all recovery actions filed on or after March 1, 1989.

(2) Any person who incurs costs complying with an order issued under subsection (1) of this section may petition the department for reimbursement of those costs. If the department refuses to grant reimbursement, the person may within thirty days thereafter file suit and recover costs by proving that he or she was not a liable person under RCW 70.105D.040 and that the costs incurred were reasonable.

(3) The attorney general shall seek, by filing an action if necessary, to recover the amounts spent by the department for investigative and remedial actions and orders, and agreed orders, including amounts spent prior to March 1, 1989.

(4) The attorney general may bring an action to secure such relief as is necessary to protect human health and the environment under this chapter.

(5)(a) Any person may commence a civil action to compel the department to perform any nondiscretionary duty under this chapter. At least thirty days before commencing the action, the person must give notice of intent to sue, unless a substantial endangerment exists. The court may award attorneys' fees and other costs to the prevailing party in the action.

(b) Civil actions under this section and RCW 70.105D.060 may be brought in the superior court of Thurston county or of the county in which the release or threatened release exists.

(6) Any person who fails to provide notification of releases consistent with RCW 70.105D.110 or who submits false information is liable in an action brought by the attorney general for a civil penalty of up to five thousand dollars per day for each day the party refuses to comply.

(7) Any person who owns real property or lender holding a mortgage on real property that is subject to a lien filed under RCW 70.105D.055 may petition the department to have the lien removed or the amount of the lien reduced. If, after consideration of the petition and the information supporting the petition, the department decides to deny the request, the person may, within ninety days after receipt of the department's

denial, file suit for removal or reduction of the lien. The person is entitled to removal of a lien filed under RCW 70.105D.055(2)(a) if they can prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the person is not a liable party under RCW 70.105D.040. The person is entitled to a reduction of the amount of the lien if they can prove by a preponderance of the evidence:

(a) For liens filed under RCW 70.105D.055(2)(a), the amount of the lien exceeds the remedial action costs the department incurred related to cleanup of the real property; and

(b) For liens filed under RCW 70.105D.055(2)(c), the amount of the lien exceeds the remedial action costs the department incurred related to cleanup of the real property or exceeds the increase of the fair market value of the real property solely attributable to the remedial action conducted by the department.

(8) The expenditure of moneys under the state and local toxics control accounts created in RCW 70.105D.170 and the environmental legacy stewardship account created in RCW 70.105D.170 does not alter the liability of any person under this chapter, or the authority of the department under this chapter, including the authority to recover those moneys. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 8; 2005 c 211 § 2; 2002 c 288 § 4; 1994 c 257 § 12; 1989 c 2 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 70.105D.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105D.055 Lien authority.** (1) It is in the public interest for the department to recover remedial action costs incurred in discharging its responsibility under this chapter, as these recovered funds can then be applied to the cleanup of other facilities. Thus, in addition to other cost-recovery mechanisms provided under this chapter, this section is intended to facilitate the recovery of state funds spent on remedial actions by providing the department with lien authority. This will also prevent a facility owner or mortgagee from gaining a financial windfall from increased land value resulting from department-conducted remedial actions at the expense of the state taxpayers.

(2) If the state of Washington incurs remedial action costs relating to a remedial action of real property, and those remedial action costs are unrecovered by the state of Washington, the department may file a lien against that real property.

(a) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, liens filed under this section shall have priority in rank over all other privileges, liens, monetary encumbrances, or other security interests affecting the real property, whenever incurred, filed, or recorded, except for the following liens:

(i) Local and special district property tax assessments; and

(ii) Mortgage liens recorded before liens or notices of intent to conduct remedial actions are recorded under this section.

(b) Liens filed pursuant to (a) and (c) of this subsection shall not exceed the remedial action costs incurred by the state.

(c)(i) If the real property for which the department has incurred remedial action costs is abandoned, the department may choose to limit the amount of the lien to the increase in the fair market value of the real property that is attributable to a remedial action conducted by the department. The increase in fair market value shall be determined by subtracting the county assessor's value of the real property for the most recent year prior to remedial action being initiated from the value of the real property after remedial action. The value of the real property after remedial action shall be determined by the bona fide purchase price of the real property or by a real estate appraiser retained by the department. Liens limited in this way have priority in rank over all other privileges, liens, monetary encumbrances, or other security interests affecting the real property, whenever incurred, filed, or recorded.

(ii) For the purposes of this subsection, "abandoned" means there has not been significant business activity on the real property for three years or property taxes owed on the real property are three years in arrears prior to the department incurring costs attributable to this lien.

(d) The department shall, when notifying potentially liable persons of their potential liability under RCW 70.105D.040, include a notice stating that if the department incurs remedial action costs relating to the remediation of real property and the costs are not recovered by the department, the department may file a lien against that real property under this section.

(e) Except for emergency remedial actions, the department must provide notice to the following persons before initiating remedial actions conducted by persons under contract to the department on real property on which a lien may be filed under this section:

(i) The real property owner;

(ii) Mortgagees;

(iii) Lienholders of record;

(iv) Persons known to the department to be conducting remedial actions at the facility at the time of such notice; and

(v) Persons known to the department to be under contract to conduct remedial actions at the facility at the time of such notice.

For emergency remedial actions, this notice shall be provided within thirty days after initiation of the emergency remedial actions.

(f) The department may record a copy of the notice in (e) of this subsection, along with a legal description of the property on which the remedial action will take place, with the county auditor in the county where the real property is located. If the department subsequently files a lien, the effective date of the lien will be the date this notice was recorded.

(3) Before filing a lien under this section, the department shall give the owner of real property on which the lien is to be filed and mortgagees and lienholders of record a notice of its intent to file a lien:

(a) The notice required under this subsection (3) must be sent by certified mail to the real property owner and mortgagees of record at the addresses listed in the recorded documents. If the real property owner is unknown or if a mailed notice is returned as undeliverable, the department shall provide notice by posting a legal notice in the newspaper of largest circulation in the county [in which] the site is located. The notice shall provide:

- (i) A statement of the purpose of the lien;
  - (ii) A brief description of the real property to be affected by the lien;
  - (iii) A statement of the remedial action costs incurred by the state related to the real property affected by the lien;
  - (iv) A brief statement of facts showing probable cause that the real property is the subject of the remedial action costs incurred by the department; and
  - (v) The time period following service or other notice during which any recipient of the notice whose legal rights may be affected by the lien may comment on the notice.
- (b) Any comments on the notice must be received by the department on or before thirty days following service or other provision of the notice of intent to file a lien.
- (c) If no comments are received by the department, the lien may be filed on the real property immediately.
- (d) If the department receives any comments on the lien, the department shall determine if there is probable cause for filing the certificate of lien. If the department determines there is probable cause, the department may file the lien. Any further challenge to the lien may only occur at the times specified under RCW 70.105D.060.
- (e) If the department has reason to believe that exigent circumstances require the filing of a lien prior to giving notice under this subsection (3), or prior to the expiration of the time period for comments, the department may file the lien immediately. For the purposes of this subsection (3), exigent circumstances include, but are not limited to, an imminent bankruptcy filing by the real property owner, or the imminent transfer or sale of the real property subject to lien by the real property owner, or both.
- (4) A lien filed under this section is effective when a statement of lien is filed with the county auditor in the county where the real property is located. The statement of lien must include a description of the real property subject to lien and the amount of the lien.
- (5) Unless the department determines it is in the public interest to remove the lien, the lien continues until the liability for the remedial action costs have been satisfied through sale of the real property, foreclosure, or other means agreed to by the department. Any action for foreclosure of the lien shall be brought by the attorney general in a civil action in the court having jurisdiction and in the manner prescribed for the judicial foreclosure of a mortgage.
- (6)(a) This section does not apply to real property owned by a local government or special purpose district or real property used solely for residential purposes and consisting of four residential units or less at the time the lien is recorded. This limitation does not apply to illegal drug manufacturing and storage sites under chapter 64.44 RCW.
- (b) If the real property owner has consented to the department filing a lien on the real property, then only subsection (3)(a)(i) through (iii) of this section requiring notice to mortgagees and lienholders of record apply. [2005 c 211 § 1.]

**70.105D.060 Timing of review.** The department's investigative and remedial decisions under RCW 70.105D.030 and 70.105D.050, its decisions regarding filing a lien under RCW 70.105D.055, and its decisions regarding liable persons under RCW 70.105D.020, 70.105D.040,

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70.105D.050, and 70.105D.055 shall be reviewable exclusively in superior court and only at the following times: (1) In a cost recovery suit under RCW 70.105D.050(3); (2) in a suit by the department to enforce an order or an agreed order, or seek a civil penalty under this chapter; (3) in a suit for reimbursement under RCW 70.105D.050(2); (4) in a suit by the department to compel investigative or remedial action; (5) in a citizen's suit under RCW 70.105D.050(5); and (6) in a suit for removal or reduction of a lien under RCW 70.105D.050(7). Except in suits for reduction or removal of a lien under RCW 70.105D.050(7), the court shall uphold the department's actions unless they were arbitrary and capricious. In suits for reduction or removal of a lien under RCW 70.105D.050(7), the court shall review such suits pursuant to the standards set forth in RCW 70.105D.050(7). [2007 c 104 § 20; 2005 c 211 § 3; 1994 c 257 § 13; 1989 c 2 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**Application—Construction—2007 c 104:** See RCW 64.70.015.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105D.070 Toxics control accounts.** (1) The state toxics control account and the local toxics control account are hereby created in the state treasury.

(2)(a) Moneys collected under RCW 82.21.030 must be deposited as follows: Fifty-six percent to the state toxics control account under subsection (3) of this section and forty-four percent to the local toxics control account under subsection (4) of this section. When the cumulative amount of deposits made to the state and local toxics control accounts under this section reaches the limit during a fiscal year as established in (b) of this subsection, the remainder of the moneys collected under RCW 82.21.030 during that fiscal year must be deposited into the environmental legacy stewardship account created in RCW 70.105D.170.

(b) The limit on distributions of moneys collected under RCW 82.21.030 to the state and local toxics control accounts for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, is one hundred forty million dollars.

(c) In addition to the funds required under (a) of this subsection, the following moneys must be deposited into the state toxics control account: (i) The costs of remedial actions recovered under this chapter or chapter 70.105A RCW; (ii) penalties collected or recovered under this chapter; and (iii) any other money appropriated or transferred to the account by the legislature.

(3) Moneys in the state toxics control account must be used only to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including but not limited to the following activities:

(a) The state's responsibility for hazardous waste planning, management, regulation, enforcement, technical assistance, and public education required under chapter 70.105 RCW;

(b) The state's responsibility for solid waste planning, management, regulation, enforcement, technical assistance, and public education required under chapter 70.95 RCW;

(c) The hazardous waste clean-up program required under this chapter;

(d) State matching funds required under federal cleanup law;

(e) Financial assistance for local programs in accordance with chapters 70.95, 70.95C, 70.95I, and 70.105 RCW;

(f) State government programs for the safe reduction, recycling, or disposal of paint and hazardous wastes from households, small businesses, and agriculture;

(g) Oil and hazardous materials spill prevention, preparedness, training, and response activities;

(h) Water and environmental health protection and monitoring programs;

(i) Programs authorized under chapter 70.146 RCW;

(j) A public participation program;

(k) Public funding to assist potentially liable persons to pay for the costs of remedial action in compliance with clean-up standards under RCW 70.105D.030(2)(e) but only when the amount and terms of such funding are established under a settlement agreement under RCW 70.105D.040(4) and when the director has found that the funding will achieve both: (i) A substantially more expeditious or enhanced cleanup than would otherwise occur; and (ii) the prevention or mitigation of unfair economic hardship;

(l) Development and demonstration of alternative management technologies designed to carry out the hazardous waste management priorities of RCW 70.105.150;

(m) State agriculture and health programs for the safe use, reduction, recycling, or disposal of pesticides;

(n) Storm water pollution control projects and activities that protect or preserve existing remedial actions or prevent hazardous clean-up sites;

(o) Funding requirements to maintain receipt of federal funds under the federal solid waste disposal act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901 et seq.);

(p) Air quality programs and actions for reducing public exposure to toxic air pollution;

(q) Public funding to assist prospective purchasers to pay for the costs of remedial action in compliance with clean-up standards under RCW 70.105D.030(2)(e) if:

(i) The facility is located within a redevelopment opportunity zone designated under RCW 70.105D.150;

(ii) The amount and terms of the funding are established under a settlement agreement under RCW 70.105D.040(5); and

(iii) The director has found the funding meets any additional criteria established in rule by the department, will achieve a substantially more expeditious or enhanced cleanup than would otherwise occur, and will provide a public benefit in addition to cleanup commensurate with the scope of the public funding;

(r) Petroleum-based plastic or expanded polystyrene foam debris cleanup activities in fresh or marine waters;

(s) Appropriations to the local toxics control account or the environmental legacy stewardship account created in RCW 70.105D.170, if the legislature determines that priorities for spending exceed available funds in those accounts;

(t) During the 2013-2015 and 2015-2017 fiscal biennia, the department of ecology's water quality, shorelands, environmental assessment, administration, and air quality programs;

(u) During the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, actions at the state conservation commission to improve water quality for shellfish;

(v) During the 2013-2015 and 2015-2017 fiscal biennia, actions at the University of Washington for reducing ocean acidification;

(w) During the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium, for the University of Washington Tacoma soil remediation project;

(x) For the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, moneys in the state toxics control account may be spent on projects in section 3160, chapter 19, Laws of 2013 2nd sp. sess. and for transfer to the local toxics control account;

(y) For the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, moneys in the state toxics control account may be transferred to the radioactive mixed waste account; and

(z) For the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium, forest practices regulation at the department of natural resources.

(4)(a) The department shall use moneys deposited in the local toxics control account for grants or loans to local governments for the following purposes in descending order of priority:

(i) Extended grant agreements entered into under (e)(i) of this subsection;

(ii) Remedial actions, including planning for adaptive reuse of properties as provided for under (e)(iv) of this subsection. The department must prioritize funding of remedial actions at:

(A) Facilities on the department's hazardous sites list with a high hazard ranking for which there is an approved remedial action work plan or an equivalent document under federal cleanup law;

(B) Brownfield properties within a redevelopment opportunity zone if the local government is a prospective purchaser of the property and there is a department-approved remedial action work plan or equivalent document under the federal cleanup law;

(iii) Storm water pollution source projects that: (A) Work in conjunction with a remedial action; (B) protect completed remedial actions against recontamination; or (C) prevent hazardous clean-up sites;

(iv) Hazardous waste plans and programs under chapter 70.105 RCW;

(v) Solid waste plans and programs under chapters 70.95, 70.95C, 70.95I, and 70.105 RCW;

(vi) Petroleum-based plastic or expanded polystyrene foam debris cleanup activities in fresh or marine waters; and

(vii) Appropriations to the state toxics control account or the environmental legacy stewardship account created in RCW 70.105D.170, if the legislature determines that priorities for spending exceed available funds in those accounts.

(b) Funds for plans and programs must be allocated consistent with the priorities and matching requirements established in chapters 70.105, 70.95C, 70.95I, and 70.95 RCW.

(c) During the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the local toxics control account may also be used for local government storm water planning and implementation activities.

(d) During the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the local toxics control account to the state general fund, such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance in the account.

(e) To expedite cleanups throughout the state, the department may use the following strategies when providing grants to local governments under this subsection:

(i) Enter into an extended grant agreement with a local government conducting remedial actions at a facility where those actions extend over multiple biennia and the total eligi-

ble cost of those actions exceeds twenty million dollars. The agreement is subject to the following limitations:

(A) The initial duration of such an agreement may not exceed ten years. The department may extend the duration of such an agreement upon finding substantial progress has been made on remedial actions at the facility;

(B) Extended grant agreements may not exceed fifty percent of the total eligible remedial action costs at the facility; and

(C) The department may not allocate future funding to an extended grant agreement unless the local government has demonstrated to the department that funds awarded under the agreement during the previous biennium have been substantially expended or contracts have been entered into to substantially expend the funds;

(ii) Enter into a grant agreement with a local government conducting a remedial action that provides for periodic reimbursement of remedial action costs as they are incurred as established in the agreement;

(iii) Enter into a grant agreement with a local government prior to it acquiring a property or obtaining necessary access to conduct remedial actions, provided the agreement is conditioned upon the local government acquiring the property or obtaining the access in accordance with a schedule specified in the agreement;

(iv) Provide integrated planning grants to local governments to fund studies necessary to facilitate remedial actions at brownfield properties and adaptive reuse of properties following remediation. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to: Environmental site assessments; remedial investigations; health assessments; feasibility studies; site planning; community involvement; land use and regulatory analyses; building and infrastructure assessments; economic and fiscal analyses; and any environmental analyses under chapter 43.21C RCW;

(v) Provide grants to local governments for remedial actions related to area-wide groundwater contamination. To receive the funding, the local government does not need to be a potentially liable person or be required to seek reimbursement of grant funds from a potentially liable person;

(vi) The director may alter grant matching requirements to create incentives for local governments to expedite clean-ups when one of the following conditions exists:

(A) Funding would prevent or mitigate unfair economic hardship imposed by the clean-up liability;

(B) Funding would create new substantial economic development, public recreational opportunities, or habitat restoration opportunities that would not otherwise occur; or

(C) Funding would create an opportunity for acquisition and redevelopment of brownfield property under RCW 70.105D.040(5) that would not otherwise occur;

(vii) When pending grant applications under (e)(iv) and (v) of this subsection (4) exceed the amount of funds available, designated redevelopment opportunity zones must receive priority for distribution of available funds.

(f) To expedite multiparty clean-up efforts, the department may purchase remedial action cost-cap insurance. For the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, moneys in the local toxics control account may be spent on projects in sections 3024, 3035, 3036, and 3059, chapter 19, Laws of 2013 2nd sp. sess.

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(5) Except for unanticipated receipts under RCW 43.79.260 through 43.79.282, moneys in the state and local toxics control accounts may be spent only after appropriation by statute.

(6) No moneys deposited into either the state or local toxics control account may be used for: Natural disasters where there is no hazardous substance contamination; high performance buildings; solid waste incinerator facility feasibility studies, construction, maintenance, or operation; or after January 1, 2010, for projects designed to address the restoration of Puget Sound, funded in a competitive grant process, that are in conflict with the action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310. However, this subsection does not prevent an appropriation from the state toxics control account to the department of revenue to enforce compliance with the hazardous substance tax imposed in chapter 82.21 RCW.

(7) Except during the 2011-2013 and the 2015-2017 fiscal biennia, one percent of the moneys collected under RCW 82.21.030 shall be allocated only for public participation grants to persons who may be adversely affected by a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance and to not-for-profit public interest organizations. The primary purpose of these grants is to facilitate the participation by persons and organizations in the investigation and remedying of releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances and to implement the state's solid and hazardous waste management priorities. No grant may exceed sixty thousand dollars. Grants may be renewed annually. Moneys appropriated for public participation that are not expended at the close of any biennium revert to the state toxics control account.

(8) The department shall adopt rules for grant or loan issuance and performance. To accelerate both remedial action and economic recovery, the department may expedite the adoption of rules necessary to implement chapter 1, Laws of 2013 2nd sp. sess. using the expedited procedures in RCW 34.05.353. The department shall initiate the award of financial assistance by August 1, 2013. To ensure the adoption of rules will not delay financial assistance, the department may administer the award of financial assistance through interpretive guidance pending the adoption of rules through July 1, 2014.

(9) Except as provided under subsection (3)(k) and (q) of this section, nothing in chapter 1, Laws of 2013 2nd sp. sess. affects the ability of a potentially liable person to receive public funding.

(10) During the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium the local toxics control account may also be used for the centennial clean water program and for the storm water financial assistance program administered by the department of ecology. [2016 1st sp.s. c 36 § 943. Prior: 2015 3rd sp.s. c 4 § 969; 2015 3rd sp.s. c 3 § 7035; prior: 2013 2nd sp.s. c 19 § 7033; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 992; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 9; 2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 920; 2012 2nd sp.s. c 2 § 6005; prior: 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 964; 2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 942; 2009 c 564 § 951; 2009 c 187 § 5; prior: 2008 c 329 § 921; 2008 c 329 § 920; 2008 c 329 § 919; 2008 c 328 § 6009; prior: 2007 c 522 § 954; 2007 c 520 § 6033; 2007 c 446 § 2; 2007 c 341 § 30; 2005 c 488 § 926; 2003 1st sp.s. c 25 § 933; 2001 c 27 § 2; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 912; 1999 c 309 § 923; prior: 1998 c 346 § 905; 1998 c 81 § 2; 1997 c 406 § 5; 1994 c 252 § 5; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 69; 1989

c 2 § 7 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**Effective date—2016 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 18.20.430.

**Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 28B.15.069.

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 43.160.080.

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 43.34.080.

**Effective dates—2013 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 70.105D.020.

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 43.155.050.

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Effective date—2009 c 564:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Severability—Effective date—2008 c 329:** See notes following RCW 28B.105.110.

**Part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2008 c 328:** See notes following RCW 43.155.050.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 522:** See notes following RCW 15.64.050.

**Part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2007 c 520:** See notes following RCW 43.19.125.

**Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.907.

**Finding—2001 c 27:** "The legislature finds that there is an increasing number of derelict vessels that have been abandoned in the waters along the shorelines of the state. These vessels pose hazards to navigation and threaten the environment with the potential release of hazardous materials. There is no current federal program that comprehensively addresses this problem, and the legislature recognizes that the state must assist in providing a solution to this increasing hazard." [2001 c 27 § 1.]

**Finding—Effective date—1994 c 252:** See notes following RCW 70.119A.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105D.080 Private right of action—Remedial action costs.** Except as provided in RCW 70.105D.040(4) (d) and (f), a person may bring a private right of action, including a claim for contribution or for declaratory relief, against any other person liable under RCW 70.105D.040 for the recovery of remedial action costs. In the action, natural resource damages paid to the state under this chapter may also be recovered. Recovery shall be based on such equitable factors as the court determines are appropriate. Remedial action costs shall include reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses. Recovery of remedial action costs shall be limited to those remedial actions that, when evaluated as a whole, are the substantial equivalent of a department-conducted or department-supervised remedial action. Substantial equivalence shall be determined by the court with reference to the rules adopted by the department under this chapter. An action under this section may be brought after remedial action costs are incurred but must be brought within three years from the date remedial action confirms cleanup standards are met or within one year of May 12, 1993, whichever is later. The prevailing party in such an action shall recover its reasonable

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attorneys' fees and costs. This section applies to all causes of action regardless of when the cause of action may have arisen. To the extent a cause of action has arisen prior to May 12, 1993, this section applies retroactively, but in all other respects it applies prospectively. [1997 c 406 § 6; 1993 c 326 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105D.090 Remedial actions—Exemption from procedural requirements.** (1) A person conducting a remedial action at a facility under a consent decree, order, or agreed order, and the department when it conducts a remedial action, are exempt from the procedural requirements of chapters 70.94, 70.95, 70.105, 77.55, 90.48, and 90.58 RCW, and the procedural requirements of any laws requiring or authorizing local government permits or approvals for the remedial action. The department shall ensure compliance with the substantive provisions of chapters 70.94, 70.95, 70.105, 77.55, 90.48, and 90.58 RCW, and the substantive provisions of any laws requiring or authorizing local government permits or approvals. The department shall establish procedures for ensuring that such remedial actions comply with the substantive requirements adopted pursuant to such laws, and shall consult with the state agencies and local governments charged with implementing these laws. The procedures shall provide an opportunity for comment by the public and by the state agencies and local governments that would otherwise implement the laws referenced in this section. Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit implementing agencies from charging a fee to the person conducting the remedial action to defray the costs of services rendered relating to the substantive requirements for the remedial action.

(2) An exemption in this section or in RCW 70.94.335, 70.95.270, 70.105.116, \*77.55.030, 90.48.039, and 90.58.355 shall not apply if the department determines that the exemption would result in loss of approval from a federal agency necessary for the state to administer any federal law, including the federal resource conservation and recovery act, the federal clean water act, the federal clean air act, and the federal coastal zone management act. Such a determination by the department shall not affect the applicability of the exemptions to other statutes specified in this section. [2003 c 39 § 30; 1994 c 257 § 14.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 77.55.030 was recodified as RCW 77.55.061 pursuant to 2005 c 146 § 1001.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105D.100 Grants to local governments—State-ment of environmental benefits—Development of outcome-focused performance measures.** In providing grants to local governments, the department shall require grant recipients to incorporate the environmental benefits of the project into their grant applications, and the department shall utilize the statement of environmental benefit[s] in its prioritization and selection process. The department shall also develop appropriate outcome-focused performance measures to be used both for management and performance assessment of the grant program. To the extent possible, the department should coordinate its performance measure system with other natural resource-related agencies as defined in RCW

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43.41.270. The department shall consult with affected interest groups in implementing this section. [2001 c 227 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—2001 c 227:** See note following RCW 43.41.270.

**70.105D.110 Releases of hazardous substances—Notice—Exemptions.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, any owner or operator of a facility that is actively transitioning from operating under a federal permit for treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste issued under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 6925 to operating under the provisions of this chapter, who has information that a hazardous substance has been released to the environment at the owner or operator's facility that may be a threat to human health or the environment, shall issue a notice to the department within ninety days. The notice shall include a description of any remedial actions planned, completed, or underway.

(2) The notice must be posted in a visible, publicly accessible location on the facility, to remain in place until all remedial actions except confirmational monitoring are complete.

(3) After receiving the notice from the facility, the department must review the notice and mail a summary of its contents, along with any additional information deemed appropriate by the department, to:

(a) Each residence and landowner of a residence whose property boundary is within three hundred feet of the boundary of the property where the release occurred or if the release occurred from a pipeline or other facility that does not have a property boundary, within three hundred feet of the actual release;

(b) Each business and landowner of a business whose property boundary is within three hundred feet of the boundary of the property where the release occurred;

(c) Each residence, landowner of a residence, and business with a property boundary within the area where hazardous substances have come to be located as a result of the release;

(d) Neighborhood associations and community organizations representing an area within one mile of the facility and recognized by the city or county with jurisdiction within this area;

(e) The city, county, and local health district with jurisdiction within the areas described in (a), (b), and (c) of this subsection; and

(f) The department of health.

(4) A notice produced by a facility shall provide the following information:

(a) The common name of any hazardous substances released and, if available, the chemical abstract service registry number of these substances;

(b) The address of the facility where the release occurred;

(c) The date the release was discovered;

(d) The cause and date of the release, if known;

(e) The remedial actions being taken or planned to address the release;

(f) The potential health and environmental effects of the hazardous substances released; and

(g) The name, address, and telephone number of a contact person at the facility where the release occurred.

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(5) The following releases are exempt from the notification requirements in this section:

(a) Application of pesticides and fertilizers for their intended purposes and according to label instructions;

(b) The lawful and nonnegligent use of hazardous household substances by a natural person for personal or domestic purposes;

(c) The discharge of hazardous substances in compliance with permits issued under chapter 70.94, 90.48, or 90.56 RCW;

(d) De minimis amounts of any hazardous substance leaked or discharged onto the ground;

(e) The discharge of hazardous substances to a permitted waste water treatment facility or from a permitted waste water collection system or treatment facility as allowed by a facility's discharge permit;

(f) Any releases originating from a single-family or multifamily residence, including but not limited to the discharge of oil from a residential home heating oil tank with the capacity of five hundred gallons or less;

(g) Any spill on a public road, street, or highway or to surface waters of the state that has previously been reported to the United States coast guard and the state division of emergency management under chapter 90.56 RCW;

(h) Any release of hazardous substances to the air;

(i) Any release that occurs on agricultural land, including land used to grow trees for the commercial production of wood or wood fiber, that is at least five acres in size, when the effects of the release do not come within three hundred feet of any property boundary. For the purposes of this subsection, agricultural land includes incidental uses that are compatible with agricultural or silvicultural purposes, including, but not limited to, land used for the housing of the owner, operator, or employees, structures used for the storage or repair of equipment, machinery, and chemicals, and any paths or roads on the land; and

(j) Releases that, before January 1, 2003, have been previously reported to the department, or remediated in compliance with a settlement agreement under RCW 70.105D.040(4) or enforcement order or agreed order issued under this chapter or have been the subject of an opinion from the department under RCW 70.105D.030(1)(i) that no further remedial action is required.

An exemption from the notification requirements of this section does not exempt the owner or operator of a facility from any other notification or reporting requirements, or imply a release from liability under this chapter.

(6) If a significant segment of the community to be notified speaks a language other than English, an appropriate translation of the notice must also be posted and mailed to the department in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(7) The facility where the release occurred is responsible for reimbursing the department within thirty days for the actual costs associated with the production and mailing of the notices under this section. [2002 c 288 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.105D.120 Puget Sound partners.** When administering funds under this chapter, the department shall give preference only to Puget Sound partners, as defined in RCW

90.71.010, in comparison to other entities that are eligible to be included in the definition of Puget Sound partner. Entities that are not eligible to be a Puget Sound partner due to geographic location, composition, exclusion from the scope of the Puget Sound action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310, or for any other reason, shall not be given less preferential treatment than Puget Sound partners. [2007 c 341 § 31.]

**Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.907.

**70.105D.130 Cleanup settlement account—Reporting requirements.** (1) The cleanup settlement account is created in the state treasury. The account is not intended to replace the state toxics control account established under RCW 70.105D.070. All receipts from the sources identified in subsection (2) of this section must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only as identified in subsection (4) of this section.

(2) The following receipts must be deposited into the cleanup settlement account:

(a) Receipts from settlements or court orders that direct payment to the account and resolve a person's liability or potential liability under this chapter for either or both of the following:

(i) Conducting future remedial action at a specific facility, if it is not feasible to require the person to conduct the remedial action based on the person's financial insolvency, limited ability to pay, or insignificant contribution under RCW 70.105D.040(4)(a);

(ii) Assessing or addressing the injury to natural resources caused by the release of a hazardous substance from a specific facility; and

(b) Receipts from investment of the moneys in the account.

(3) If a settlement or court order does not direct payment of receipts described in subsection (2)(a) of this section into the cleanup settlement account, then the receipts from any payment to the state must be deposited into the state toxics control account.

(4) Expenditures from the cleanup settlement account may only be used to conduct remedial actions at the specific facility or to assess or address the injury to natural resources caused by the release of hazardous substances from that facility for which the moneys were deposited in the account. Conducting remedial actions or assessing or addressing injury to natural resources includes direct expenditures and indirect expenditures such as department oversight costs. During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer excess fund balances in the account into the state efficiency and restructuring account. Transfers of excess fund balances made under this section shall be made only to the extent amounts transferred with required repayments do not impair the ten-year spending plan administered by the department of ecology for environmental remedial actions dedicated for any designated clean-up site associated with the Everett smelter and Tacoma smelter, including plumes, or former Asarco mine sites. The cleanup settlement account must be repaid with interest under provisions of the state efficiency and restructuring account.

(5) The department shall track moneys received, interest earned, and moneys expended separately for each facility.

(6) After the department determines that all remedial actions at a specific facility, and all actions assessing or addressing injury to natural resources caused by the release of hazardous substances from that facility, are completed, including payment of all related costs, any moneys remaining for the specific facility must be transferred to the state toxics control account established under RCW 70.105D.070.

(7) The department shall provide the office of financial management and the fiscal committees of the legislature with a report by October 31st of each year regarding the activity within the cleanup settlement account during the previous fiscal year. [2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 947; 2008 c 106 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**70.105D.140 Brownfield redevelopment trust fund account—Created—Report to the office of financial management and the legislature—Rules.** (1) The brownfield redevelopment trust fund account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from the sources identified in subsection (2) of this section must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only as identified in subsection (4) of this section.

(2) The following receipts must be deposited into the brownfield redevelopment trust fund account:

(a) Moneys appropriated by the legislature to the account for a specific redevelopment opportunity zone established under RCW 70.105D.150 or a specific brownfield renewal authority established under RCW 70.105D.160;

(b) Moneys voluntarily deposited in the account for a specific redevelopment opportunity zone or a specific brownfield renewal authority; and

(c) Receipts from settlements or court orders that direct payment to the account for a specific redevelopment opportunity zone to resolve a person's liability or potential liability under this chapter.

(3) If a settlement or court order does not direct payment of receipts described in subsection (2)(c) of this section into the brownfield redevelopment trust fund account, then the receipts from any payment to the state must be deposited into the state toxics control account established under RCW 70.105D.070.

(4) Expenditures from the brownfield redevelopment trust fund account may only be used for the purposes of remediation and cleanup at the specific redevelopment opportunity zone or specific brownfield renewal authority for which the moneys were deposited in the account.

(5) The department shall track moneys received, interest earned, and moneys expended separately for each facility.

(6) The account must retain its interest earnings in accordance with RCW 43.84.092.

(7) The local government designating the redevelopment opportunity zone under RCW 70.105D.150 or the associated brownfield renewal authority created under RCW 70.105D.160 must be the beneficiary of the deposited moneys.

(8) All expenditures must be used to conduct remediation and cleanup consistent with a plan for the remediation

and cleanup of the properties or facilities approved by the department under this chapter. All expenditures must meet the eligibility requirements for the use by local governments under the rules for remedial action grants adopted by the department under this chapter, including requirements for the expenditure of nonstate match funding.

(9) Beginning October 31, 2015, the department must provide a biennial report to the office of financial management and the legislature regarding the activity for each specific redevelopment opportunity zone or specific brownfield renewal authority for which specific legislative appropriation was provided in the previous two fiscal years.

(10) After the department determines that all remedial actions within the redevelopment opportunity zone identified in the plan approved under subsection (8) of this section are completed, including payment of all cost reasonably attributable to the remedial actions and cleanup, any remaining moneys must be transferred to the state toxics control account established under RCW 70.105D.070.

(11) If the department determines that substantial progress has not been made on the plan approved under subsection (8) of this section for a redevelopment opportunity zone or specific brownfield renewal authority for which moneys were deposited in the account within six years, or that the brownfield renewal authority is no longer a viable entity, then all remaining moneys must be transferred to the state toxics control account established under RCW 70.105D.070.

(12) The department is authorized to adopt rules to implement this section. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 70.105D.020.

**70.105D.150 Designation of a redevelopment opportunity zone—Criteria.** (1) A city or county may designate a geographic area within its jurisdiction as a redevelopment opportunity zone if the zone meets the criteria in this subsection and the city or county adopts a resolution that includes the following determinations and commitments:

(a) At least fifty percent of the upland properties in the zone are brownfield properties whether or not the properties are contiguous;

(b) The upland portions of the zone are comprised entirely of parcels of property either owned by the city or county or whose owner has provided consent in writing to have their property included within the zone;

(c) The cleanup of brownfield properties will be integrated with planning for the future uses of the properties and is consistent with the comprehensive land use plan for the zone; and

(d) The proposed properties lie within the incorporated area of a city or within an urban growth area designated under RCW 36.70A.110.

(2) A port district may designate a redevelopment opportunity zone when:

(a) The port district adopts a resolution that includes the determinations and commitments required under subsection (1)(a), (c), and (d) of this section and (c) of this subsection;

(b) The zone meets the criteria in subsection (1)(a), (c), and (d) of this section; and

(c) The port district either:

(i) Owns in fee all of the upland properties within the zone; or

(ii) Owns in fee at least fifty percent of the upland property in the zone, the owners of other parcels of upland property in the zone have provided consent in writing to have their property included in the zone, and the governing body of the city and county in which the zone lies approves of the designation by resolution. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 70.105D.020.

**70.105D.160 Brownfield renewal authority.** (1) A city, county, or port district may establish by resolution a brownfield renewal authority for the purpose of guiding and implementing the cleanup and reuse of properties within a designated redevelopment opportunity zone. Any combination of cities, counties, and port districts may establish a brownfield renewal authority through an interlocal agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW, and the brownfield renewal authority may exercise those powers as are authorized under chapter 39.34 RCW and under this chapter.

(2) A brownfield renewal authority must be governed by a board of directors selected as determined by the resolution or interlocal agreement establishing the authority.

(3) A brownfield renewal authority must be a separate legal entity and be deemed a municipal corporation. It has the power to: Sue and be sued; receive, account for, and disburse funds; employ personnel; and acquire or dispose of any interest in real or personal property within a redevelopment opportunity zone in the furtherance of the authority purposes. A brownfield renewal authority has the power to contract indebtedness and to issue and sell general obligation bonds pursuant to and in the manner provided for general county bonds in chapters 36.67 and 39.46 RCW and other applicable statutes, and to issue revenue bonds pursuant to and in the manner provided for revenue bonds in chapter 36.67 RCW and other applicable statutes.

(4) If the department determines that substantial progress has not been made on the plan approved under RCW 70.105D.140 by the brownfield renewal authority within six years of a city, county, or port district establishing a brownfield renewal authority, the department may require dissolution of the brownfield renewal authority. Upon dissolution of the brownfield renewal authority, except as provided in RCW 70.105D.140, all assets and liabilities transfer to the city, town, or port district establishing the brownfield renewal authority. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 70.105D.020.

**70.105D.170 Environmental legacy stewardship account.** (1) The environmental legacy stewardship account is created in the state treasury. Beginning July 1, 2013, and every fiscal year thereafter, the annual amount received from the tax imposed by RCW 82.21.030 that exceeds one hundred forty million dollars must be deposited into the environmental legacy stewardship account. The state treasurer may make periodic deposits into the environmental legacy stewardship account based on forecasted revenue. Moneys in the account may only be spent after appropriation.

(2) Moneys in the environmental legacy stewardship account may be spent on:

(a) Grants or loans to local governments for performance and outcome-based projects, model remedies, demonstration projects, procedures, contracts, and project management and oversight that result in significant reductions in the time to complete compared to baseline averages;

(b) Purposes authorized under RCW 70.105D.070 (3) and (4);

(c) Grants or loans awarded through a competitive grant program administered by the department to fund design and construction of low-impact development retrofit projects and other high quality projects that reduce storm water pollution from existing infrastructure. The competitive grant program must apply criteria to review, rank, and prioritize projects for funding based on their water quality benefits, ecological benefits, and effectiveness at reducing environmental degradation; and

(d) Cleanup and disposal of hazardous substances from abandoned or derelict vessels, defined for the purposes of this section as vessels that have little or no value and either have no identified owner or have an identified owner lacking financial resources to clean up and dispose of the vessel, that pose a threat to human health or the environment.

(3) Except as provided under RCW 70.105D.070(3) (k) and (q), nothing in chapter 1, Laws of 2013 2nd sp. sess. expands the ability of a potentially liable person to receive public funding.

(4) Moneys in the environmental legacy stewardship account may also be used as follows:

(a) During the 2013-2015 fiscal biennia, shoreline update technical assistance and for local government shoreline master program update grants;

(b) During the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, solid and hazardous waste compliance at the department of corrections;

(c) During the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, activities at the department of fish and wildlife concerning water quality monitoring, hatchery water quality regulatory compliance, and technical assistance to local governments on growth management and shoreline management;

(d) During the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, forest practices regulation and aquatic land investigation and cleanup activities at the department of natural resources.

(5) For the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, moneys in the environmental legacy stewardship account may be transferred to the local toxics control account. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 28 § 1; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 19 § 7042; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 991; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 10.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 991, 2013 2nd sp.s. c 19 § 7042, and by 2013 2nd sp.s. c 28 § 1, each without reference to the other. All amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 43.34.080.

**Effective dates—2013 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 70.105D.020.

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**70.105D.900 Short title—1989 c 2.** This act shall be known as "the model toxics control act." [1989 c 2 § 22 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**70.105D.905 Captions—1989 c 2.** As used in this act, captions constitute no part of the law. [1989 c 2 § 21 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**70.105D.910 Construction—1989 c 2.** The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the policies and purposes of this act. In the event of conflict between the provisions of this act and any other act, the provisions of this act shall govern. [1989 c 2 § 19 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**70.105D.915 Existing agreements—1989 c 2.** The consent orders and decrees in effect on March 1, 1989, shall remain valid and binding. [1989 c 2 § 20 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**70.105D.920 Effective date—1989 c 2.** (1) Sections 1 through 24 of this act shall take effect March 1, 1989, except that the director of ecology and the director of revenue may take whatever actions may be necessary to ensure that sections 1 through 24 of this act are implemented on their effective date.

\* (2) This section does not apply and shall have no force or effect if (a) this act is passed by the legislature in the 1988 regular session or (b) no bill is enacted by the legislature involving hazardous substance cleanup (along with any other subject matter) between August 15, 1987, and January 1, 1988. [1989 c 2 § 26 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

\***Reviser's note:** Neither condition contained in subsection (2) was met.

## Chapter 70.105E RCW

### MIXED RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

#### Sections

70.105E.010	Purpose.
70.105E.020	Policy.
70.105E.030	Definitions.
70.105E.040	Duties of the department of ecology to regulate mixed wastes.
70.105E.050	Releases of radioactive substances—Clean-up standards.
70.105E.060	Disposal of waste in unlined trenches—Investigation and cleanup of unlined trenches—Closure of mixed waste tank systems.
70.105E.080	Exemptions: Naval reactor disposal at Hanford—Low-level waste compact.
70.105E.100	Enforcement and appeals.
70.105E.900	Construction—2005 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 297).
70.105E.901	Short title—2005 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 297).

**70.105E.010 Purpose.** The purpose of chapter 1, Laws of 2005 is to prohibit sites at which mixed radioactive and hazardous wastes have contaminated or threaten to contaminate the environment, such as at the Hanford nuclear reservation, from adding more waste that is not generated from the cleanup of the site until such waste on-site has been cleaned up and is stored, treated, or disposed of in compliance with all state and federal environment laws. [2005 c 1 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 297, approved November 2, 2004).]

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**Reviser's note:** Initiative Measure No. 297 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *United States of America, et al. v. Manning, et al.*, U.S.D.C. No. CV-04-5128-AAM (E.D. Wash. 2006).

**70.105E.020 Policy.** (1) The Hanford nuclear reservation, through which the Columbia river flows for fifty miles, is the most contaminated area in North America. Use of Hanford as a national waste dump for radioactive and/or hazardous or toxic wastes will increase contamination and risks.

(2) Cleanup is the state of Washington's top priority at sites with hazardous waste contamination that threatens our rivers, groundwater, environment, and health. Adding more waste to contaminated sites undermines the cleanup of those sites. Cleanup is delayed and funds and resources diverted if facilities needed to treat or clean up existing waste are used for imported waste, and if larger facilities must be built to accommodate off-site wastes.

(3) The fundamental and inalienable right of each person residing in Washington state to a healthy environment has been jeopardized by pollution of air and water spreading from Hanford.

(4) The economy of Washington state, from agriculture to tourism, to fisheries, could be irreparably harmed from any accident releasing radiation or mixed radioactive and hazardous wastes.

(5) It is Washington state policy to prohibit adding more waste to a site where mixed radioactive and hazardous wastes (a) are not stored or monitored in compliance with state and federal hazardous waste laws and (b) have been dumped in unlined soil trenches which threaten to contaminate our state's resources.

(6) It is state policy to protect Washington's current and future residents, particularly children and other sensitive individuals, from the cumulative risks of cancer caused by all cancer-causing hazardous substances, including radionuclides, by ensuring that hazardous substance release and disposal sites meet the standards established pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW.

(7) Effective public and tribal involvement is necessary for government agencies to make sound decisions that will protect human health and the environment for thousands of years. It is Washington state policy to encourage and enhance effective public and tribal involvement in the complex decisions relating to cleanup, closure, permitting, and transportation of mixed waste; and to provide effective assistance to the public and local governments in reviewing and commenting upon complex decision documents. It is appropriate that the polluter pay for necessary public participation for decisions relating to waste releases and risks from mixed waste sites.

(8) The transport of mixed radioactive and hazardous wastes is inherently dangerous, and should be minimized. Decisions involving transportation of these wastes must be made with full involvement of the potentially affected public through whose communities these wastes will pass. [2005 c 1 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 297, approved November 2, 2004).]

**Reviser's note:** Initiative Measure No. 297 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *United States of America, et al. v. Manning, et al.*, U.S.D.C. No. CV-04-5128-AAM (E.D. Wash. 2006).

(2016 Ed.)

**70.105E.030 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Dangerous waste" has the same meaning as the term is defined in RCW 70.105.010.

(2) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(3) "Dispose" or "disposal" have the same meanings as the terms are defined in RCW 70.105.010.

(4) "Facility" has the same meaning as the term is defined in RCW 70.105.010.

(5) "Hanford" means the geographic area comprising the Hanford nuclear reservation, owned and operated by the United States department of energy, or any successor federal agency.

(6) "Hazardous substance" has the same meaning as the term is defined in RCW 70.105D.020.

(7) "Hazardous waste" means and includes all dangerous and extremely hazardous waste, as those terms are defined in RCW 70.105.010.

(8) "Local government" means a city, town, or county.

(9) "Mixed waste" or "mixed radioactive and hazardous waste" means any hazardous substance or dangerous or extremely hazardous waste that contains both a nonradioactive hazardous component and a radioactive component, including any such substances that have been released to the environment, or pose a threat of future release, in a manner that may expose persons or the environment to either the non-radioactive or radioactive hazardous substances.

(10) "Mixed waste surcharge" means an additional charge for the purposes of local government and public participation in decisions relating to mixed waste facilities: Added to the service charge assessed under RCW 70.105.280 against those facilities that store, treat, incinerate, or dispose of mixed wastes; or against facilities at which mixed wastes have been released, or which are undergoing closure pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW or remedial action pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW.

(11) "Person" has the same meaning as the term is defined in RCW 70.105D.020.

(12) "Release" has the same meaning as the term is defined in RCW 70.105D.020.

(13) "Remedy or remedial action" have the same meanings as the terms are defined in RCW 70.105D.020.

(14) "Site" means the contiguous geographic area under the same ownership, lease, or operation where a facility is located, or where there has been a release of hazardous substances. In the event of a release of hazardous substances, "site" includes any area, or body of surface or ground water, where a hazardous substance has been deposited, stored, disposed of, placed, migrated to, or otherwise come to be located.

(15) Unless otherwise defined, or the context indicates otherwise, terms not defined in this section have the same meaning as defined in chapter 70.105 RCW, when used in this chapter. [2005 c 1 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 297, approved November 2, 2004).]

**Reviser's note:** Initiative Measure No. 297 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *United States of America, et al. v. Manning, et al.*, U.S.D.C. No. CV-04-5128-AAM (E.D. Wash. 2006).

**70.105E.040 Duties of the department of ecology to regulate mixed wastes.** (1) The department of ecology shall regulate mixed wastes to the fullest extent it is not preempted by federal law, pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW and the further provisions of this chapter.

(2) Any facility owner or operator of a site storing, managing, processing, transferring, treating, or disposing of mixed wastes shall apply for and obtain a final facility permit under chapter 70.105 RCW, this chapter, and the federal resource, conservation, and recovery act (RCRA), 42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901 et seq., as amended, before transporting to, storing or disposing at, the facility any additional mixed wastes not generated at the facility. At any facility granted a sitewide permit, under which permits for individual units are appended or become individual chapters, final facility permits must be applied for and obtained, for each unit or facility within the site where mixed wastes are, or will be, stored or disposed, prior to transporting to, storing or disposing at, the facility any additional mixed wastes not generated at the facility.

(3) The department shall not issue any permit requested under subsection (2) of this section unless the facility owner or operator is in compliance with the requirements of chapter 70.105 RCW, this chapter, and RCRA, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901 et seq., as amended, for obtaining and maintaining a final facility permit for existing mixed wastes stored, treated, or disposed of at the facility.

(4) If any sites, units, or facilities have interim status or an interim status permit, but fail to meet requirements for maintaining interim status under chapter 70.105 RCW, this chapter, or RCRA, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901 et seq., as amended, including but not limited to groundwater monitoring and compliance requirements, the department shall find that the applicant for a final facility permit for mixed wastes under this section has failed to demonstrate compliance for purposes of obtaining such a permit pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

(5) The addition of new trenches or cells, or widening or deepening of trenches, at a site with existing trenches containing mixed wastes shall be considered an expansion of the existing facilities for purposes of compliance with chapter 70.105 RCW or this chapter, and any permit or permit modification for such expansion shall be subject to the requirements of this section.

(6)(a) The department shall not issue a permit, or modify any existing permit, allowing for the treatment, storage, or disposal of any additional mixed wastes not generated at the site or facility as part of a remedial or corrective action, until:

(i) The site or facility is in full compliance with the requirements of chapter 70.105 RCW, this chapter, and RCRA, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901 et seq., as amended, for obtaining and maintaining a closure permit for any facility or unit from which a release of hazardous substances has occurred or is threatened to occur, after characterization and corrective action; or

(ii) The department has issued a formal determination that no further remedial action is necessary to remedy such a release pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW.

(b) The prohibitions of this subsection (6) against granting or modifying a permit apply whenever a release of a hazardous substance, including but not limited to releases of

radionuclides and any other carcinogenic substances, has occurred at a site or facility, and such release, or the cumulative impact of all releases at the site, are projected by the department to have the potential to exceed the following standards:

(i) Surface or ground water standards established pursuant to federal or state laws, including but not limited to maximum concentration limits, drinking water, or other standards; or

(ii) Cleanup or other standards adopted to protect human health or the environment pursuant to RCW 70.105D.030.

(7) Until all the requirements of subsection (6) [of this section] have been met, the department shall, by permit condition, limit any new construction of, expansion of, or final facility permit for, a facility for treating, storing or disposing of mixed waste to the capacity or size necessary for investigation, characterization, remediation, or corrective action of facilities or units undergoing closure, or remedial or corrective action at the site.

(8) The department may grant or modify permits pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW solely for the purpose of remediate or closing existing facilities or units where there has been a release or threatened release of mixed wastes, if the permit expressly bars the storage or disposal of wastes that are not generated on-site pursuant to a remedial action, closure or corrective action approved by the department pursuant to this chapter or chapter 70.105D RCW.

(9) The department may permit specific treatment capacity at sites subject to the limitations of this section to be utilized for remediation or clean-up wastes from other sites, consistent with a site treatment plan approved by the department pursuant to RCRA, 42 U.S.C. [Sec.] 6901 et seq., as amended; provided that the department determines, after public notice and comment and consideration of impacts and alternatives in an environmental impact statement prepared pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW, that use of such capacity will not: (i) Significantly increase any emissions, discharges, risks or consequences of potential accidents; (ii) result in permanent disposal of imported off-site wastes in the soil at the site; (iii) be stored in excess of any applicable time limits, or any applicable requirement; or, (iv) impact funding for cleanup and corrective actions at the site or, result in delay of treatment or remediation of wastes at the site. [2005 c 1 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 297, approved November 2, 2004).]

**Reviser's note:** Initiative Measure No. 297 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *United States of America, et al. v. Manning, et al.*, U.S.D.C. No. CV-04-5128-AAM (E.D. Wash. 2006).

**70.105E.050 Releases of radioactive substances—Clean-up standards.** (1) The department shall consider releases, or potential releases, of radioactive substances or radionuclides as hazardous substances if the radioactive substance poses a risk of a carcinogenic, toxic, or any other adverse health or environmental effect. The department shall require corrective action for, or remediation of, such releases to meet the same health risk based minimum clean-up standards as adopted for other carcinogenic, toxic, or other hazardous substances posing similar health risks pursuant to RCW 70.105D.030.

(2) The department shall include all known or suspected human carcinogens, including radionuclides and radioactive

substances, in calculating the applicable clean-up standard, corrective action level, or maximum allowable projected release from a landfill or other facility or unit at which mixed wastes are stored, disposed, or are reasonably believed by the department to be present, for purposes of chapter 70.105 RCW, this chapter, or chapter 70.105D RCW. In making any permit decision pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW or this chapter, or in reviewing the adequacy of any environmental document prepared by another state, local, or federal agency, relating to mixed waste sites or facilities, the department shall ensure that the cumulative risk from all such carcinogens does not exceed the maximum acceptable carcinogen risk established by the department for purposes of determining clean-up standards pursuant to RCW 70.105D.030, or one additional cancer caused from exposure to all potential releases of hazardous substances at the site per one hundred thousand exposed individuals, whichever is more protective. [2005 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 297, approved November 2, 2004).]

**Reviser's note:** Initiative Measure No. 297 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *United States of America, et al. v. Manning, et al.*, U.S.D.C. No. CV-04-5128-AAM (E.D. Wash. 2006).

**70.105E.060 Disposal of waste in unlined trenches—Investigation and cleanup of unlined trenches—Closure of mixed waste tank systems.** (1)(a) The department, within sixty days after December 2, 2004, shall order any site owner or operator utilizing landfills or burial grounds containing unlined soil trenches in which mixed wastes are reasonably believed by the department to have been disposed to:

(i) Cease disposal of all further wastes in unlined soil trenches or facilities within thirty days of the order;

(ii) Initiate an investigation to provide the department with an inventory based on actual characterization of all hazardous substances potentially disposed in unlined trenches;

(iii) Initiate an investigation of releases or potential releases of any hazardous substances that were potentially disposed in unlined trenches;

(iv) Prepare, or pay the costs of the department to prepare, pursuant to the provisions of chapters 70.105 and 70.105D RCW, a plan for waste retrieval, treatment, closure, and monitoring for the unlined soil trenches, which may include temporary caps pending full characterization and remediation, the schedule for which shall be based upon determination of requirements to prevent migration of wastes; and

(v) Install and maintain a groundwater and soil column monitoring system, within two years, which is in compliance with all requirements of chapter 70.105 RCW, this chapter, and RCRA, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901 et seq., as amended.

(b) The department shall provide, by rule, for public notice, hearings, and comment on the scope of investigations and all actions necessary to fulfill the purposes of this section. Notice to the public for purposes of this section shall include a description of potential impacts to health or the environment from the facilities, and the potential for any state resources, or land areas, to be restricted from future use due to potential releases of hazardous substances from the site or facility.

(2) At any site with one or more land disposal facilities or units containing unlined trenches or pits, at which mixed

wastes are stored or were disposed, any proposed expansion of such land disposal facility or unit, or application to permit new land disposal facilities at the same site, shall be considered to be an impermissible expansion of the existing units or facilities where:

(a) There is a reasonable basis to believe mixed or hazardous wastes are buried or stored that have not been fully characterized to conclusively determine that no mixed or hazardous wastes are present;

(b) A release of a hazardous substance has occurred, including but not limited to releases of radioactive or mixed wastes; or

(c) The department has information to indicate that there is a significant potential for a release of hazardous substances.

(3) Determinations and permit actions, pursuant to chapter 70.105 RCW or this chapter, relating to the closure of tank systems consisting of one or more interconnected tanks in which mixed wastes are currently, or were, stored, shall be made by the department only after consideration of the cumulative impacts of all tank residuals and leaks from such systems at the site pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW. Actions may not be taken to close individual tanks, or which may prevent the retrieval of residual mixed wastes remaining in a tank, in any element of the tank system, or in the soil due to leaks from the tank system, prior to compliance with this section and determination of the quantity, nature, and potential impacts from such residuals or releases. In no event may the department allow the use of a landfill closure for mixed waste tank systems prior to all potentially effective and practicable actions having been taken to characterize, and remediate, releases and potential releases. The department may require research and development of technologies for characterization or retrieval pursuant to this section. [2005 c 1 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 297, approved November 2, 2004).]

**Reviser's note:** Initiative Measure No. 297 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *United States of America, et al. v. Manning, et al.*, U.S.D.C. No. CV-04-5128-AAM (E.D. Wash. 2006).

**70.105E.080 Exemptions: Naval reactor disposal at Hanford—Low-level waste compact.** (1) Intent. The state of Washington has previously permitted, and committed to assist in the national need for, disposal of sealed nuclear reactor vessels and compartments from submarines and other vessels of the United States navy; and to operate a regional disposal site for low-level waste with no hazardous waste pursuant to an interstate compact. The United States navy reactor vessels or compartments are sealed in a manner estimated to prevent release of hazardous or radioactive wastes for hundreds of years, exceeding the performance of a liner system while disposal trenches are operating. Therefore, the state of Washington accepts the burden and risks of continued disposal of retired United States navy reactor vessels and low-level waste pursuant to the compact, recognizing that this disposal will cause future impacts to the soil, environment, and groundwater.

(2) Nothing in chapter 1, Laws of 2005 shall affect existing permits for, or in any manner prohibit, the storage or disposal of sealed nuclear reactor vessels or compartments from retired United States navy submarines or surface ships at the existing disposal facility at Hanford, or affect existing per-

mits for the operation of any facility by the federal government at which United States navy reactors are decommissioned or refueled.

(3) Obligations of the state pursuant to the Northwest interstate compact on low-level radioactive waste management and agreements made by the compact shall not be interfered with or affected by any provision of chapter 1, Laws of 2005. If hazardous or mixed wastes have been disposed or released at any facility operated pursuant to the compact, the relevant provisions of this chapter apply. [2005 c 1 § 8 (Initiative Measure No. 297, approved November 2, 2004).]

**Reviser's note:** Initiative Measure No. 297 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *United States of America, et al. v. Manning, et al.*, U.S.D.C. No. CV-04-5128-AAM (E.D. Wash. 2006).

**70.105E.100 Enforcement and appeals.** (1) Any person may bring a civil action to compel the owner or operator of a mixed waste facility to comply with the requirements of this chapter or any permit or order issued by the department pursuant to this chapter; or to compel the department to perform any nondiscretionary duty under this chapter. At least thirty days before commencing the action, the person must give written notice to the department of intent to sue, unless a substantial endangerment exists. The court may award attorney fees and other costs to a prevailing plaintiff in the action.

(2) Orders of the department relating to mixed waste facilities under this chapter may be appealed to the pollution control hearings board, by any person whose interests in natural resources or health may be adversely affected by the action or inaction of the department.

(3) Civil actions under this section may be brought in superior court of Thurston county or of the county in which the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance occurs, or where mixed wastes that are the subject of the action may be transported, stored, treated, or disposed.

(4) Any violation of this chapter shall be considered a violation of chapter 70.105 RCW, and subject to all enforcement actions by the department or attorney general for violations of that chapter, including imposition of civil or criminal penalties. [2005 c 1 § 10 (Initiative Measure No. 297, approved November 2, 2004).]

**Reviser's note:** Initiative Measure No. 297 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *United States of America, et al. v. Manning, et al.*, U.S.D.C. No. CV-04-5128-AAM (E.D. Wash. 2006).

**70.105E.900 Construction—2005 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 297).** The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the policies and purposes of this act. In the event of conflict between the provisions of this act and any other act, the provisions of this act shall govern. [2005 c 1 § 11 (Initiative Measure No. 297, approved November 2, 2004).]

**Reviser's note:** Initiative Measure No. 297 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *United States of America, et al. v. Manning, et al.*, U.S.D.C. No. CV-04-5128-AAM (E.D. Wash. 2006).

**70.105E.901 Short title—2005 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 297).** This act shall be known as the Cleanup Priority Act. [2005 c 1 § 12 (Initiative Measure No. 297, approved November 2, 2004).]

**Reviser's note:** Initiative Measure No. 297 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *United States of America, et al. v. Manning, et al.*, U.S.D.C. No. CV-04-5128-AAM (E.D. Wash. 2006).

## Chapter 70.106 RCW POISON PREVENTION—LABELING AND PACKAGING

### Sections

70.106.010	Purpose.
70.106.020	Short title.
70.106.030	Definitions—Construction.
70.106.040	"Director" defined.
70.106.050	"Sale" defined.
70.106.060	"Household substance" defined.
70.106.070	"Package" defined.
70.106.080	"Special packaging" defined.
70.106.090	"Labeling" defined.
70.106.100	Standards for packaging.
70.106.110	Exceptions from packaging standards.
70.106.120	Adoption of rules and regulations under federal poison prevention packaging act.
70.106.140	Penalties.
70.106.150	Authority to adopt regulations—Delegation of authority to pharmacy quality assurance commission.
70.106.905	Saving—1974 ex.s. c 49.
70.106.910	Chapter cumulative and nonexclusive.

*Radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response programs, state coordinator: RCW 38.52.030.*

**70.106.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to provide for special packaging to protect children from personal injury, serious illness or death resulting from handling, using or ingesting household substances, and to provide penalties. [1974 ex.s. c 49 § 1.]

**70.106.020 Short title.** This chapter shall be cited as the Washington Poison Prevention Act of 1974. [1974 ex.s. c 49 § 2.]

**70.106.030 Definitions—Construction.** The definitions in RCW 70.106.040 through 70.106.090 unless the context otherwise requires shall govern the construction of this chapter. [1974 ex.s. c 49 § 3.]

**70.106.040 "Director" defined.** "Director" means the director of the department of agriculture of the state of Washington, or his or her duly authorized representative. [2012 c 117 § 418; 1974 ex.s. c 49 § 4.]

**70.106.050 "Sale" defined.** "Sale" means to sell, offer for sale, hold for sale, handle or use as an inducement in the promotion of a household substance or the sale of another article or product. [1974 ex.s. c 49 § 5.]

**70.106.060 "Household substance" defined.** "Household substance" means any substance which is customarily produced or distributed for sale for consumption or use, or customarily stored, by individuals in or about the household and which is:

(1) A "hazardous substance", which means (a) any substance or mixture of substances or product which (i) is toxic, (ii) is corrosive, (iii) is an irritant, (iv) is a strong sensitizer, (v) is flammable or combustible, or (vi) generates pressure through decomposition, heat, or other means, if such substance or mixture of substances may cause substantial per-

sonal injury or substantial illness during or as a proximate result of any customary or reasonably foreseeable handling or use, including reasonably foreseeable ingestion by children; (b) any substances which the director by regulation finds to meet the requirements of subsection (1)(a) of this section; (c) any radioactive substance, if, with respect to such substance as used in a particular class of article or as packaged, the director determines by regulation that the substance is sufficiently hazardous to require labeling in accordance with this chapter in order to protect the public health, safety or welfare; and (d) any toy or other article intended for use by children which the director by regulation determines presents an electrical, mechanical or thermal hazard.

(2) A pesticide as defined in the Washington Pesticide Control Act, chapter 15.58 RCW as now or hereafter amended;

(3) A food, drug, or cosmetic as those terms are defined in the Uniform Washington Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, chapter 69.04 RCW as now or hereafter amended; or

(4) A substance intended for use as fuel when stored in portable containers and used in the heating, cooking, or refrigeration system of a house; or

(5) Any other substance which the director may declare to be a household substance subsequent to a hearing as provided for under the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW, Administrative Procedure Act, for the adoption of rules. [1974 ex.s. c 49 § 6.]

**70.106.070 "Package" defined.** "Package" means the immediate container or wrapping in which any household substance is contained for consumption, use, or storage by individuals in or about the household, and, for purposes of RCW 70.106.110(1)(b), also means any outer container or wrapping used in the retail display of any such substance to consumers. Such term does not include:

(1) Any shipping container or wrapping used solely for the transportation of any household substance in bulk or in quantity to manufacturers, packers, or processors, or to wholesale or retail distributors thereof; or

(2) Any shipping container or outer wrapping used by retailers to ship or deliver any household substance to consumers unless it is the only such container or wrapping. [1974 ex.s. c 49 § 7.]

**70.106.080 "Special packaging" defined.** "Special packaging" means packaging that is designed or constructed to be significantly difficult for children under five years of age to open or obtain a toxic or harmful amount of the substance contained therein within a reasonable time and not difficult for normal adults to use properly, but does not mean packaging which all such children cannot open or obtain a toxic or harmful amount within a reasonable time. [1974 ex.s. c 49 § 8.]

**70.106.090 "Labeling" defined.** "Labeling" means all labels and other written, printed, or graphic matter upon any household substance or its package, or accompanying such substance. [1974 ex.s. c 49 § 9.]

(2016 Ed.)

**70.106.100 Standards for packaging.** (1) The director may establish in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, by regulation, standards for the special packaging of any household substance if he or she finds that:

(a) The degree or nature of the hazard to children in the availability of such substance, by reason of its packaging is such that special packaging is required to protect children from serious personal injury or serious illness resulting from handling, using, or ingesting such substance; and

(b) The special packaging to be required by such standard is technically feasible, practicable, and appropriate for such substance.

(2) In establishing a standard under this section, the director shall consider:

(a) The reasonableness of such standard;

(b) Available scientific, medical, and engineering data concerning special packaging and concerning childhood accidental ingestions, illness, and injury caused by household substances;

(c) The manufacturing practices of industries affected by this chapter; and

(d) The nature and use of the household substance.

(3) In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the director shall publish his or her findings, his or her reasons therefor, and citation of the sections of statutes which authorize his or her action.

(4) Nothing in this chapter authorizes the director to prescribe specific packaging designs, product content, package quantity, or, with the exception of authority granted in RCW 70.106.110(1)(b), labeling. In the case of a household substance for which special packaging is required pursuant to a regulation under this section, the director may in such regulation prohibit the packaging of such substance in packages which he or she determines are unnecessarily attractive to children.

(5) The director shall cause the regulations promulgated under this chapter to conform with the requirements or exemptions of the federal hazardous substances act and with the regulations or interpretations promulgated pursuant thereto. [2012 c 117 § 419; 1974 ex.s. c 49 § 10.]

**70.106.110 Exceptions from packaging standards.**

(1) For the purpose of making any household substance which is subject to a standard established under RCW 70.106.100 readily available to elderly persons or persons with disabilities unable to use such substance when packaged in compliance with such standard, the manufacturer or packer, as the case may be, may package any household substance, subject to such a standard, in packaging of a single size which does not comply with such standard if:

(a) The manufacturer or packer also supplies such substance in packages which comply with such standard; and

(b) The packages of such substance which do not meet such standard bear conspicuous labeling stating: "This package for households without young children"; except that the director may by regulation prescribe a substitute statement to the same effect for packaging too small to accommodate such labeling.

(2) In the case of a household substance which is subject to such a standard and which is dispensed pursuant to an order of a physician, dentist, or other licensed medical practi-

tioner authorized to prescribe, such substance may be dispensed in noncomplying packages only when directed in such order or when requested by the purchaser.

(3) In the case of a household substance subject to such a standard which is packaged under subsection (1) of this section in a noncomplying package, if the director determines that such substance is not also being supplied by a manufacturer or packer in popular size packages which comply with such standard, he or she may, after giving the manufacturer or packer an opportunity to comply with the purposes of this chapter, by order require such substance to be packaged by such manufacturer or packer exclusively in special packaging complying with such standard if he or she finds, after opportunity for hearing, that such exclusive use of special packaging is necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter. [2012 c 117 § 420; 1974 ex.s. c 49 § 11.]

**70.106.120 Adoption of rules and regulations under federal poison prevention packaging act.** One of the purposes of this chapter is to promote uniformity with the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 and rules and regulations adopted thereunder. In accordance with such declared purpose, all of the special packaging rules and regulations adopted under the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1670; 7 U.S.C. Sec. 135; 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1261, 1471-1476; 21 U.S.C. Sec. 343, 352, 353, 362) on July 24, 1974, are hereby adopted as rules and regulations applicable to this chapter. In addition, any rule or regulation adopted hereafter under said Federal Poison Prevention Act of 1970 concerning special packaging and published in the federal register shall be deemed to have been adopted under the provisions of this chapter. The director may, however, within thirty days of the publication of the adoption of any such rule or regulation under the Federal Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970, give public notice that a hearing will be held to determine if such regulations shall not be applicable under the provisions of this chapter. Such hearing shall be conducted in accord with the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW, Administrative Procedure Act, as now enacted or hereafter amended. [1974 ex.s. c 49 § 12.]

**70.106.140 Penalties.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, any person violating the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) A second or subsequent violation of the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter is a gross misdemeanor. Any offense committed more than five years after a previous conviction shall be considered a first offense. [2003 c 53 § 358; 1974 ex.s. c 49 § 16.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**70.106.150 Authority to adopt regulations—Delegation of authority to pharmacy quality assurance commission.** The authority to promulgate regulations for the efficient enforcement of this chapter is hereby vested in the director. However, the director shall designate the pharmacy quality assurance commission to carry out all the provisions of this chapter pertaining to drugs and cosmetics, with

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authority to promulgate regulations for the efficient enforcement thereof. [2013 c 19 § 124; 1987 c 236 § 1.]

**70.106.905 Saving—1974 ex.s. c 49.** The enactment of this 1974 act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on July 24, 1974. [1974 ex.s. c 49 § 15.]

**70.106.910 Chapter cumulative and nonexclusive.** The provisions of this chapter shall be cumulative and nonexclusive and shall not affect any other remedy. [1974 ex.s. c 49 § 17.]

## Chapter 70.107 RCW NOISE CONTROL

### Sections

70.107.010	Purpose.
70.107.020	Definitions.
70.107.030	Powers and duties of department.
70.107.040	Technical advisory committee.
70.107.050	Civil penalties.
70.107.060	Other rights, remedies, powers, duties and functions—Local regulation—Approval—Procedure.
70.107.070	Rules relating to motor vehicles—Violations—Penalty.
70.107.080	Exemptions.
70.107.900	Construction—Severability—1974 ex.s. c 183.
70.107.910	Short title.

**70.107.010 Purpose.** The legislature finds that inadequately controlled noise adversely affects the health, safety and welfare of the people, the value of property, and the quality of the environment. Antinoise measures of the past have not adequately protected against the invasion of these interests by noise. There is a need, therefore, for an expansion of efforts statewide directed toward the abatement and control of noise, considering the social and economic impact upon the community and the state. The purpose of this chapter is to provide authority for such an expansion of efforts, supplementing existing programs in the field. [1974 ex.s. c 183 § 1.]

**70.107.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (1) "Department" means the department of ecology.
- (2) "Director" means director of the department of ecology.
- (3) "Local government" means county or city government or any combination of the two.
- (4) "Noise" means the intensity, duration and character of sounds from any and all sources.
- (5) "Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, governmental body, state, or other entity whatsoever. [1974 ex.s. c 183 § 2.]

**70.107.030 Powers and duties of department.** The department is empowered as follows:

- (1) The department, after consultation with state agencies expressing an interest therein, shall adopt, by rule, maximum noise levels permissible in identified environments in order to protect against adverse affects of noise on the health, safety and welfare of the people, the value of property, and the quality of environment: PROVIDED, That in so doing the

department shall take also into account the economic and practical benefits to be derived from the use of various products in each such environment, whether the source of the noise or the use of such products in each environment is permanent or temporary in nature, and the state of technology relative to the control of noise generated by all such sources of the noise or the products.

(2) At any time after the adoption of maximum noise levels under subsection (1) of this section the department shall, in consultation with state agencies and local governments expressing an interest therein, adopt rules, consistent with the Federal Noise Control Act of 1972 (86 Stat. 1234; 42 U.S.C. Sec. 4901-4918 and 49 U.S.C. Sec. 1431), for noise abatement and control in the state designed to achieve compliance with the noise level adopted in subsection (1) of this section, including reasonable implementation schedules where appropriate, to insure that the maximum noise levels are not exceeded and that application of the best practicable noise control technology and practice is provided. These rules may include, but shall not be limited to:

(a) Performance standards setting allowable noise limits for the operation of products which produce noise;

(b) Use standards regulating, as to time and place, the operation of individual products which produce noise above specified levels considering frequency spectrum and duration: PROVIDED, The rules shall provide for temporarily exceeding those standards for stated purposes; and

(c) Public information requirements dealing with disclosure of levels and characteristics of noise produced by products.

(3) The department may, as desirable in the performance of its duties under this chapter, conduct surveys, studies and public education programs, and enter into contracts.

(4) The department is authorized to apply for and accept moneys from the federal government and other sources to assist in the implementation of this chapter.

(5) The legislature recognizes that the operation of motor vehicles on public highways as defined in RCW 46.09.310 contributes significantly to environmental noise levels and directs the department, in exercising the rule-making authority under the provisions of this section, to give first priority to the adoption of motor vehicle noise performance standards.

(6) Noise levels and rules adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter shall not be effective prior to March 31, 1975. [2011 c 171 § 107; 1974 ex.s. c 183 § 3.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**70.107.040 Technical advisory committee.** The director shall name a technical advisory committee to assist the department in the implementation of this chapter. Committee members shall be entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, as now existing or hereafter amended. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 164; 1974 ex.s. c 183 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.107.050 Civil penalties.** (1) Any person who violates any rule adopted by the department under this chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one hundred dollars imposed by local government pursuant to this section.

(2016 Ed.)

An action under this section shall not preclude enforcement of any provisions of the local government noise ordinance.

Penalties shall become due and payable thirty days from the date of receipt of a notice of penalty unless within such time said notice is appealed in accordance with the administrative procedures of the local government, or if it has no such administrative appeal, to the pollution control hearings board pursuant to the provisions of chapter 43.21B RCW and procedural rules adopted thereunder. In cases in which appeals are timely filed, penalties sustained by the local administrative agency or the pollution control hearings board shall become due and payable on the issuance of said agency or board's final order in the appeal.

(2) Whenever penalties incurred pursuant to this section have become due and payable but remain unpaid, the attorney for the local government may bring an action in the superior court of the county in which the violation occurred for recovery of penalties incurred. In all such actions the procedures and rules of evidence shall be the same as in any other civil action. [1987 c 103 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 183 § 5.]

**70.107.060 Other rights, remedies, powers, duties and functions—Local regulation—Approval—Procedure.** (1) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to deny, abridge or alter alternative rights of action or remedies in equity or under common law or statutory law, criminal or civil.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall deny, abridge or alter any powers, duties and functions relating to noise abatement and control now or hereafter vested in any state agency, nor shall this chapter be construed as granting jurisdiction over the industrial safety and health of employees in workplaces of the state, as now or hereafter vested in the department of labor and industries.

(3) Standards and other control measures adopted by the department under this chapter shall be exclusive except as hereinafter provided. A local government may impose limits or control sources differing from those adopted or controlled by the department upon a finding that such requirements are necessitated by special conditions. Noise limiting requirements of local government which differ from those adopted or controlled by the department shall be invalid unless first approved by the department. If the department of ecology fails to approve or disapprove standards submitted by local governmental jurisdictions within ninety days of submittal, such standards shall be deemed approved. If disapproved, the local government may appeal the decision to the pollution control hearings board which shall decide the appeal on the basis of the provisions of this chapter, and the applicable regulations, together with such briefs, testimony, and oral argument as the hearings board in its discretion may require. The department determination of whether to grant approval shall depend on the reasonableness and practicability of compliance. Particular attention shall be given to stationary sources located near jurisdictional boundaries, and temporary noise producing operations which may operate across one or more jurisdictional boundaries.

(4) In carrying out the rule-making authority provided in this chapter, the department shall follow the procedures of the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, and shall take care that no rules adopted purport to exercise any powers

preempted by the United States under federal law. [1987 c 103 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 183 § 6.]

**70.107.070 Rules relating to motor vehicles—Violations—Penalty.** Any rule adopted under this chapter relating to the operation of motor vehicles on public highways shall be administered according to testing and inspection procedures adopted by rule by the state patrol. Violation of any motor vehicle performance standard adopted pursuant to this chapter shall be a misdemeanor, enforced by such authorities and in such manner as violations of chapter 46.37 RCW. Violations subject to the provisions of this section shall be exempt from the provisions of RCW 70.107.050. [1987 c 330 § 749; 1974 ex.s. c 183 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.107.080 Exemptions.** The department shall, in the exercise of rule-making power under this chapter, provide exemptions or specially limited regulations relating to recreational shooting and emergency or law enforcement equipment where appropriate in the interests of public safety.

The department in the development of rules under this chapter, shall consult and take into consideration the land use policies and programs of local government. [1974 ex.s. c 183 § 8.]

**70.107.900 Construction—Severability—1974 ex.s. c 183.** (1) This chapter shall be liberally construed to carry out its broad purposes.

(2) If any provision of this chapter, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1974 ex.s. c 183 § 11.]

**70.107.910 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Noise Control Act of 1974". [1974 ex.s. c 183 § 12.]

## Chapter 70.108 RCW OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVALS

### Sections

70.108.010	Legislative declaration.
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70.108.150	Firearms—Penalty.
70.108.160	Preparations—Completion requirements.
70.108.170	Local regulations and ordinances not precluded.

**Reviser's note:** Throughout chapter 70.108 RCW the references to "this act" have been changed to "this chapter." "This act" [1971 ex.s. c 302] consists of this chapter, the 1971 amendments to RCW 9.40.110-9.40.130, 9.41.010, 9.41.070, 26.44.050, 70.74.135, 70.74.270, 70.74.280, and the enactment of RCW 9.27.015 and 9.91.110.

**70.108.010 Legislative declaration.** The legislature hereby declares it to be the public interest, and for the protection of the health, welfare and property of the residents of the state of Washington to provide for the orderly and lawful conduct of outdoor music festivals by assuring that proper sanitary, health, fire, safety, and police measures are provided and maintained. This invocation of the police power is prompted by and based upon prior experience with outdoor music festivals where the enforcement of the existing laws and regulations on dangerous and narcotic drugs, indecent exposure, intoxicating liquor, and sanitation has been rendered most difficult by the flagrant violations thereof by a large number of festival patrons. [1971 ex.s. c 302 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.108.020 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter the following words and phrases shall have the indicated meanings:

(1) "Applicant" means the promoter who has the right of control of the conduct of an outdoor music festival who applies to the appropriate legislative authority for a license to hold an outdoor music festival.

(2) "Issuing authority" means the legislative body of the local governmental unit where the site for an outdoor music festival is located.

(3) "Outdoor music festival" or "music festival" or "festival" means an assembly of persons gathered primarily for outdoor, live or recorded musical entertainment, where the predicted attendance is two thousand persons or more and where the duration of the program is five hours or longer: PROVIDED, That this definition shall not be applied to any regularly established permanent place of worship, stadium, athletic field, arena, auditorium, coliseum, or other similar permanently established places of assembly for assemblies which do not exceed by more than two hundred fifty people the maximum seating capacity of the structure where the assembly is held: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That this definition shall not apply to government sponsored fairs held on regularly established fairgrounds nor to assemblies required to be licensed under other laws or regulations of the state.

(4) "Participate" means to knowingly provide or deliver to the festival site supplies, materials, food, lumber, beverages, sound equipment, generators, or musical entertainment and/or to attend a music festival. A person shall be presumed to have knowingly provided as that phrase is used herein after he or she has been served with a court order.

(5) "Promoter" means any person or other legal entity issued a permit to conduct an outdoor music festival. [2012 c 117 § 421; 1971 ex.s. c 302 § 21.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**70.108.030 Permits—Required—Compliance with rules and regulations.** No person or other legal entity shall knowingly allow, conduct, hold, maintain, cause to be advertised or permit an outdoor music festival unless a valid permit has been obtained from the issuing authority for the operation of such music festival as provided for by this chapter. One such permit shall be required for each outdoor music festival. A permit may be granted for a period not to exceed sixteen consecutive days and a festival may be operated during any

or all of the days within such period. Any person, persons, partnership, corporation, association, society, fraternal or social organization, failing to comply with the rules, regulations or conditions contained in this chapter shall be subject to the appropriate penalties as prescribed by this chapter. [1971 ex.s. c 302 § 22.]

**70.108.040 Application for permit—Contents—Filing.** Application for an outdoor music festival permit shall be in writing and filed with the clerk of the issuing authority wherein the festival is to be held. Said application shall be filed not less than ninety days prior to the first scheduled day of the festival and shall be accompanied with a permit fee in the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars. Said application shall include:

(1) The name of the person or other legal entity on behalf of whom said application is made: PROVIDED, That a natural person applying for such permit shall be eighteen years of age or older;

(2) A financial statement of the applicant;

(3) The nature of the business organization of the applicant;

(4) Names and addresses of all individuals or other entities having a ten percent or more proprietary interest in the festival;

(5) The principal place of business of applicant;

(6) A legal description of the land to be occupied, the name and address of the owner thereof, together with a document showing the consent of said owner to the issuance of a permit, if the land be owned by a person other than the applicant;

(7) The scheduled performances and program;

(8) Written confirmation from the local health officer that he or she has reviewed and approved plans for site and development in accordance with rules, regulations and standards adopted by the state board of health. Such rules and regulations shall include criteria as to the following and such other matters as the state board of health deems necessary to protect the public's health:

(a) Submission of plans

(b) Site

(c) Water supply

(d) Sewage disposal

(e) Food preparation facilities

(f) Toilet facilities

(g) Solid waste

(h) Insect and rodent control

(i) Shelter

(j) Dust control

(k) Lighting

(l) Emergency medical facilities

(m) Emergency air evacuation

(n) Attendant physicians

(o) Communication systems

(9) A written confirmation from the appropriate law enforcement agency from the area where the outdoor music festival is to take place, showing that traffic control and crowd protection policing have been contracted for or otherwise provided by the applicant meeting the following conditions:

(a) One person for each two hundred persons reasonably expected to be in attendance at any time during the event for purposes of traffic and crowd control.

(b) The names and addresses of all traffic and crowd control personnel shall be provided to the appropriate law enforcement authority: PROVIDED, That not less than twenty percent of the traffic and crowd control personnel shall be commissioned police officers or deputy sheriffs: PROVIDED FURTHER, That on and after February 25, 1972 any commissioned police officer or deputy sheriff who is employed and compensated by the promoter of an outdoor music festival shall not be eligible and shall not receive any benefits whatsoever from any public pension or disability plan of which he or she is a member for the time he is so employed or for any injuries received during the course of such employment.

(c) During the hours that the festival site shall be open to the public there shall be at least one regularly commissioned police officer employed by the jurisdiction wherein the festival site is located for every one thousand persons in attendance and said officer shall be on duty within the confines of the actual outdoor music festival site.

(d) All law enforcement personnel shall be charged with enforcing the provisions of this chapter and all existing statutes, ordinances and regulations.

(10) A written confirmation from the appropriate law enforcement authority that sufficient access roads are available for ingress and egress to the parking areas of the outdoor music festival site and that parking areas are available on the actual site of the festival or immediately adjacent thereto which are capable of accommodating one auto for every four persons in estimated attendance at the outdoor music festival site.

(11) A written confirmation from the department of natural resources, where applicable, and the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, that all fire prevention requirements have been complied with.

(12) A written statement of the applicant that all state and local law enforcement officers, fire control officers and other necessary governmental personnel shall have free access to the site of the outdoor music festival.

(13) A statement that the applicant will abide by the provisions of this chapter.

(14) The verification of the applicant warranting the truth of the matters set forth in the application to the best of the applicant's knowledge, under the penalty of perjury. [1995 c 369 § 59; 1986 c 266 § 120; 1972 ex.s. c 123 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 302 § 23.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.108.050 Approval or denial of permit—Corrections—Procedure—Judicial review.** Within fifteen days after the filing of the application the issuing authority shall either approve or deny the permit to the applicant. Any denial shall set forth in detail the specific grounds therefor. The applicant shall have fifteen days after the receipt of such denial or such additional time as the issuing authority shall grant to correct the deficiencies set forth and the issuing authority shall within fifteen days after receipt of such corrections either approve or deny the permit. Any denial shall set forth in detail the specific grounds therefor.

After the applicant has filed corrections and the issuing authority has thereafter again denied the permit, the applicant may within five days after receipt of such second denial seek judicial review of such denial by filing a petition in the superior court for the county of the issuing authority. The review shall take precedence over all other civil actions and shall be conducted by the court without a jury. The court shall, upon request, hear oral argument and receive written briefs and shall either affirm the denial or order that the permit be issued. An applicant may not use any other procedure to obtain judicial review of a denial. [1972 ex.s. c 123 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 302 § 24.]

**70.108.060 Reimbursement of expenses incurred in reviewing request.** Any local agency requested by an applicant to give written approval as required by RCW 70.108.040 may within fifteen days after the applicant has filed his or her application apply to the issuing authority for reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred in reviewing such request. Upon a finding that such expenses were reasonably incurred, the issuing authority shall reimburse the local agency therefor from the funds of the permit fee. The issuing authority shall prior to the first scheduled date of the festival return to the applicant that portion of the permit fee remaining after all such reimbursements have been made. [2012 c 117 § 422; 1971 ex.s. c 302 § 25.]

**70.108.070 Cash deposit—Surety bond—Insurance.** After the application has been approved, the promoter shall deposit with the issuing authority, a cash deposit or surety bond. The bond or deposit shall be used to pay any costs or charges incurred to regulate health or to clean up afterwards outside the festival grounds or any extraordinary costs or charges incurred to regulate traffic or parking. The bond or other deposit shall be returned to the promoter when the issuing authority is satisfied that no claims for damage or loss will be made against said bond or deposit, or that the loss or damage claimed is less than the amount of the deposit, in which case the uncommitted balance thereof shall be returned: PROVIDED, That the bond or cash deposit or the uncommitted portion thereof shall be returned not later than thirty days after the last day of the festival.

In addition, the promoter shall be required to furnish evidence that he or she has in full force and effect a liability insurance policy in an amount of not less than one hundred thousand dollars bodily injury coverage per person covering any bodily injury negligently caused by any officer or employee of the festival while acting in the performance of his or her duties. The policy shall name the issuing authority of the permit as an additional named insured.

In addition, the promoter shall be required to furnish evidence that he or she has in full force and effect a one hundred thousand dollar liability property damage insurance policy covering any property damaged due to negligent failure by any officer or employee of the festival to carry out duties imposed by this chapter. The policy shall have the issuing authority of the permit as an additional named insured. [2012 c 117 § 423; 1972 ex.s. c 123 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 302 § 26.]

**70.108.080 Revocation of permits.** Revocation of any permit granted pursuant to this chapter shall not preclude the

imposition of penalties as provided for in this chapter and the laws of the state of Washington. Any permit granted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter to conduct a music festival shall be summarily revoked by the issuing authority when it finds that by reason of emergency the public peace, health, safety, morals or welfare can only be preserved and protected by such revocation.

Any permit granted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter to conduct a music festival may otherwise be revoked for any material violation of this chapter or the laws of the state of Washington after a hearing held upon not less than three days notice served upon the promoter personally or by certified mail.

Every permit issued under the provisions of this chapter shall state that such permit is issued as a measure to protect and preserve the public peace, health, safety, morals and welfare, and that the right of the appropriate authority to revoke such permit is a consideration of its issuance. [1971 ex.s. c 302 § 27.]

**70.108.090 Drugs prohibited.** No person, persons, partnership, corporation, association, society, fraternal or social organization to whom a music festival permit has been granted shall, during the time an outdoor music festival is in operation, knowingly permit or allow any person to bring upon the premises of said music festival, any narcotic or dangerous drug as defined by chapters \*69.33 or 69.40 RCW, or knowingly permit or allow narcotic or dangerous drug to be consumed on the premises, and no person shall take or carry onto said premises any narcotic or dangerous drug. [1971 ex.s. c 302 § 28.]

*\*Reviser's note:* Chapter 69.33 RCW was repealed by 1971 ex.s. c 308 § 69.50.606.

**70.108.100 Proximity to schools, churches, homes.** No music festival shall be operated in a location which is closer than one thousand yards from any schoolhouse or church, or five hundred yards from any house, residence or other human habitation unless waived by occupants. [1971 ex.s. c 302 § 29.]

**70.108.110 Age of patrons.** No person under the age of sixteen years shall be admitted to any outdoor music festival without the escort of his or her parents or legal guardian and proof of age shall be provided upon request. [1971 ex.s. c 302 § 30.]

**70.108.120 Permits—Posting—Transferability.** Any permit granted pursuant to this chapter shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the site of the outdoor music festival and such permit shall be not transferable or assignable without the consent of the issuing authority. [1971 ex.s. c 302 § 31.]

**70.108.130 Penalty.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person who willfully fails to comply with the rules, regulations, and conditions set forth in this chapter or who aids or abets such a violation or failure to comply is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, violation of such a rule, regulation, or condition relating to traffic

including parking, standing, stopping, and pedestrian offenses is a traffic infraction.

(b) Violation of such a rule, regulation, or condition equivalent to those provisions of Title 46 RCW set forth in RCW 46.63.020 is a misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 359; 1979 ex.s. c 136 § 104; 1971 ex.s. c 302 § 32.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.108.140 Inspection of books and records.** The department of revenue shall be allowed to inspect the books and records of any outdoor music festival during the period of operation of the festival and after the festival has concluded for the purpose of determining whether or not the tax laws of this state are complied with. [1972 ex.s. c 123 § 4.]

**70.108.150 Firearms—Penalty.** It shall be unlawful for any person, except law enforcement officers, to carry, transport, or convey, or to have in his or her possession or under his or her control any firearm while on the site of an outdoor music festival.

Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars and not more than two hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than ten days and not more than ninety days or by both such fine and imprisonment. [2012 c 117 § 424; 1972 ex.s. c 123 § 5.]

**70.108.160 Preparations—Completion requirements.** All preparations required to be made by the provisions of this chapter on the music festival site shall be completed thirty days prior to the first day scheduled for the festival. Upon such date or such earlier date when all preparations have been completed, the promoter shall notify the issuing authority thereof, and the issuing authority shall make an inspection of the festival site to determine if such preparations are in reasonably full compliance with plans submitted pursuant to RCW 70.108.040. If a material violation exists the issuing authority shall move to revoke the music festival permit in the manner provided by RCW 70.108.080. [1972 ex.s. c 123 § 6.]

**70.108.170 Local regulations and ordinances not precluded.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as precluding counties, cities and other political subdivisions of the state of Washington from enacting ordinances or regulations for the control and regulation of outdoor music festivals nor shall this chapter repeal any existing ordinances or regulations. [1972 ex.s. c 123 § 7.]

**Chapter 70.110 RCW**

**FLAMMABLE FABRICS—CHILDREN'S SLEEPWEAR**

Sections

- 70.110.010 Short title.
- 70.110.020 Legislative finding.
- 70.110.030 Definitions.
- 70.110.040 Compliance required.

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- 70.110.050 Attorney general or prosecuting attorneys authorized to bring actions to restrain or prevent violations.
- 70.110.070 Strict liability.
- 70.110.080 Personal service of process—Jurisdiction of courts.
- 70.110.900 Provisions additional.

**70.110.010 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the "Flammable Fabrics Act". [1973 1st ex.s. c 211 § 1.]

**70.110.020 Legislative finding.** The legislature hereby finds and declares that fabric related burns from children's sleepwear present an immediate and serious danger to the infants and children of this state. The legislature therefore declares it to be in the public interest, and for the protection of the health, property, and welfare of the residents of this state to herein provide for flammability standards for children's sleepwear. [1973 1st ex.s. c 211 § 2.]

**70.110.030 Definitions.** As used in this chapter the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (1) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other form of business enterprise, and every officer thereof.
- (2) "Children's sleepwear" means any product of wearing apparel from infant size up to and including size fourteen which is sold or intended for sale for the primary use of sleeping or activities related to sleeping, such as nightgowns, pajamas, and similar or related items such as robes, but excluding diapers and underwear.
- (3) "Fabric" means any material (except fiber, filament, or yarn for other than retail sale) woven, knitted, felted, or otherwise produced from or in combination with any material or synthetic fiber, film, or substitute therefor which is intended for use, or which may reasonably be expected to be used, in children's sleepwear.
- (4) The term "infant size up to and including size six-x" means the sizes defined as infant through and including six-x in Department of Commerce Voluntary Standards, Commercial Standard 151-50, "Body Measurements for the Sizing of Apparel for Infants, Babies, Toddlers, and Children", Commercial Standard 153, "Body Measurements for the Sizing of Apparel for Girls", and Commercial Standard 155, "Body Measurements for the Sizing of Boys' Apparel".
- (5) "Fabric related burns" means burns that would not have been incurred but for the fact that sleepwear worn at the time of the burns did not comply with commercial standards promulgated by the secretary of commerce of the United States in March, 1971, identified as Standard for the Flammability of Children's Sleepwear (DOC FF 3-71) 36 F.R. 14062 and by the Flammable Fabrics Act 15 U.S.C. 1193. [1973 1st ex.s. c 211 § 3.]

**70.110.040 Compliance required.** (1) It shall be unlawful to manufacture for sale, sell, or offer for sale any new and unused article of children's sleepwear which does not comply with the standards established in the Standard for the Flammability of Children's Sleepwear (DOC FF 3-71), 36 F.R. 14062 and the Flammable Fabrics Act, 15 U.S.C. 1191-1204.

(2) A violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 360; 1973 1st ex.s. c 211 § 4.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**70.110.050 Attorney general or prosecuting attorneys authorized to bring actions to restrain or prevent violations.** The attorney general or the prosecuting attorney of any county within the state may bring an action in the name of the state against any person to restrain and prevent any violation of this chapter. [1973 1st ex.s. c 211 § 5.]

**70.110.070 Strict liability.** Any person who violates RCW 70.110.040 shall be strictly liable for fabric-related burns. [1973 1st ex.s. c 211 § 7.]

**70.110.080 Personal service of process—Jurisdiction of courts.** Personal service of any process in an action under this chapter may be made upon any person outside the state if such person has violated any provision of this chapter. Such person shall be deemed to have thereby submitted himself or herself to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state within the meaning of RCW 4.28.180 and 4.28.185, as now or hereafter amended. [2012 c 117 § 425; 1973 1st ex.s. c 211 § 8.]

**70.110.900 Provisions additional.** The provisions of this chapter shall be in addition to and not a substitution for or limitation of any other law. [1973 1st ex.s. c 211 § 9.]

**Chapter 70.111 RCW  
INFANT CRIB SAFETY ACT**

Sections

- 70.111.010 Findings—Purpose—Intent.
- 70.111.020 Definitions.
- 70.111.030 Unsafe cribs—Prohibition—Definition—Penalty.
- 70.111.040 Exemption.
- 70.111.060 Civil actions.
- 70.111.070 Remedies.
- 70.111.900 Short title.

**70.111.010 Findings—Purpose—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds all of the following:

(a) The disability and death of infants resulting from injuries sustained in crib accidents are a serious threat to the public health, welfare, and safety of the people of this state.

(b) Infants are an especially vulnerable class of people.

(c) The design and construction of a baby crib must ensure that it is safe to leave an infant unattended for extended periods of time. A parent or caregiver has a right to believe that the crib in use is a safe place to leave an infant.

(d) Over thirteen thousand infants are injured in unsafe cribs every year.

(e) In the past decade, six hundred twenty-two infants died (a rate of sixty-two infants each year) from injuries sustained in unsafe cribs.

(f) The United States consumer product safety commission estimates that the cost to society resulting from injuries and death due to unsafe cribs is two hundred thirty-five million dollars per year.

(g) Secondhand, hand-me-down, and heirloom cribs pose a special problem. There were four million infants born in this country last year, but only one million new cribs sold.

As many as three out of four infants are placed in secondhand, hand-me-down, or heirloom cribs.

(h) Most injuries and deaths occur in secondhand, hand-me-down, or heirloom cribs.

(i) Existing state and federal legislation is inadequate to deal with this hazard.

(j) Prohibiting the remanufacture, retrofit, sale, contracting to sell or resell, leasing, or subletting of unsafe cribs, particularly unsafe secondhand, hand-me-down, or heirloom cribs, will prevent injuries and deaths caused by cribs.

(2) The purpose of this chapter is to prevent the occurrence of injuries and deaths to infants as a result of unsafe cribs by making it illegal to remanufacture, retrofit, sell, contract to sell or resell, lease, sublet, or otherwise place in the stream of commerce, after June 6, 1996, any full-size or nonfull-size crib that is unsafe for any infant using the crib.

(3) It is the intent of the legislature to encourage public and private collaboration in disseminating materials relative to the safety of baby cribs to parents, child care providers, and those who would be likely to place unsafe cribs in the stream of commerce. The legislature also intends that informational materials regarding baby crib safety be available to consumers through the department of health. [1996 c 158 § 1.]

**70.111.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Infant" means any person less than thirty-five inches tall and less than three years of age.

(2) "Crib" means a bed or containment designed to accommodate an infant.

(3) "Full-size crib" means a full-size crib as defined in Section 1508.3 of Title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations regarding the requirements for full-size cribs.

(4) "Nonfull-size crib" means a nonfull-size crib as defined in Section 1509.2(b) of Title 16 of the Code of the Federal Regulations regarding the requirements for nonfull-size cribs.

(5) "Person" means any natural person, firm, corporation, association, or agent or employee thereof.

(6) "Commercial user" means any person who deals in full-size or nonfull-size cribs of the kind governed by this chapter or who otherwise by one's occupation holds oneself out as having knowledge or skill peculiar to the full-size or nonfull-size cribs governed by this chapter, including child care facilities and family child care homes licensed by the department of social and health services under chapter 74.15 RCW, or any person who is in the business of remanufacturing, retrofitting, selling, leasing, subletting, or otherwise placing in the stream of commerce full-size or nonfull-size cribs. [1996 c 158 § 3.]

**70.111.030 Unsafe cribs—Prohibition—Definition—Penalty.** (1) No commercial user may remanufacture, retrofit, sell, contract to sell or resell, lease, sublet, or otherwise place in the stream of commerce, on or after June 6, 1996, a full-size or nonfull-size crib that is unsafe for any infant using the crib.

(2) A crib is presumed to be unsafe pursuant to this chapter if it does not conform to all of the following:

(a) Part 1508 (commencing with Section 1508.1) of Title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations;

(b) Part 1509 (commencing with Section 1509.1) of Title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations;

(c) Part 1303 (commencing with Section 1303.1) of Title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations;

(d) American Society for Testing Materials Voluntary Standards F966-90;

(e) American Society for Testing Materials Voluntary Standards F1169.88;

(f) Any regulations that are adopted in order to amend or supplement the regulations described in (a) through (e) of this subsection.

(3) Cribs that are unsafe or fail to perform as expected pursuant to subsection (2) of this section include, but are not limited to, cribs that have any of the following dangerous features or characteristics:

(a) Corner posts that extend more than one-sixteenth of an inch;

(b) Spaces between side slats more than two and three-eighths inches;

(c) Mattress support that can be easily dislodged from any point of the crib. A mattress segment can be easily dislodged if it cannot withstand at least a twenty-five pound upward force from underneath the crib;

(d) Cutout designs on the end panels;

(e) Rail height dimensions that do not conform to the following:

(i) The height of the rail and end panel as measured from the top of the rail or panel in its lowest position to the top of the mattress support in its highest position is at least nine inches;

(ii) The height of the rail and end panel as measured from the top of the rail or panel in its highest position to the top of the mattress support in its lowest position is at least twenty-six inches;

(f) Any screws, bolts, or hardware that are loose and not secured;

(g) Sharp edges, points, or rough surfaces, or any wood surfaces that are not smooth and free from splinters, splits, or cracks;

(h) Nonfull-size cribs with tears in mesh or fabric sides.

(4) On or after January 1, 1997, any commercial user who willfully and knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars. Hotels, motels, and similar transient lodging, child care facilities, and family child care homes are not subject to this section until January 1, 1999. [2003 c 53 § 361; 1996 c 158 § 4.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**70.111.040 Exemption.** Any crib that is clearly not intended for use by an infant is exempt from the provisions of this chapter, provided that it is accompanied at the time of remanufacturing, retrofitting, selling, leasing, subletting, or otherwise placing in the stream of commerce, by a notice to be furnished by the commercial user declaring that it is not intended to be used for an infant and is dangerous to use for

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an infant. The commercial user is further exempt from claims for liability resulting from use of a crib contrary to the notice required in this section. [1996 c 158 § 5.]

**70.111.060 Civil actions.** Any person may maintain an action against any commercial user who violates RCW 70.111.030 to enjoin the remanufacture, retrofit, sale, contract to sell, contract to resell, lease, or subletting of a full-size or nonfull-size crib that is unsafe for any infant using the crib, and for reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. This section does not apply to hotels, motels, and similar transient lodging, child care facilities, and family child care homes until January 1, 1999. [1996 c 158 § 7.]

**70.111.070 Remedies.** Remedies available under this chapter are in addition to any other remedies or procedures under any other provision of law that may be available to an aggrieved party. [1996 c 158 § 8.]

**70.111.900 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the infant crib safety act. [1996 c 158 § 2.]

## Chapter 70.112 RCW FAMILY MEDICINE—EDUCATION AND RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

### Sections

70.112.010	Definitions.
70.112.020	Education in family medicine—Department in school of medicine—Residency programs—Financial support.
70.112.060	Funding of residency programs.
70.112.070	Report to the department of health—Report to the legislature.
70.112.080	Family medicine education advisory board.
70.112.090	Advisory board—Duties.

*Council for children and families: Chapter 43.121 RCW.*

**70.112.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Advisory board" means the family medicine education advisory board created in RCW 70.112.080.

(2) "Affiliated" means established or developed in cooperation with the schools of medicine.

(3) "Health professional shortage areas" has the same definition as in RCW 28B.115.020.

(4) "Residency programs" means community-based residency educational programs in family medicine, either in existence or established under this chapter and that are certified by the accreditation council for graduate medical education or by the American osteopathic association.

(5) "Schools of medicine" means the University of Washington school of medicine located in Seattle, Washington; the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences located in Yakima, Washington; and any other such medical schools that are accredited by the liaison committee on medical education or the American osteopathic association's commission on osteopathic college accreditation, and that locate their entire four-year medical program in Washington. [2015 c 252 § 3. Prior: 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 41; 1975 1st ex.s. c 108 § 1.]

**Intent—2015 c 252:** "It is the intent of the legislature to increase the number of family medicine physicians in shortage areas in the state by providing a fiscal incentive for hospitals and clinics to develop or expand resi-

gency programs in these areas. The legislature also intends to encourage family medicine residents to work in shortage areas by funding the health professional loan repayment and scholarship program." [2015 c 252 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

**70.112.020 Education in family medicine—Department in school of medicine—Residency programs—Financial support.** (1) There is established a statewide medical education system for the purpose of training resident physicians in family medicine.

(2) The deans of the schools of medicine shall be responsible for implementing the development and expansion of residency programs in cooperation with the medical profession, hospitals, and clinics located throughout the state. The schools of medicine shall support development of high quality, accredited, affiliated residency programs, giving consideration to communities in the state where the population, hospital facilities, number of physicians, and interest in medical education indicate the potential success of the residency program and prioritizing support for health professional shortage areas in the state.

(3) The medical education system shall provide financial support for residents in training for those programs which are affiliated with the schools of medicine and shall establish positions for appropriate faculty to staff these programs.

(4) The schools of medicine shall coordinate with the office of student financial assistance to notify prospective family medicine students and residents of their eligibility for the health professional loan repayment and scholarship program under chapter 28B.115 RCW.

(5) The number of programs shall be determined by the board and be in keeping with the needs of the state. [2015 c 252 § 4; 2012 c 117 § 426; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 42; 1975 1st ex.s. c 108 § 2.]

**Intent—2015 c 252:** See note following RCW 70.112.010.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

**70.112.060 Funding of residency programs.** (1) The moneys appropriated for these statewide family medicine residency programs shall be in addition to all the income of the schools of medicine and shall not be used to supplant funds for other programs under the administration of the schools of medicine.

(2) The allocation of state funds for the residency programs shall not exceed fifty percent of the total cost of the program.

(3) No more than twenty-five percent of the appropriation for each fiscal year for the affiliated programs shall be authorized for expenditures made in support of the faculty and staff of the schools of medicine who are associated with the affiliated residency programs and are located at the schools of medicine.

(4) No funds for the purposes of this chapter shall be used to subsidize the cost of care incurred by patients.

(5) No more than ten percent of the state funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter may be used for administrative or overhead costs to administer the statewide family medicine residency programs.

(6) The family medicine residency network at the University of Washington shall, in collaboration with the schools

of medicine, administer the state funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter. [2015 c 252 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 108 § 6.]

**Intent—2015 c 252:** See note following RCW 70.112.010.

**70.112.070 Report to the department of health—Report to the legislature.** (1) Each family medicine residency program shall annually report the following information to the department of health:

(a) The location of the residency program and whether the program, or any portion of the program, is located in a health professional shortage area as defined in RCW 70.112.010;

(b) The number of residents in the program and the number who attended an in-state versus an out-of-state medical school; and

(c) The number of graduates of the residency program who work within health professional shortage areas.

(2) The department of health shall aggregate the information received under subsection (1) of this section and report it to the appropriate legislative committees of the house of representatives and the senate by November 1, 2016, and November 1st every even year thereafter. The report must also include information on how the geographic distribution of family residency programs changes over time and, if information on the number of residents in specialty areas is readily available, a comparison of the number of residents in family medicine versus specialty areas. [2015 c 252 § 2.]

**Intent—2015 c 252:** See note following RCW 70.112.010.

**70.112.080 Family medicine education advisory board.** (1) There is created a family medicine education advisory board, which must consist of the following eleven members:

(a) One member appointed by the dean of the school of medicine at the University of Washington school of medicine;

(b) One member appointed by the dean of the school of medicine at the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences;

(c) Two citizen members, one from west of the crest of the Cascade mountains and one from east of the crest of the Cascade mountains, to be appointed by the governor;

(d) One member appointed by the Washington state medical association;

(e) One member appointed by the Washington osteopathic medical association;

(f) One member appointed by the Washington state academy of family physicians;

(g) One hospital administrator representing those Washington hospitals with family medicine residency programs, appointed by the Washington state hospital association;

(h) One director representing the directors of community-based family medicine residency programs, appointed by the family medicine residency network;

(i) One member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house; and

(j) One member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate.

(2) The two members of the advisory board appointed by the deans of the schools of medicine shall serve as chairs of the advisory board.

(3) The cochairs of the advisory board, appointed by the deans of the schools of medicine, shall serve as permanent members of the advisory board without specified term limits. The deans of the schools of medicine have the authority to replace the chair representing their school. The deans of the schools of medicine shall appoint a new member in the event that the member representing their school vacates his or her position.

(4) Other members must be initially appointed as follows: Terms of the two public members must be two years; terms of the members appointed by the medical association and the hospital association must be three years; and the remaining members must be four years. Thereafter, terms for the nonpermanent members must be four years. Members may serve two consecutive terms. New appointments must be filled in the same manner as for original appointments. Vacancies must be filled for an unexpired term in the manner of the original appointment. [2015 c 252 § 6.]

**Intent—2015 c 252:** See note following RCW 70.112.010.

**70.112.090 Advisory board—Duties.** The advisory board shall consider and provide recommendations on the selection of the areas within the state where affiliate residency programs could exist, the allocation of funds appropriated under this chapter, and the procedures for review and evaluation of the residency programs. [2015 c 252 § 7.]

**Intent—2015 c 252:** See note following RCW 70.112.010.

## Chapter 70.114 RCW MIGRANT LABOR HOUSING

### Sections

- 70.114.010 Legislative declaration—Fees for use of housing.  
70.114.020 Migrant labor housing facility—Employment security department authorized to contract for continued operation.

**70.114.010 Legislative declaration—Fees for use of housing.** The legislature finds that the migrant labor housing project constructed on property purchased by the state in Yakima county should be continued until June 30, 1981. The employment security department is authorized to set day use or extended period use fees, consistent with those established by the department of parks and recreation [parks and recreation commission]. [1979 ex.s. c 79 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 287 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 50 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 125 § 1.]

**70.114.020 Migrant labor housing facility—Employment security department authorized to contract for continued operation.** The employment security department is authorized to enter into such agreements and contracts as may be necessary to provide for the continued operation of the facility by a state agency, an appropriate local governmental body, or by such other entity as the commissioner may deem appropriate and in the state's best interest. [1979 ex.s. c 79 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 287 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 50 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 125 § 4.]

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## Chapter 70.114A RCW TEMPORARY WORKER HOUSING—HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATION

### Sections

- 70.114A.010 Findings—Intent.  
70.114A.020 Definitions.  
70.114A.030 Application of chapter.  
70.114A.040 Responsibilities of department.  
70.114A.045 Housing operation standards—Departments' agreement—Enforcement.  
70.114A.050 Housing on rural worksites.  
70.114A.060 Inspection of housing.  
70.114A.065 Licensing, operation, and inspection—Rules.  
70.114A.070 Technical assistance.  
70.114A.081 Temporary worker building code—Rules—Guidelines—Exceptions—Enforcement—Variations.  
70.114A.100 Rules—Compliance with federal act.  
70.114A.110 Cherry harvest temporary labor camps—Rule making—Definition—Conditions for occupation—Application.  
70.114A.901 Effective date—1995 c 220.

**70.114A.010 Findings—Intent.** The legislature finds that there is an inadequate supply of temporary and permanent housing for migrant and seasonal workers in this state. The legislature also finds that unclear, complex regulations related to the development, construction, and permitting of worker housing inhibit the development of this much needed housing. The legislature further finds that as a result, many workers are forced to obtain housing that is unsafe and unsanitary.

Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to encourage the development of temporary and permanent housing for workers that is safe and sanitary by: Establishing a clear and concise set of regulations for temporary housing; establishing a streamlined permitting and administrative process that will be locally administered and encourage the development of such housing; and by providing technical assistance to organizations or individuals interested in the development of worker housing. [1995 c 220 § 1.]

**70.114A.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Agricultural employee" means any person who renders personal services to, or under the direction of, an agricultural employer in connection with the employer's agricultural activity.

(2) "Agricultural employer" means any person engaged in agricultural activity, including the growing, producing, or harvesting of farm or nursery products, or engaged in the reforestation or reforestation of lands, which includes but is not limited to the planting, transplanting, tubing, precommercial thinning, and thinning of trees and seedlings, the clearing, piling, and disposal of brush and slash, the harvest of Christmas trees, and other related activities.

(3) "Department" means the department of health.

(4) "Dwelling unit" means a shelter, building, or portion of a building, that may include cooking and eating facilities, that is:

(a) Provided and designated by the operator as either a sleeping area, living area, or both, for occupants; and

(b) Physically separated from other sleeping and common-use areas.

(5) "Enforcement" and "enforcement actions" include the authority to levy and collect fines.

(6) "Facility" means a sleeping place, drinking water, toilet, sewage disposal, food handling installation, or other installations required for compliance with this chapter.

(7) "Occupant" means a temporary worker or a person who resides with a temporary worker at the housing site.

(8) "Operator" means a person holding legal title to the land on which temporary worker housing is located. However, if the legal title and the right to possession are in different persons, "operator" means a person having the lawful control or supervision over the temporary worker housing under a lease or other arrangement.

(9) "Temporary worker" means an agricultural employee employed intermittently and not residing year-round at the same site.

(10) "Temporary worker housing" means a place, area, or piece of land where sleeping places or housing sites are provided by an agricultural employer for his or her agricultural employees or by another person, including a temporary worker housing operator, who is providing such accommodations for employees, for temporary, seasonal occupancy. [1999 c 374 § 6; 1995 c 220 § 2.]

**70.114A.030 Application of chapter.** Chapter 220, Laws of 1995, applies to temporary worker housing that consists of five or more dwelling units, or any combination of dwelling units, dormitories, or spaces that house ten or more occupants. [1995 c 220 § 3.]

**70.114A.040 Responsibilities of department.** The department is designated the single state agency responsible for encouraging the development of additional temporary worker housing, and shall be responsible for coordinating the activities of the various state and local agencies to assure a seamless, nonduplicative system for the development and operation of temporary worker housing. [1995 c 220 § 4.]

**70.114A.045 Housing operation standards—Departments' agreement—Enforcement.** By December 1, 1999, the department and the department of labor and industries shall jointly establish a formal agreement that identifies the roles of each of the two agencies with respect to the enforcement of temporary worker housing operation standards.

The agreement shall, to the extent feasible, provide for inspection and enforcement actions by a single agency, and shall include measures to avoid multiple citations for the same violation. [1999 c 374 § 3.]

**70.114A.050 Housing on rural worksites.** Temporary worker housing located on a rural worksite, and used for workers employed on the worksite, shall be considered a permitted use at the rural worksite for the purposes of zoning or other land use review processes, subject only to height, setback, and road access requirements of the underlying zone. [1995 c 220 § 5.]

**70.114A.060 Inspection of housing.** The secretary of the department or authorized representative may inspect housing covered by chapter 220, Laws of 1995, to enforce temporary worker housing rules adopted by the state board of health prior to July 25, 1999, or the department, or when the secretary or representative has reasonable cause to believe

that a violation of temporary worker housing rules adopted by the state board of health prior to July 25, 1999, or the department is occurring or is being maintained. If the buildings or premises are occupied as a residence, a reasonable effort shall be made to obtain permission from the resident. If the premises or building is unoccupied, a reasonable effort shall be made to locate the owner or other person having charge or control of the building or premises and request entry. If consent for entry is not obtained, for whatever reason, the secretary or representative shall have recourse to every remedy provided by law to secure entry. [1999 c 374 § 7; 1995 c 220 § 6.]

**70.114A.065 Licensing, operation, and inspection—Rules.** The department and the department of labor and industries shall adopt joint rules for the licensing, operation, and inspection of temporary worker housing, and the enforcement thereof. These rules shall establish standards that are as effective as the standards developed under the Washington industrial safety and health act, chapter 49.17 RCW. [1999 c 374 § 1.]

**70.114A.070 Technical assistance.** The \*department of community, trade, and economic development shall contract with private, nonprofit corporations to provide technical assistance to any private individual or nonprofit organization wishing to construct temporary or permanent worker housing. The assistance may include information on state and local application and approval procedures, information or assistance in applying for federal, state, or local financial assistance, including tax incentives, information on cost-effective housing designs, or any other assistance the \*department of community, trade, and economic development may deem helpful in obtaining the active participation of private individuals or groups in constructing or operating temporary or permanent worker housing. [1995 c 220 § 7.]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**70.114A.081 Temporary worker building code—Rules—Guidelines—Exceptions—Enforcement—Variations.** (1) The department shall adopt by rule a temporary worker building code in conformance with the temporary worker housing standards developed under the Washington industrial safety and health act, chapter 49.17 RCW, and the following guidelines:

(a) The temporary worker building code shall provide construction standards for shelter and associated facilities that are safe, secure, and capable of withstanding the stresses and loads associated with their designated use, and to which they are likely to be subjected by the elements;

(b) The temporary worker building code shall permit and facilitate designs and formats that allow for maximum affordability, consistent with the provision of decent, safe, and sanitary housing;

(c) In developing the temporary worker building code the department of health shall consider:

(i) The need for dormitory type housing for groups of unrelated individuals; and

(ii) The need for housing to accommodate families;

(d) The temporary worker building code shall incorporate the opportunity for the use of construction alternatives and the use of new technologies that meet the performance standards required by law;

(e) The temporary worker building code shall include standards for heating and insulation appropriate to the type of structure and length and season of occupancy;

(f) The temporary worker building code shall include standards for temporary worker housing that are to be used only during periods when no auxiliary heat is required; and

(g) The temporary worker building code shall provide that persons operating temporary worker housing consisting of four or fewer dwelling units or combinations of dwelling units, dormitories, or spaces that house nine or fewer occupants may elect to comply with the provisions of the temporary worker building code, and that unless the election is made, such housing is subject to the codes adopted under RCW 19.27.031.

(2) In adopting the temporary worker building code, the department shall make exceptions to the codes listed in RCW 19.27.031 and chapter 19.27A RCW, in keeping with the guidelines set forth in this section. The initial temporary worker building code adopted by the department shall be substantially equivalent with the temporary worker building code developed by the state building code council as directed by section 8, chapter 220, Laws of 1995.

(3) The temporary worker building code authorized and required by this section shall be enforced by the department.

The department shall have the authority to allow minor variations from the temporary worker building code that do not compromise the health or safety of workers. Procedures for requesting variations and guidelines for granting such requests shall be included in the rules adopted under this section. [1999 c 374 § 8; 1998 c 37 § 2.]

**70.114A.100 Rules—Compliance with federal act.** Any rules adopted under chapter 220, Laws of 1995, pertaining to an employer who is subject to the migrant and seasonal agricultural worker protection act (96 Stat. 2583; 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1801 et seq.), must comply with the housing provisions of that federal act. [1995 c 220 § 10.]

**70.114A.110 Cherry harvest temporary labor camps—Rule making—Definition—Conditions for occupation—Application.** (1) The department and the department of labor and industries are directed to engage in joint rule making to establish standards for cherry harvest temporary labor camps. These standards may include some variation from standards that are necessary for longer occupancies, provided they are as effective as the standards adopted under the Washington industrial safety and health act, chapter 49.17 RCW. As used in this section "cherry harvest temporary labor camp" means a place where housing and related facilities are provided to agricultural employees by agricultural employers for their use while employed for the harvest of cherries. The housing and facilities may be occupied by agricultural employees for a period not to exceed one week before the commencement through one week following the conclusion of the cherry crop harvest within the state.

(2) Facilities licensed under rules adopted under this section may not be used to provide housing for agricultural

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employees who are nonimmigrant aliens admitted to the United States for agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature under section 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the immigration and nationality act (8 U.S.C. Sec. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a)).

(3) This section has no application to temporary worker housing constructed in conformance with codes listed in RCW 19.27.031 or 70.114A.081. [2002 c 23 § 1; 1999 c 374 § 5.]

**70.114A.901 Effective date—1995 c 220.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 3, 1995]. [1995 c 220 § 14.]

## Chapter 70.115 RCW DRUG INJECTION DEVICES

### Sections

- 70.115.050 Retail sale of hypodermic syringes, needles—Duty of retailer.  
70.115.060 Retailers not required to sell hypodermic syringes.

**70.115.050 Retail sale of hypodermic syringes, needles—Duty of retailer.** On the sale at retail of any hypodermic syringe, hypodermic needle, or any device adapted for the use of drugs by injection, the retailer shall satisfy himself or herself that the device will be used for the legal use intended. [1981 c 147 § 5.]

**70.115.060 Retailers not required to sell hypodermic syringes.** Nothing contained in chapter 213, Laws of 2002 shall be construed to require a retailer to sell hypodermic needles or syringes to any person. [2002 c 213 § 3.]

## Chapter 70.116 RCW PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM COORDINATION ACT OF 1977

### Sections

- 70.116.010 Legislative declaration.  
70.116.020 Declaration of purpose.  
70.116.030 Definitions.  
70.116.040 Critical water supply service area—Designation—Establishment or amendment of external boundaries—Procedures.  
70.116.050 Development of water system plans for critical water supply service areas.  
70.116.060 Approval of coordinated water system plan—Limitations following approval—Dispute resolution mechanism—Update or revision of plan.  
70.116.070 Service area boundaries within critical water supply area.  
70.116.080 Performance standards relating to fire protection.  
70.116.090 Assumption of jurisdiction or control of public water system by city, town, or code city.  
70.116.100 Bottled water exempt.  
70.116.110 Rate making authority preserved.  
70.116.120 Short title.  
70.116.134 Satellite system management agencies—Definitions.  
70.116.140 Review of water or sewer system plan—Time limitations—Notice of rejection of plan or extension of timeline.

*Drinking water quality consumer complaints: RCW 80.04.110.*

**70.116.010 Legislative declaration.** The legislature hereby finds that an adequate supply of potable water for domestic, commercial, and industrial use is vital to the health and well-being of the people of the state. Readily available

water for use in public water systems is limited and should be developed and used efficiently with a minimum of loss or waste.

In order to maximize efficient and effective development of the state's public water supply systems, the department of health shall assist water purveyors by providing a procedure to coordinate the planning of the public water supply systems. [1991 c 3 § 365; 1977 ex.s. c 142 § 1.]

**70.116.020 Declaration of purpose.** The purposes of this chapter are:

(1) To provide for the establishment of critical water supply service areas related to water utility planning and development;

(2) To provide for the development of minimum planning and design standards for critical water supply service areas to insure that water systems developed in these areas are consistent with regional needs;

(3) To assist in the orderly and efficient administration of state financial assistance programs for public water systems; and

(4) To assist public water systems to meet reasonable standards of quality, quantity and pressure. [1977 ex.s. c 142 § 2.]

**70.116.030 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms when used in this chapter shall be defined as follows:

(1) "Coordinated water system plan" means a plan for public water systems within a critical water supply service area which identifies the present and future needs of the systems and sets forth means for meeting those needs in the most efficient manner possible. Such a plan shall include provisions for subsequently updating the plan. In areas where more than one water system exists, a coordinated plan may consist of either: (a) A new plan developed for the area following its designation as a critical water supply service area; or (b) a compilation of compatible water system plans existing at the time of such designation and containing such supplementary provisions as are necessary to satisfy the requirements of this chapter. Any such coordinated plan must include provisions regarding: Future service area designations; assessment of the feasibility of shared source, transmission, and storage facilities; emergency inter-ties; design standards; and other concerns related to the construction and operation of the water system facilities.

(2) "Critical water supply service area" means a geographical area which is characterized by a proliferation of small, inadequate water systems, or by water supply problems which threaten the present or future water quality or reliability of service in such a manner that efficient and orderly development may best be achieved through coordinated planning by the water utilities in the area.

(3) "Public water system" means any system providing water intended for, or used for, human consumption or other domestic uses. It includes, but is not limited to, the source, treatment for purifying purposes only, storage, transmission, pumping, and distribution facilities where water is furnished to any community, or number of individuals, or is made available to the public for human consumption or domestic use, but excluding water systems serving one single-family

residence. However, systems existing on September 21, 1977 which are owner operated and serve less than ten single-family residences or which serve only one industrial plant shall be excluded from this definition and the provisions of this chapter.

(4) "Purveyor" means any agency or subdivision of the state or any municipal corporation, firm, company, mutual or cooperative association, institution, partnership, or person or any other entity, that owns or operates for wholesale or retail service a public water system. It also means the authorized agents of any such entities.

(5) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health or the secretary's authorized representative.

(6) "Service area" means a specific geographical area serviced or for which service is planned by a purveyor. [1991 c 3 § 366; 1977 ex.s. c 142 § 3.]

**70.116.040 Critical water supply service area—Designation—Establishment or amendment of external boundaries—Procedures.** (1) The secretary and the appropriate local planning agencies and purveyors, shall study geographical areas where water supply problems related to uncoordinated planning, inadequate water quality or unreliable service appear to exist. If the results of the study indicate that such water supply problems do exist, the secretary or the county legislative authority shall designate the area involved as being a critical water supply service area, consult with the appropriate local planning agencies and purveyors, and appoint a committee of not less than three representatives therefrom solely for the purpose of establishing the proposed external boundaries of the critical water supply service area.

The committee shall include a representative from each purveyor serving more than fifty customers, the county legislative authority, county planning agency, and health agencies. Such proposed boundaries shall be established within six months of the appointment of the committee.

During the six month period following the establishment of the proposed external boundaries of the critical water supply services areas, the county legislative authority shall conduct public hearings on the proposed boundaries and shall modify or ratify the proposed boundaries in accordance with the findings of the public hearings. The boundaries shall reflect the existing land usage, and permitted densities in county plans, ordinances, and/or growth policies. If the proposed boundaries are not modified during the six month period, the proposed boundaries shall be automatically ratified and be the critical water supply service area.

After establishment of the external boundaries of the critical water supply service area, no new public water systems may be approved within the boundary area unless an existing water purveyor is unable to provide water service.

(2) At the time a critical water supply service area is established, the external boundaries for such area shall not include any fractional part of a purveyor's existing contiguous service area.

(3) The external boundaries of the critical water supply service area may be amended in accordance with procedures prescribed in subsection (1) of this section for the establishment of the critical water supply service areas when such amendment is necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter. [1977 ex.s. c 142 § 4.]

**70.116.050 Development of water system plans for critical water supply service areas.** (1) Each purveyor within the boundaries of a critical water supply service area shall develop a water system plan for the purveyor's future service area if such a plan has not already been developed: PROVIDED, That nonmunicipally owned public water systems are exempt from the planning requirements of this chapter, except for the establishment of service area boundaries if they have no plans for water service beyond their existing service area: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if the county legislative authority permits a change in development that will increase the demand for water service of such a system beyond the existing system's ability to provide minimum water service, the purveyor shall develop a water system plan in accordance with this section. The establishment of future service area boundaries shall be in accordance with RCW 70.116.070.

(2) After the boundaries of a critical water supply service area have been established pursuant to RCW 70.116.040, the committee established in RCW 70.116.040 shall participate in the development of a coordinated water system plan for the designated area. Such a plan shall incorporate all water system plans developed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. The plan shall provide for maximum integration and coordination of public water system facilities consistent with the protection and enhancement of the public health and well-being. Decisions of the committee shall be by majority vote of those present at meetings of the committee.

(3) Those portions of a critical water supply service area not yet served by a public water system shall have a coordinated water system plan developed by existing purveyors based upon permitted densities in county plans, ordinances, and/or growth policies for a minimum of five years beyond the date of establishment of the boundaries of the critical water supply service area.

(4) To insure that the plan incorporates the proper designs to protect public health, the secretary shall adopt regulations pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW concerning the scope and content of coordinated water system plans, and shall ensure, as minimum requirements, that such plans:

(a) Are reviewed by the appropriate local governmental agency to insure that the plan is not inconsistent with the land use plans, shoreline master programs, and/or developmental policies of the general purpose local government or governments whose jurisdiction the water system plan affects.

(b) Recognize all water resource plans, water quality plans, and water pollution control plans which have been adopted by units of local, regional, and state government.

(c) Incorporate the fire protection standards developed pursuant to RCW 70.116.080.

(d) Identify the future service area boundaries of the public water system or systems included in the plan within the critical water supply service area.

(e) Identify feasible emergency inter-ties between adjacent purveyors.

(f) Include satellite system management requirements consistent with RCW 70.116.134.

(g) Include policies and procedures that generally address failing water systems for which counties may become responsible under RCW 43.70.195.

(5) If a "water general plan" for a critical water supply service area or portion thereof has been prepared pursuant to chapter 36.94 RCW and such a plan meets the requirements of subsections (1) and (4) of this section, such a plan shall constitute the coordinated water system plan for the applicable geographical area.

(6) The committee established in RCW 70.116.040 may develop and utilize a mechanism for addressing disputes that arise in the development of the coordinated water system plan.

(7) Prior to the submission of a coordinated water system plan to the secretary for approval pursuant to RCW 70.116.060, the legislative authorities of the counties in which the critical water supply service area is located shall hold a public hearing thereon and shall determine the plan's consistency with subsection (4) of this section. If within sixty days of receipt of the plan, the legislative authorities find any segment of a proposed service area of a purveyor's plan or any segment of the coordinated water system plan to be inconsistent with any current land use plans, shoreline master programs, and/or developmental policies of the general purpose local government or governments whose jurisdiction the water system plan affects, the secretary shall not approve that portion of the plan until the inconsistency is resolved between the local government and the purveyor. If no comments have been received from the legislative authorities within sixty days of receipt of the plan, the secretary may consider the plan for approval.

(8) Any county legislative authority may adopt an abbreviated plan for the provision of water supplies within its boundaries that includes provisions for service area boundaries, minimum design criteria, and review process. The elements of the abbreviated plan shall conform to the criteria established by the department under subsection (4) of this section and shall otherwise be consistent with other adopted land use and resource plans. The county legislative authority may, in lieu of the committee required under RCW 70.116.040, and the procedures authorized in this section, utilize an advisory committee that is representative of the water utilities and local governments within its jurisdiction to assist in the preparation of the abbreviated plan, which may be adopted by resolution and submitted to the secretary for approval. Purveyors within the boundaries covered by the abbreviated plan need not develop a water system plan, except to the extent required by the secretary or state board of health under other authority. Any abbreviated plan adopted by a county legislative authority pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the same provisions contained in RCW 70.116.060 for coordinated water system plans that are approved by the secretary. [1995 c 376 § 7; 1977 ex.s. c 142 § 5.]

**Findings—1995 c 376:** See note following RCW 70.116.060.

**70.116.060 Approval of coordinated water system plan—Limitations following approval—Dispute resolution mechanism—Update or revision of plan.** (1) A coordinated water system plan shall be submitted to the secretary for design approval within two years of the establishment of the boundaries of a critical water supply service area.

(2) The secretary shall review the coordinated water system plan and, to the extent the plan is consistent with the

requirements of this chapter and regulations adopted hereunder, shall approve the plan, provided that the secretary shall not approve those portions of a coordinated water system plan that fail to meet the requirements for future service area boundaries until any boundary dispute is resolved as set forth in RCW 70.116.070.

(3) Following the approval of a coordinated water system plan by the secretary:

(a) All purveyors constructing or proposing to construct public water system facilities within the area covered by the plan shall comply with the plan.

(b) No other purveyor shall establish a public water system within the area covered by the plan, unless the local legislative authority determines that existing purveyors are unable to provide the service in a timely and reasonable manner, pursuant to guidelines developed by the secretary. An existing purveyor is unable to provide the service in a timely manner if the water cannot be provided to an applicant for water within one hundred twenty days unless specified otherwise by the local legislative authority. If such a determination is made, the local legislative authority shall require the new public water system to be constructed in accordance with the construction standards and specifications embodied in the coordinated water system plan approved for the area. The service area boundaries in the coordinated plan for the affected utilities shall be revised to reflect the decision of the local legislative authority.

(4) The secretary may deny proposals to establish or to expand any public water system within a critical water supply service area for which there is not an approved coordinated water system plan at any time after two years of the establishment of the critical water supply service area: PROVIDED, That service connections shall not be considered expansions.

(5) The affected legislative authorities may develop and utilize a mechanism for addressing disputes that arise in the implementation of the coordinated water system plan after the plan has been approved by the secretary.

(6) After adoption of the initial coordinated water system plan, the local legislative authority or the secretary may determine that the plan should be updated or revised. The legislative authority may initiate an update at any time, but the secretary may initiate an update no more frequently than once every five years. The update may encompass all or a portion of the plan, with the scope of the update to be determined by the secretary and the legislative authority. The process for the update shall be the one prescribed in RCW 70.116.050.

(7) The provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall not apply in any county for which a coordinated water system plan has not been approved under subsection (2) of this section.

(8) If the secretary initiates an update or revision of a coordinated water system plan, the state shall pay for the cost of updating or revising the plan. [1995 c 376 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 142 § 6.]

**Findings—1995 c 376:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Protection of the state's water resources, and utilization of such resources for provision of public water supplies, requires more efficient and effective management than is currently provided under state law;

(2) The provision of public water supplies to the people of the state should be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the planning principles of the growth management act and the comprehensive plans adopted by local governments under the growth management act;

(3) Small water systems have inherent difficulties with proper planning, operation, financing, management and maintenance. The ability of such systems to provide safe and reliable supplies to their customers on a long-term basis needs to be assured through proper management and training of operators;

(4) New water quality standards and operational requirements for public water systems will soon generate higher rates for the customers of those systems, which may be difficult for customers to afford to pay. It is in the best interest of the people of this state that small systems maintain themselves in a financially viable condition;

(5) The drinking water 2000 task force has recommended maintaining a strong and properly funded statewide drinking water program, retaining primary responsibility for administering the federal safe drinking water act in Washington. The task force has further recommended delegation of as many water system regulatory functions as possible to local governments, with provision of adequate resources and elimination of barriers to such delegation. In order to achieve these objectives, the state shall provide adequate funding from both general state funds and funding directly from the regulated water system;

(6) The public health services improvement plan recommends that the principal public health functions in Washington, including regulation of public water systems, should be fully funded by state revenues and undertaken by local jurisdictions with the capacity to perform them; and

(7) State government, local governments, water suppliers, and other interested parties should work for continuing economic growth of the state by maximizing the use of existing water supply management alternatives, including regional water systems, satellite management, and coordinated water system development." [1995 c 376 § 1.]

**70.116.070 Service area boundaries within critical water supply area.** (1) The proposed service area boundaries of public water systems within the critical water supply service area that are required to submit water system plans under this chapter shall be identified in the system's plan. The local legislative authority, or its planning department or other designee, shall review the proposed boundaries to determine whether the proposed boundaries of one or more systems overlap. The boundaries determined by the local legislative authority not to overlap shall be incorporated into the coordinated water system plan. Where any overlap exists, the local legislative authority may attempt to resolve the conflict through procedures established under RCW 70.116.060(5).

(2) Any final decision by a local legislative authority regarding overlapping service areas, or any unresolved disputes regarding service area boundaries, may be appealed or referred to the secretary in writing for resolution. After receipt of an appeal or referral, the secretary shall hold a public hearing thereon. The secretary shall provide notice of the hearing by certified mail to each purveyor involved in the dispute, to each county legislative authority having jurisdiction in the area and to the public. The secretary shall provide public notice pursuant to the provisions of chapter 65.16 RCW. Such notice shall be given at least twenty days prior to the hearing. The hearing may be continued from time to time and, at the termination thereof, the secretary may restrict the expansion of service of any purveyor within the area if the secretary finds such restriction is necessary to provide the greatest protection of the public health and well-being. [1995 c 376 § 13; 1977 ex.s. c 142 § 7.]

**Findings—1995 c 376:** See note following RCW 70.116.060.

**70.116.080 Performance standards relating to fire protection.** The secretary shall adopt performance standards relating to fire protection to be incorporated into the design and construction of public water systems. The standards shall be consistent with recognized national standards. The secre-

tary shall adopt regulations pertaining to the application and enforcement of the standards: PROVIDED, That the regulations shall require the application of the standards for new and expanding systems only. The standards shall apply in critical water supply service areas unless the approved coordinated plan provides for nonfire flow systems. [1977 ex.s. c 142 § 8.]

**70.116.090 Assumption of jurisdiction or control of public water system by city, town, or code city.** The assumption of jurisdiction or control of any public water system or systems by a city, town, or code city, shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 35.13A RCW, and the provisions of this chapter shall be superseded by the provisions of chapter 35.13A RCW regarding such an assumption of jurisdiction. [1977 ex.s. c 142 § 9.]

**70.116.100 Bottled water exempt.** Nothing in this chapter shall apply to water which is bottled or otherwise packaged in a container for human consumption or domestic use, or to the treatment, storage and transportation facilities used in the processing of the bottled water or the distribution of the bottles or containers of water. [1977 ex.s. c 142 § 10.]

**70.116.110 Rate making authority preserved.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to alter in any way the existing authority of purveyors and municipal corporations to establish, administer and apply water rates and rate provisions. [1977 ex.s. c 142 § 11.]

**70.116.120 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Public Water System Coordination Act of 1977". [1977 ex.s. c 142 § 12.]

**70.116.134 Satellite system management agencies—Definitions.** (1) The secretary shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW establishing criteria for designating individuals or water purveyors as qualified satellite system management agencies. The criteria shall set forth minimum standards for designation as a satellite system management agency qualified to assume ownership, operation, or both, of an existing or proposed public water system. The criteria shall include demonstration of financial integrity and operational capability, and may require demonstration of previous experience in successful operation and management of a public water system.

(2) Each county shall identify potential satellite system management agencies to the secretary for areas where: (a) No purveyor has been designated a future service area pursuant to this chapter, or (b) an existing purveyor is unable or unwilling to provide service. Preference shall be given to public utilities or utility districts or to investor-owned utilities under the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission.

(3) The secretary shall approve satellite system management agencies meeting the established criteria and shall maintain and make available to counties a list of approved agencies. Prior to the construction of a new public water system, the individual(s) proposing the new system or requesting service shall first be directed by the local agency responsible for issuing the construction or building permit to one or more

qualified satellite system management agencies designated for the service area where the new system is proposed for the purpose of exploring the possibility of a satellite agency either owning or operating the proposed new water system.

(4) Approved satellite system management agencies shall be reviewed periodically by the secretary for continued compliance with established criteria. The secretary may require status reports and other information necessary for such review. Satellite system management agencies shall be subject to reapproval at the discretion of the secretary but not less than once every five years.

(5) The secretary may assess reasonable fees to process applications for initial approval and for periodic review of satellite system management agencies.

(6) For purposes of this section, "satellite system management agency" and "satellite agency" shall mean a person or entity that is certified by the secretary to own or operate more than one public water system on a regional or county-wide basis, without the necessity for a physical connection between such systems. [2013 c 251 § 8; 1991 c 18 § 1.]

**Residual balance of funds—Effective date—2013 c 251:** See notes following RCW 41.06.280.

**70.116.140 Review of water or sewer system plan—Time limitations—Notice of rejection of plan or extension of timeline.** For any new or revised water or sewer system plan submitted for review under this chapter, the department of health shall review and either approve, conditionally approve, reject, or request amendments within ninety days of the receipt of the submission of the plan. The department of health may extend this ninety-day time limitation for new submittals by up to an additional ninety days if insufficient time exists to adequately review the general comprehensive plan. For rejections of plans or extensions of the timeline, the department shall provide in writing, to the person or entity submitting the plan, the reason for such action. In addition, the person or entity submitting the plan and the department of health may mutually agree to an extension of the deadlines contained in this section. [2002 c 161 § 3.]

## Chapter 70.118 RCW

### ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

#### Sections

70.118.010	Legislative declaration.
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70.118.130	Civil penalties.

**Reviser's note:** Powers and duties of the department of social and health services and the secretary of social and health services transferred to the department of health and the secretary of health. See RCW 43.70.060.

*Local health officer authority to grant waiver from on-site sewage system requirements: RCW 70.05.072.*

**70.118.010 Legislative declaration.** The legislature finds that over one million, two hundred thousand persons in the state are not served by sanitary sewers and that they must rely on septic tank systems. The failure of large numbers of such systems has resulted in significant health hazards, loss of property values, and water quality degradation. The legislature further finds that failure of such systems could be reduced by utilization of nonwater-carried sewage disposal systems, or other alternative methods of effluent disposal, as a correctional measure. Waste water volume diminution and disposal of most of the high bacterial waste through composting or other alternative methods of effluent disposal would result in restorative improvement or correction of existing substandard systems. [1977 ex.s. c 133 § 1.]

**70.118.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) "Nonwater-carried sewage disposal devices" means any device that stores and treats nonwater-carried human urine and feces.

(2) "Alternative methods of effluent disposal" means systems approved by the department of health, including at least, mound systems, alternating drainfields, anaerobic filters, evapotranspiration systems, and aerobic systems.

(3) "Failure" means: (a) Effluent has been discharged on the surface of the ground prior to approved treatment; or (b) effluent has percolated to the surface of the ground; or (c) effluent has contaminated or threatens to contaminate a groundwater supply.

(4) "Additive" means any commercial product intended to affect the performance or aesthetics of an on-site sewage disposal system.

(5) "Department" means the department of health.

(6) "On-site sewage disposal system" means any system of piping, treatment devices, or other facilities that convey, store, treat, or dispose of sewage on the property where it originates or on nearby property under the control of the user where the system is not connected to a public sewer system. For purposes of this chapter, an on-site sewage disposal system does not include indoor plumbing and associated fixtures.

(7) "Chemical additive" means those additives containing acids, bases, or other chemicals deemed unsafe by the department for use in an on-site sewage disposal system.

(8) "Additive manufacturer" means any person who manufactures, formulates, blends, packages, or repackages an additive product for sale, use, or distribution within the state. [1994 c 281 § 2; 1993 c 321 § 2; 1991 c 3 § 367; 1977 ex.s. c 133 § 2.]

**Finding—Purpose—1994 c 281:** "The legislature finds that chemical additives do, and that other types of additives may, contribute to septic system failure and groundwater contamination. In order to determine which ingredients of nonchemically based additive products have adverse effects on public health or the environment, it is necessary to submit such products to a review procedure.

The purpose of this act is: (1) To establish a timely and orderly procedure for review and approval of on-site sewage disposal system additives; (2) to prohibit the use, sale, or distribution of additives having an adverse effect on public health or the water quality of the state; (3) to require the disclosure of the contents of additives that are advertised, sold, or distributed in the state; and (4) to provide for consumer protection." [1994 c 281 § 1.]

**Intent—1993 c 321:** See note following RCW 70.118.060.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.118.030 Local boards of health—Administrative search warrant—Administrative plan—Corrections.** (1) Local boards of health shall identify failing septic tank drainfield systems in the normal manner and will use reasonable effort to determine new failures. The local health officer, environmental health director, or equivalent officer may apply for an administrative search warrant to a court official authorized to issue a criminal search warrant. The warrant may only be applied for after the local health officer or the health officer's designee has requested inspection of the person's property under the specific administrative plan required in this section, and the person has refused the health officer or the health officer's designee access to the person's property. Timely notice must be given to any affected person that a warrant is being requested and that the person may be present at any court proceeding to consider the requested search warrant. The court official may issue the warrant upon probable cause. A request for a search warrant must show [that] the inspection, examination, test, or sampling is in response to pollution in commercial or recreational shellfish harvesting areas or pollution in freshwater. A specific administrative plan must be developed expressly in response to the pollution. The local health officer, environmental health director, or equivalent officer shall submit the plan to the court as part of the justification for the warrant, along with specific evidence showing that it is reasonable to believe pollution is coming from the septic system on the property to be accessed for inspection. The plan must include each of the following elements:

(a) The overall goal of the inspection;

(b) The location and identification by address of the properties being authorized for inspection;

(c) Requirements for giving the person owning the property and the person occupying the property if it is someone other than the owner, notice of the plan, its provisions, and times of any inspections;

(d) The survey procedures to be used in the inspection;

(e) The criteria that would be used to define an on-site sewage system failure; and

(f) The follow-up actions that would be pursued once an on-site sewage system failure has been identified and confirmed.

(2) Discretionary judgment will be made in implementing corrections by specifying nonwater-carried sewage disposal devices or other alternative methods of treatment and effluent disposal as a measure of ameliorating existing substandard conditions. Local regulations shall be consistent with the intent and purposes stated in this section. [1998 c 152 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 133 § 3.]

**70.118.040 Local boards of health—Authority to waive sections of local plumbing and/or building codes.** With the advice of the secretary of the department of health, local boards of health are hereby authorized to waive applicable sections of local plumbing and/or building codes that might prohibit the use of an alternative method for correcting a failure. [1991 c 3 § 368; 1977 ex.s. c 133 § 4.]

**70.118.050 Adoption of more restrictive standards.**

If the legislative authority of a county or city finds that more restrictive standards than those contained in \*section 2 of this act or those adopted by the state board of health for systems allowed under \*section 2 of this act or limitations on expansion of a residence are necessary to ensure protection of the public health, attainment of state water quality standards, and the protection of shellfish and other public resources, the legislative authority may adopt ordinances or resolutions setting standards as they may find necessary for implementing their findings. The legislative authority may identify the geographic areas where it is necessary to implement the more restrictive standards. In addition, the legislative authority may adopt standards for the design, construction, maintenance, and monitoring of sewage disposal systems. [1989 c 349 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "Section 2 of this act" did not become law. See effective date note following.

**\*Reviser's note:** Section 2 of this act did not take effect. See chapter 248-96 WAC.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.118.060 Additive regulation.** (1) After July 1, 1994, a person may not use, sell, or distribute a chemical additive to on-site sewage disposal systems.

(2) After January 1, 1996, no person shall use, sell, or distribute any on-site sewage disposal additive whose ingredients have not been approved by the department.

(3) Each manufacturer of an on-site sewage disposal system additive that is sold, advertised, or distributed in the state shall submit the following information to the department: (a) The name and address of the company; (b) the name of the product; (c) the complete product formulation; (d) the location where the product is manufactured; (e) the intended method of product application; and (f) a request that the product be reviewed.

(4) The department shall adopt rules providing the criteria, review, and decision-making procedures to be used in reviewing on-site sewage disposal additives for use, sale, or distribution in the state. The criteria shall be designed to determine whether the additive has an adverse effect on public health or water quality. The department may charge a fee sufficient to cover the costs of evaluating the additive, including the development of criteria and review procedures. The fee schedule shall be established by rule.

(5) The department shall issue a decision as to whether a product registered pursuant to subsection (3) of this section is approved or denied within forty-five days of receiving a complete evaluation as required pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.

(6) Manufacturers shall reregister their product as provided in subsection (3) of this section each time their product formulation changes. The department may require a new approval for products registered under this subsection prior to allowing the use, sale, or distribution within the state.

(7) The department may contract with private laboratories for the performance of any duties necessary to carry out the purpose of this section.

(8) The attorney general or appropriate city or county prosecuting attorney is authorized to bring an appropriate action to enjoin any violation of the prohibition on the sale or

distribution of additives, or to enjoin any violation of the conditions in RCW 70.118.080.

(9) The department is responsible for providing written notification to additives manufacturers of the provisions of this section and RCW 70.118.070 and 70.118.080. The notification shall be provided no later than thirty days after April 1, 1994. Within thirty days of notification from the department, manufacturers shall provide the same notification to their distributors, wholesalers, and retail customers. [1994 c 281 § 3; 1993 c 321 § 3.]

**Finding—Purpose—Effective date—1994 c 281:** See notes following RCW 70.118.020.

**Intent—1993 c 321:** "The legislature finds that most additives do not have a positive effect on the operation of on-site systems and can contaminate groundwater aquifers, render septic drainfields dysfunctional, and result in costly repairs to homeowners. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to ban the use, sale, and distribution of additives within the state unless an additive has been specifically approved by the department of health." [1993 c 321 § 1.]

**70.118.070 Additives—Confidentiality.** The department shall hold confidential any information obtained pursuant to RCW 70.118.060 when shown by any manufacturer that such information, if made public, would divulge confidential business information, methods, or processes entitled to protection as trade secrets of the manufacturer. [1994 c 281 § 4.]

**Finding—Purpose—Effective date—1994 c 281:** See notes following RCW 70.118.020.

**70.118.080 Additives—Unfair practices.** (1) Each manufacturer of a certified and approved additive product advertised, sold, or distributed in the state shall:

(a) Make no claims relating to the elimination of the need for septic tank pumping or proper septic tank maintenance;

(b) List the components of additive products on the product label, along with information regarding instructions for use and precautions;

(c) Make no false statements, design, or graphic representation relative to an additive product that is inconsistent with RCW 70.118.060, 70.118.070, or this section; and

(d) Make no claims, either direct or implied, about the performance of the product based on state approval of its ingredients.

(2) A violation of this section is an unfair act or practice in violation of the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. [1994 c 281 § 5.]

**Finding—Purpose—Effective date—1994 c 281:** See notes following RCW 70.118.020.

**70.118.090 Funding.** The department may not use funds appropriated to implement an element of the action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310 to conduct any activity required under chapter 281, Laws of 1994. [2007 c 341 § 61; 1994 c 281 § 6.]

**Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.907.

**Finding—Purpose—Effective date—1994 c 281:** See notes following RCW 70.118.020.

**70.118.110 Alternative systems—State guidelines and standards.** In order to assure that technical guidelines

and standards keep pace with advancing technologies, the department of health in collaboration with local health departments and other interested parties, must review and update as appropriate, the state guidelines and standards for alternative on-site sewage disposal every three years. The first review and update must be completed by January 1, 1999. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 80; 1997 c 447 § 5.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

**Finding—Purpose—1997 c 447:** See note following RCW 70.05.074.

#### **70.118.120 Inspectors—Certificate of competency.**

(1) The local board of health shall ensure that individuals who conduct inspections of on-site wastewater treatment systems or who otherwise conduct reviews of such systems are qualified in the technology and application of on-site sewage treatment principles. A certificate of competency issued by the department of licensing is adequate demonstration that an individual is competent in the engineering aspects of on-site wastewater treatment system technology.

(2) A local board of health may allow noncertified individuals to review designs of, and conduct inspections of, on-site wastewater treatment systems for a maximum of two years after the date of hire, if a certified individual reviews or supervises the work during that time. [1999 c 263 § 22.]

**70.118.130 Civil penalties.** A local health officer who is responsible for administering and enforcing regulations regarding on-site sewage disposal systems is authorized to issue civil penalties for violations of those regulations under the same limitations and requirements imposed on the department under RCW 70.118B.050, except that the amount of a penalty shall not exceed one thousand dollars per day for every violation, and judgments shall be entered in the name of the local health jurisdiction and penalties shall be placed into the general fund or funds of the entity or entities operating the local health jurisdiction. [2007 c 343 § 9.]

### **Chapter 70.118A RCW**

#### **ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS—MARINE RECOVERY AREAS**

##### Sections

70.118A.010	Findings—Purpose.
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70.118A.080	Department to contract with local health jurisdictions—Funding assistance—Requirements—Revised compliance dates—Work group.
70.118A.090	Chapter to supplement chapter 70.118 RCW.

**70.118A.010 Findings—Purpose.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Hood Canal and other marine waters in Puget Sound are at risk of severe loss of marine life from low-dissolved oxygen. The increased input of human-influenced nutrients, especially nitrogen, is a factor causing this low-dissolved

oxygen condition in some of Puget Sound's waters, in addition to such natural factors as poor overall water circulation and stratification that discourages mixing of surface-to-deeper waters;

(2) A significant portion of the state's residents live in homes served by on-site sewage disposal systems, and many new residences will be served by these systems;

(3) Properly functioning on-site sewage disposal systems largely protect water quality. However, improperly functioning on-site sewage disposal systems in marine recovery areas may contaminate surface water, causing public health problems;

(4) Local programs designed to identify and correct failing on-site sewage disposal systems have proven effective in reducing and eliminating public health hazards, improving water quality, and reopening previously closed shellfish areas; and

(5) State water quality monitoring data and analysis can help to focus these enhanced local programs on specific geographic areas that are sources of pollutants degrading Puget Sound waters.

Therefore, it is the purpose of this chapter to authorize enhanced local programs in marine recovery areas to inventory existing on-site sewage disposal systems, to identify the location of all on-site sewage disposal systems in marine recovery areas, to require inspection of on-site sewage disposal systems and repairs to failing systems, to develop electronic data systems capable of sharing information regarding on-site sewage disposal systems, and to monitor these programs to ensure that they are working to protect public health and Puget Sound water quality. [2006 c 18 § 1.]

**70.118A.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Board" means the state board of health.

(2) "Department" means the department of health.

(3) "Failing" means a condition of an existing on-site sewage disposal system or component that threatens the public health by inadequately treating sewage, or by creating a potential for direct or indirect contact between sewage and the public. Examples of a failing on-site sewage disposal system include:

(a) Sewage on the surface of the ground;

(b) Sewage backing up into a structure caused by slow soil absorption of septic tank effluent;

(c) Sewage leaking from a sewage tank or collection system;

(d) Cesspools or seepage pits where evidence of groundwater or surface water quality degradation exists;

(e) Inadequately treated effluent contaminating groundwater or surface water; or

(f) Noncompliance with standards stipulated on the permit.

(4) "Local health officer" or "local health jurisdiction" means the local health officers and local health jurisdictions in the following counties bordering Puget Sound: Clallam, Island, Kitsap, Jefferson, Mason, San Juan, Seattle-King, Skagit, Snohomish, Tacoma-Pierce, Thurston, and Whatcom.

(5) "Marine recovery area" means an area of definite boundaries where the local health officer, or the department

in consultation with the health officer, determines that additional requirements for existing on-site sewage disposal systems may be necessary to reduce potential failing systems or minimize negative impacts of on-site sewage disposal systems.

(6) "Marine recovery area on-site strategy" or "on-site strategy" means a local health jurisdiction's on-site sewage disposal system strategy required under RCW 70.118A.050. This strategy is a component of the on-site program management plan required under RCW 70.118A.030.

(7) "On-site sewage disposal system" means an integrated system of components, located on or nearby the property it serves, that conveys, stores, treats, or provides subsurface soil treatment and dispersal of sewage. It consists of a collection system, a treatment component or treatment sequence, and a soil dispersal component. An on-site sewage disposal system also refers to a holding tank sewage system or other system that does not have a soil dispersal component. For purposes of this chapter, the term "on-site sewage disposal system" does not include any system regulated by a water quality discharge permit issued under chapter 90.48 RCW.

(8) "Unknown system" means an on-site sewage disposal system that was installed without the knowledge or approval of the local health jurisdiction, including those that were installed before such approval was required. [2006 c 18 § 2.]

**70.118A.030 Local health officers to develop a written on-site program management plan.** By July 1, 2007, the local health officers of health jurisdictions in the twelve counties bordering Puget Sound shall develop a written on-site program management plan to provide guidance to the local health jurisdiction. [2006 c 18 § 3.]

**70.118A.040 Local health officers—Determination of marine recovery areas.** (1) In developing on-site program management plans required under RCW 70.118A.030, the local health officer shall propose a marine recovery area for those land areas where existing on-site sewage disposal systems are a significant factor contributing to concerns associated with:

(a) Shellfish growing areas that have been threatened or downgraded by the department under chapter 69.30 RCW;

(b) Marine waters that are listed by the department of ecology under section 303(d) of the federal clean water act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251 et seq.) for low-dissolved oxygen or fecal coliform; or

(c) Marine waters where nitrogen has been identified as a contaminant of concern by the local health officer.

(2) In determining the boundaries for a marine recovery area, the local health officer shall assess and include those land areas where existing on-site sewage disposal systems may affect water quality in the marine recovery area.

(3) Determinations made by the local health officer under this section, including identification of nitrogen as a contaminant of concern, will be based on published guidance developed by the department. The guidance must be designed to ensure the proper use of available scientific and technical data. The health officer shall document the basis for these determinations when plans are submitted to the department.

(2016 Ed.)

(4) After July 1, 2007, the local health officer may designate additional marine recovery areas meeting the criteria of this section, according to new information. Where the department recommends the designation of a marine recovery area or expansion of a designated marine recovery area, the local health officer shall notify the department of its decision concerning the recommendation within ninety days of receipt of the recommendation. [2006 c 18 § 4.]

**70.118A.050 Marine recovery area on-site strategy.**

(1) The local health officer of a local health jurisdiction where a marine recovery area has been proposed under RCW 70.118A.040 shall develop and approve a marine recovery area on-site strategy that includes designation of marine recovery areas to guide the local health jurisdiction in developing and managing all existing on-site sewage disposal systems within marine recovery areas within its jurisdiction. The on-site strategy must be a component of the program management plan required under RCW 70.118A.030. The department may grant an extension of twelve months where a local health jurisdiction has demonstrated substantial progress toward completing its on-site strategy.

(2) An on-site strategy for a marine recovery area must specify how the local health jurisdiction will by July 1, 2012, and thereafter, find:

(a) Existing failing systems and ensure that system owners make necessary repairs; and

(b) Unknown systems and ensure that they are inspected as required to ensure that they are functioning properly, and repaired, if necessary. [2006 c 18 § 5.]

**70.118A.060 Local health officer duties—Electronic data systems.** In a marine recovery area, each local health officer shall:

(1) Require that on-site sewage disposal system maintenance specialists, septic tank pumpers, or others performing on-site sewage disposal system inspections submit reports or inspection results to the local health jurisdiction regarding any failing system; and

(2) Develop and maintain an electronic data system of all on-site sewage disposal systems within a marine recovery area to enable the local health jurisdiction to actively manage on-site sewage disposal systems. In assisting development of electronic data systems, the department shall work with local health jurisdictions with marine recovery areas and the on-site sewage disposal system industry to develop common forms and protocols to facilitate sharing of data. A marine recovery area on-site sewage disposal electronic data system must be compatible with all on-site sewage disposal electronic data systems used throughout a local health jurisdiction. [2006 c 18 § 6.]

**70.118A.070 Department review of on-site program management plans—Assistance to local health jurisdictions.** (1) The on-site program management plans of local health jurisdictions required under RCW 70.118A.030 must be submitted to the department by July 1, 2007, and be reviewed to determine if they contain all necessary elements. The department shall provide in writing to the local board of health its review of the completeness of the plan. The board may adopt additional criteria by rule for approving plans.

(2) In reviewing the on-site strategy component of the plan, the department shall ensure that all required elements, including designation of any marine recovery area, have been addressed.

(3) Within thirty days of receiving an on-site strategy, the department shall either approve the on-site strategy or provide in writing the reasons for not approving the strategy and recommend changes. If the department does not approve the on-site strategy, the local health officer must amend and resubmit the plan to the department for approval.

(4) Upon receipt of department approval or after thirty days without notification, whichever comes first, the local health officer shall implement the on-site strategy.

(5) If the department denies approval of an on-site strategy, the local health officer may appeal the denial to the board. The board must make a final determination concerning the denial.

(6) The department shall assist local health jurisdictions in:

(a) Developing written on-site program management plans required by RCW 70.118A.030;

(b) Identifying reasonable methods for finding unknown systems; and

(c) Developing or enhancing electronic data systems that will enable each local health jurisdiction to actively manage all on-site sewage disposal systems within their jurisdictions, with priority given to those on-site sewage disposal systems that are located in or which could affect designated marine recovery areas. [2006 c 18 § 7.]

**70.118A.080 Department to contract with local health jurisdictions—Funding assistance—Requirements—Revised compliance dates—Work group.** (1) The department shall enter into a contract with each local health jurisdiction subject to the requirements of this chapter to implement plans developed under this chapter, and to develop or enhance electronic data systems required by this chapter. The contract must include state funding assistance to the local health jurisdiction from funds appropriated to the department for this purpose.

(2) The contract must require, at a minimum, that within a marine recovery area, the local health jurisdiction:

(a) Show progressive improvement in finding failing systems;

(b) Show progressive improvement in working with on-site sewage disposal system owners to make needed system repairs;

(c) Is actively taking steps to find previously unknown systems and ensuring that they are inspected as required and repaired if necessary;

(d) Show progressive improvement in the percentage of on-site sewage disposal systems that are included in an electronic data system; and

(e) Of those on-site sewage disposal systems in the electronic data system, show progressive improvement in the percentage that have had required inspections.

(3) The contract must also include provisions for state assistance in updating the plan. Beginning July 1, 2012, the contract may adopt revised compliance dates, including those in RCW 70.118A.050, where the local health jurisdiction has

demonstrated substantial progress in updating the on-site strategy.

(4) The department shall convene a work group for the purpose of making recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature for the development of certification or licensing of maintenance specialists. The work group shall make its recommendation with consideration given to the 1998 report to the legislature entitled "On-Site Wastewater Certification Work Group" as it pertains to maintenance specialists. The work group may give priority to appropriate levels of certification or licensure of maintenance specialists who work in the Puget Sound basin. [2006 c 18 § 8.]

**70.118A.090 Chapter to supplement chapter 70.118 RCW.** The provisions of this chapter are supplemental to all other authorities governing on-site sewage disposal systems, including chapter 70.118 RCW and rules adopted under that chapter. [2006 c 18 § 9.]

### Chapter 70.118B RCW

#### LARGE ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

##### Sections

70.118B.005	Findings.
70.118B.010	Definitions.
70.118B.020	Comprehensive regulation—Department duties.
70.118B.030	Operating permits required—Application.
70.118B.040	Rules.
70.118B.050	Violations—Civil penalties.
70.118B.060	Injunctions.
70.118B.070	Authority and duties.

**70.118B.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Protection of the environment and public health requires properly designed, operated, and maintained on-site sewage systems. Failure of those systems can pose certain health and environmental hazards if sewage leaks above ground or if untreated sewage reaches surface or groundwater.

(2) Chapter 70.118A RCW provides a framework for ongoing management of on-site sewage systems located in marine recovery areas and regulated by local health jurisdictions under state board of health rules. This chapter will provide a framework for comprehensive management of large on-site sewage systems statewide.

(3) The primary purpose of this chapter is to establish, in a single state agency, comprehensive regulation of the design, operation, and maintenance of large on-site sewage systems, and their operators, that provides both public health and environmental protection. To accomplish these purposes, this chapter provides for:

(a) The permitting and continuing oversight of large on-site sewage systems;

(b) The establishment by the department of standards and rules for the siting, design, construction, installation, operation, maintenance, and repair of large on-site sewage systems; and

(c) The enforcement by the department of the standards and rules established under this chapter. [2007 c 343 § 1.]

**70.118B.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the state department of health.

(2) "Industrial wastewater" means the water or liquid carried waste from an industrial process. These wastes may result from any process or activity of industry, manufacture, trade, or business, from the development of any natural resource, or from animal operations such as feedlots, poultry houses, or dairies. The term includes contaminated storm water and leachate from solid waste facilities.

(3) "Large on-site sewage system" means an on-site sewage system with design flows of between three thousand five hundred gallons per day and one hundred thousand gallons per day.

(4) "On-site sewage system" means an integrated system of components, located on or nearby the property it serves, that conveys, stores, treats, and provides subsurface soil treatment and disposal of domestic sewage. It consists of a collection system, a treatment component or treatment sequence, and a subsurface soil disposal component. It may or may not include a mechanical treatment system. An on-site sewage system also refers to a holding tank sewage system or other system that does not have a soil dispersal component. A holding tank that discharges to a sewer is not included in the definition of on-site sewage system. A system into which storm water or industrial wastewater is discharged is not included in the definition of on-site sewage system.

(5) "Person" means any individual, corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, governmental agency, or any other entity whatsoever, and the authorized agents of any such entities.

(6) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

(7) "Waters of the state" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 90.48.020. [2007 c 343 § 2.]

**70.118B.020 Comprehensive regulation—Department duties.** (1) For the protection of human health and the environment the department shall:

(a) Establish and provide for the comprehensive regulation of large on-site sewage systems including, but not limited to, system siting, design, construction, installation, operation, maintenance, and repair;

(b) Control and prevent pollution of streams, lakes, rivers, ponds, inland waters, salt waters, water courses, and other surface and underground waters of the state of Washington, except to the extent authorized by permits issued under this chapter;

(c) Issue annual operating permits for large on-site sewage systems based on the system's ability to function properly in compliance with the applicable comprehensive regulatory requirements; and

(d) Enforce the large on-site sewage system requirements.

(2) Large on-site sewage systems permitted by the department may not be used for treatment and disposal of industrial wastewater or combined sanitary sewer and storm water systems.

(3) The work group convened under RCW 70.118A.080(4) to make recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature for the development of certification or licensing of maintenance specialists shall include recommendations for the development of certification or

licensing of large on-site [sewage] system operators. [2007 c 343 § 3.]

**70.118B.030 Operating permits required—Application.** (1) A person may not install or operate a large on-site sewage system without an operating permit as provided in this chapter after July 1, 2009. The owner of the system is responsible for obtaining a permit.

(2) The department shall issue operating permits in accordance with the rules adopted under RCW 70.118B.040.

(3) The department shall ensure the system meets all applicable siting, design, construction, and installation requirements prior to issuing an initial operating permit. Prior to renewing an operating permit, the department may review the performance of the system to determine compliance with rules and any permit conditions.

(4) At the time of initial permit application or at the time of permit renewal the department shall impose those permit conditions, requirements for system improvements, and compliance schedules as it determines are reasonable and necessary to ensure that the system will be operated and maintained properly. Each application must be accompanied by a fee as established in rules adopted by the department.

(5) Operating permits shall be issued for a term of one year, and shall be renewed annually, unless the operator fails to apply for a new permit or the department finds good cause to deny the application for renewal.

(6) Each permit may be issued only for the site and owner named in the application. Permits are not transferable or assignable except with the written approval of the department.

(7) The department may deny an application for a permit or modify, suspend, or revoke a permit in any case in which it finds that the permit was obtained by fraud or there is or has been a failure, refusal, or inability to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the standards or rules adopted under this chapter. RCW 43.70.115 governs notice of denial, revocation, suspension, or modification and provides the right to an adjudicative proceeding to the permit applicant or permittee.

(8) For systems with design flows of more than fourteen thousand five hundred gallons per day, the department shall adopt rules to ensure adequate public notice and opportunity for review and comment on initial large on-site sewage system permit applications and subsequent permit applications to increase the volume of waste disposal or change effluent characteristics. The rules must include provisions for notice of final decisions. Methods for providing notice may include electronic mail, posting on the department's internet site, publication in a local newspaper, press releases, mailings, or other means of notification the department determines appropriate.

(9) A person aggrieved by the issuance of an initial permit, or by the issuance of a subsequent permit to increase the volume of waste disposal or to change effluent characteristics, for systems with design flows of more than fourteen thousand five hundred gallons per day, has the right to an adjudicative proceeding. The application for an adjudicative proceeding must be in writing, state the basis for contesting the action, include a copy of the decision, be served on and received by the department within twenty-eight days of

receipt of notice of the final decision, and be served in a manner that shows proof of receipt. An adjudicative proceeding conducted under this subsection is governed by chapter 34.05 RCW.

(10) Any permit issued by the department of ecology for a large on-site sewage system under chapter 90.48 RCW is valid until it first expires after July 22, 2007. The system owner shall apply for an operating permit at least one hundred twenty days prior to expiration of the department of ecology permit.

(11) Systems required to meet operator certification requirements under chapter 70.95B RCW must continue to meet those requirements as a condition of the department operating permit. [2007 c 343 § 4.]

**70.118B.040 Rules.** (1) For the protection of human health and the environment, the secretary shall adopt rules for the comprehensive regulation of large on-site sewage systems, which includes, but is not limited to, the siting, design, construction, installation, maintenance, repair, and permitting of the systems.

(2) In adopting the rules, the secretary shall, in consultation with the department of ecology, require that large on-site sewage systems comply with the applicable sections of chapter 90.48 RCW regarding control and prevention of pollution of waters of the state, including but not limited to:

(a) Surface and groundwater standards established under RCW 90.48.035; and

(b) Those provisions requiring all known, available, and reasonable methods of treatment.

(3) In adopting the rules, the secretary shall ensure that requirements for large on-site sewage systems are consistent with the requirements of any comprehensive plans or development regulations adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW or any other applicable comprehensive plan, land use plan, or development regulation adopted by a city, town, or county. [2007 c 343 § 5.]

**70.118B.050 Violations—Civil penalties.** (1) A person who violates a law or rule regulating large on-site sewage systems administered by the department is subject to a penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars per day for every violation. Every violation is a separate and distinct offense. In case of a continuing violation, each day's continuing violation is a separate and distinct violation. The penalty assessed must reflect the significance of the violation and the previous record of compliance on the part of the person responsible for compliance with large on-site sewage system requirements.

(2) Every person who, through an act of commission or omission, procures, aids, or abets a violation is considered to have violated the provisions of this section and is subject to the penalty provided in this section.

(3) The penalty provided for in this section must be imposed by a notice in writing to the person against whom the civil penalty is assessed and must describe the violation. The notice must be personally served in the manner of service of a summons in a civil action or in a manner that shows proof of receipt. A penalty imposed by this section is due twenty-eight days after receipt of notice unless application for an adjudicative proceeding is filed as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

(4) Within twenty-eight days after notice is received, the person incurring the penalty may file an application for an adjudicative proceeding and may pursue subsequent review as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW and applicable rules.

(5) A penalty imposed by a final administrative order is due upon service of the final administrative order. A person who fails to pay a penalty assessed by a final administrative order within thirty days of service of the final administrative order shall pay, in addition to the amount of the penalty, interest at the rate of one percent of the unpaid balance of the assessed penalty for each month or part of a month that the penalty remains unpaid, commencing with the month in which the notice of penalty was served, and reasonable attorneys' fees as are incurred if civil enforcement of the final administrative order is required to collect the penalty.

(6) A person who institutes proceedings for judicial review of a final administrative order assessing a civil penalty under this chapter shall place the full amount of the penalty in an interest-bearing account in the registry of the reviewing court. At the conclusion of the proceeding the court shall, as appropriate, enter a judgment on behalf of the department and order that the judgment be satisfied to the extent possible from moneys paid into the registry of the court or shall enter a judgment in favor of the person appealing the penalty assessment and order return of the moneys paid into the registry of the court together with accrued interest to the person appealing. The judgment may award reasonable attorneys' fees for the cost of the attorney general's office in representing the department.

(7) If no appeal is taken from a final administrative order assessing a civil penalty under this chapter, the department may file a certified copy of the final administrative order with the clerk of the superior court in which the large on-site sewage system is located or in Thurston county, and the clerk shall enter judgment in the name of the department and in the amount of the penalty assessed in the final administrative order.

(8) A judgment entered under subsection (6) or (7) of this section has the same force and effect as, and is subject to all of the provisions of law relating to, a judgment in a civil action, and may be enforced in the same manner as any other judgment of the court in which it is entered.

(9) The large on-site sewage systems account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from penalties imposed under this section shall be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account shall be used by the department to provide training and technical assistance to large on-site sewage system owners and operators. Only the secretary or the secretary's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2007 c 343 § 6.]

**70.118B.060 Injunctions.** Notwithstanding the existence or use of any other remedy, the department may bring an action to enjoin a violation or threatened violation of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter. The department may bring the action in the superior court of the county in which the large on-site sewage system is located or in the superior court of Thurston county. [2007 c 343 § 7.]

**70.118B.070 Authority and duties.** The authority and duties created in this chapter are in addition to any authority and duties already provided in law. Nothing in this chapter limits the powers of the state or any political subdivision to exercise such authority. [2007 c 343 § 8.]

### Chapter 70.119 RCW

## PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS—OPERATORS

### Sections

70.119.010	Legislative declaration.
70.119.020	Definitions.
70.119.030	Certified operators required for certain public water systems.
70.119.040	Exclusions from chapter.
70.119.050	Rules and regulations—Secretary to adopt.
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70.119.070	Secretary—Consideration of guidelines.
70.119.081	Ad hoc advisory committees.
70.119.090	Certificates without examination—Conditions.
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70.119.140	Certificates—Reciprocity with other states.
70.119.150	Waterworks operator certification account.
70.119.160	Fee schedules—Certified operators—Public water systems.
70.119.170	Certification of backflow assembly testers and cross-connection control specialists.
70.119.180	Examinations.
70.119.900	Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 99.

**70.119.010 Legislative declaration.** The legislature declares that competent operation of a public water system is necessary for the protection of the consumers' health, and therefore it is of vital interest to the public. In order to protect the public health and conserve and protect the water resources of the state, it is necessary to provide for the classifying of all public water systems; to require the examination and certification of the persons responsible for the technical operation of such systems; and to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations to carry out this chapter. [1991 c 305 § 1; 1983 c 292 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 1.]

**70.119.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Backflow assembly tester" means a person in charge of inspecting, testing, maintaining, and repairing backflow assemblies, devices, and air gaps that protect the public water system.

(2) "Certificate" means a certificate of competency issued by the secretary stating that the operator has met the requirements for the specified operator classification of the certification program.

(3) "Certified operator" means an individual holding a valid certificate and employed or appointed by any county, water-sewer district, municipality, public or private corporation, company, institution, person, federal agency, or the state of Washington and who is designated by the employing or appointing officials as the person responsible for active daily technical operation.

(4) "Cross-connection control specialist" means a person in charge of developing and implementing cross-connection control programs.

(5) "Department" means the department of health.

(6) "Distribution system" means that portion of a public water system which stores, transmits, pumps and distributes water to consumers.

(7) "Groundwater under the direct influence of surface water" means any water beneath the surface of the ground with:

(a) Significant occurrence of insects or other macroorganisms, algae, or large diameter pathogens such as giardia lamblia; or

(b) Significant and relatively rapid shifts in water characteristics such as turbidity, temperature, conductivity, or pH which closely correlate to climatological or surface water conditions.

(8) "Group A water system" means a system with fifteen or more service connections, regardless of the number of people; or a system serving an average of twenty-five or more people per day for sixty or more days within a calendar year, regardless of the number of service connections.

(9) "Nationally recognized association of certification authorities" shall mean an organization which serves as an information center for certification activities, recommends minimum standards and guidelines for classification of potable water treatment plants, water distribution systems and waste water facilities and certification of operators, facilitates reciprocity between state programs and assists authorities in establishing new certification programs and updating existing ones.

(10) "Operator" includes backflow assembly tester, certified operator, and cross-connection control specialist as these terms are defined in this section.

(11) "Public water system" means any system, excluding a system serving only one single-family residence and a system with four or fewer connections all of which serve residences on the same farm, providing piped water for human consumption, including any collection, treatment, storage, or distribution facilities under control of the purveyor and used primarily in connection with the system; and collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under control of the purveyor but primarily used in connection with the system.

(12) "Purification plant" means that portion of a public water system which treats or improves the physical, chemical or bacteriological quality of the system's water to bring the water into compliance with state board of health standards.

(13) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

(14) "Service" means a connection to a public water system designed to serve a single-family residence, dwelling unit, or equivalent use. If the facility has group home or barracks-type accommodations, three persons will be considered equivalent to one service.

(15) "Surface water" means all water open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff. [2009 c 221 § 1; 1999 c 153 § 67; 1995 c 269 § 2904; 1991 c 305 § 2; 1991 c 3 § 369; 1983 c 292 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 2.]

*Public water supply systems to comply with water quality standards: RCW 70.142.050.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119.030 Certified operators required for certain public water systems.** (1) A public water system shall have a certified operator if:

(a) It is a group A water system; or

(b) It is a public water system using a surface water source or a groundwater source under the direct influence of surface water.

(2) The certified operators shall be in charge of the technical direction of a water system's operation, or an operating shift of such a system, or a major segment of a system necessary for monitoring or improving the quality of water. The operator shall be certified as provided in RCW 70.119.050.

(3) A certified operator may provide required services to more than one system or to a group of systems. The amount of time that a certified operator shall be required to be present at any given system shall be based upon the time required to properly operate and maintain the public water system as designed and constructed in accordance with RCW 43.20.050. The employing or appointing officials shall designate the position or positions requiring mandatory certification within their individual systems and shall assure that such certified operators are responsible for the system's technical operation.

(4) The department shall, in establishing by rule or otherwise the requirements for public water systems with fewer than one hundred connections, phase in such requirements in order to assure that (a) an adequate number of certified operators are available to serve the additional systems, (b) the systems have adequate notice and time to plan for securing the services of a certified operator, (c) the department has the additional data and other administrative capacity, (d) adequate training is available to certify additional operators as necessary, and (e) any additional requirements under federal law are satisfied. The department shall require certified operators for all group A systems as necessary to conform to federal law or implementing rules or guidelines. Unless necessary to conform to federal law, rules, or guidelines, the department shall not require a certified operator for a system with fewer than one hundred connections unless that system is determined by the department to be in significant noncompliance with operational, monitoring, or water quality standards that would put the public health at risk, as defined by the department by rule, or has, or is required to have, water treatment facilities other than simple disinfection. [2009 c 221 § 2; 1997 c 218 § 2; 1995 c 376 § 6; 1991 c 305 § 3; 1983 c 292 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 3.]

**Findings—1997 c 218:** "The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) The provision of safe and reliable water supplies to the people of the state of Washington is fundamental to ensuring public health and continuing economic vitality of this state.

(2) The department of health, pursuant to legislative directive in 1995, has provided a report that incorporates the findings and recommendations of the \*water supply advisory committee as to progress in meeting the objectives of the public health improvement plan, changes warranted by the recent congressional action reauthorizing the federal safe drinking water act, and new approaches to providing services under the general principles of regulatory reform.

(3) The environmental protection agency has recently completed a national assessment of public water system capital needs, which has identified over four billion dollars in such needs in the state of Washington.

(4) The changes to the safe drinking water act offer the opportunity for the increased ability of the state to tailor federal requirements and programs to meet the conditions and objectives within this state.

(5) The department of health and local governments should be provided with adequate authority, flexibility, and resources to be able to implement the principles and recommendations adopted by the \*water supply advisory committee.

(6) Statutory changes are necessary to eliminate ambiguity or conflicting authorities, provide additional information and tools to consumers and the public, and make necessary changes to be consistent with federal law.

(7) A basic element to the protection of the public's health from waterborne disease outbreaks is systematic and comprehensive monitoring of water supplies for all contaminants, including hazardous substances with long-term health effects, and routine field visits to water systems for technical assistance and evaluation.

(8) The water systems of this state should have prompt and full access to the newly created federal state revolving fund program to help meet their financial needs and to achieve and maintain the technical, managerial, and financial capacity necessary for long-term compliance with state and federal regulations. This requires authority for streamlined program administration and the provision of the necessary state funds required to match the available federal funds.

(9) Stable, predictable, and adequate funding is essential to a statewide drinking water program that meets state public health objectives and provides the necessary state resources to utilize the new flexibility, opportunities, and programs under the safe drinking water act." [1997 c 218 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "water supply advisory committee" was eliminated pursuant to 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 120.

**Findings—1995 c 376:** See note following RCW 70.116.060.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119.040 Exclusions from chapter.** Nothing in this chapter shall apply to:

(1) Industrial water supply systems which do not supply water to residences for domestic use and are under the jurisdictional requirements of the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act of 1973, chapter 49.17 RCW, as now or hereafter amended; or

(2) The preparation, distribution, or sale of bottled water or water similarly packaged. [1977 ex.s. c 99 § 4.]

**70.119.050 Rules and regulations—Secretary to adopt.** The secretary shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the administration of this chapter and shall enforce such rules and regulations. The rules and regulations shall include provisions establishing minimum qualifications and procedures for the certification of operators, criteria for determining the kind and nature of continuing educational requirements for renewal of certification under RCW 70.119.100(2), and provisions for classifying water purification plants and distribution systems.

Rules and regulations adopted under the provisions of this section shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. [1995 c 269 § 2905; 1983 c 292 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119.060 Public water systems—Secretary to categorize.** The secretary shall further categorize all public water systems with regard to the size, type, source of water, and other relevant physical conditions affecting purification plants and distribution systems to assist in identifying the skills, knowledge and experience required for the certification of operators for each category of such systems, to assure the protection of the public health and conservation and protection of the state's water resources as required under RCW 70.119.010, and to implement the provisions of the state safe drinking water act in chapter 70.119A RCW. In categorizing all public water systems for the purpose of implementing these provisions of state law, the secretary shall take into consideration economic impacts as well as the degree and nature

of any public health risk. [1991 c 305 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 6.]

**70.119.070 Secretary—Consideration of guidelines.**

The secretary is authorized, when taking action pursuant to RCW 70.119.050 and 70.119.060, to consider generally applicable criteria and guidelines developed by a nationally recognized association of certification authorities and commonly accepted national guidelines and standards. [1983 c 292 § 5; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 7.]

**70.119.081 Ad hoc advisory committees.** The secretary, in cooperation with the director of ecology, may establish ad hoc advisory committees, as necessary, to obtain advice and technical assistance regarding the development of rules implementing this chapter and on the examination and certification of operators of water systems. [1995 c 269 § 2909.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119.090 Certificates without examination—Conditions.** Certificates shall be issued without examination under the following conditions:

(1) Certificates shall be issued without application fee to operators who, on January 1, 1978, hold certificates of competency attained under the voluntary certification program sponsored jointly by the state department of social and health services, health services division, and the Pacific Northwest section of the American water works association.

(2) Certification shall be issued to persons certified by a governing body or owner of a public water system to have been the operators of a purification plant or distribution system on January 1, 1978, but only to those who are required to be certified under RCW 70.119.030(1). A certificate so issued shall be valid for operating any plant or system of the same classification and same type of water source.

(3) A nonrenewable certificate, temporary in nature, may be issued to an operator for a period not to exceed twelve months to fill a vacated position required to have a certified operator. Only one such certificate may be issued subsequent to each instance of vacation of any such position. [1991 c 305 § 5; 1983 c 292 § 7; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119.100 Certificates—Issuance and renewal—Conditions.** The issuance and renewal of a certificate shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) Except as provided in RCW 70.119.090, a certificate shall be issued if the operator has satisfactorily passed a written examination, has paid the department an application fee as established by the department under RCW 70.119.160, and has met the requirements specified in the rules and regulations as authorized by this chapter.

(2) Every certificate shall be renewed annually upon the payment of a fee as established by the department under RCW 70.119.160 and satisfactory evidence is presented to the secretary that the operator has fulfilled the continuing education requirements as prescribed by rule of the department.

(3) The secretary shall notify operators who fail to renew their certificates before the end of the year that their certifi-

ates are temporarily valid for two months following the end of the certificate year. Certificates not renewed during the two month period shall be invalid and the secretary shall so notify the holders of such certificates.

(4) An operator who has failed to renew a certificate pursuant to the provisions of this section, may reapply for certification and the secretary may require the operator to meet the requirements established for new applicants. [1993 c 306 § 1; 1991 c 305 § 6; 1987 c 75 § 11; 1983 c 292 § 8; 1982 c 201 § 13; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119.110 Certificates—Grounds for revocation.**

The secretary may revoke or suspend a certificate: (1) Found to have been obtained by fraud or deceit; (2) for fraud, deceit, or gross negligence involving the operation or maintenance of a public water system; (3) for fraud, deceit, or gross negligence in inspecting, testing, maintenance, or repair of back-flow assemblies, devices, or air gaps intended to protect a public water system from contamination; or (4) for an intentional violation of the requirements of this chapter or any lawful rules, order, or regulation of the department. No person whose certificate is revoked under this section shall be eligible to apply for a certificate until the completion of the revocation period. [2009 c 221 § 5; 1995 c 269 § 2906; 1991 c 305 § 7; 1983 c 292 § 9; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119.120 Secretary—Authority.** To carry out the provisions and purposes of this chapter, the secretary is authorized and empowered to:

(1) Receive financial and technical assistance from the federal government and other public or private agencies.

(2) Participate in related programs of the federal government, other state, interstate agencies, or other public or private agencies or organizations.

(3) Assess fees determined pursuant to RCW 70.119.160 on public water systems to support the waterworks operator certification program. [1993 c 306 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 12.]

**70.119.130 Violations—Penalties.** Any person, including any operator or any firm, association, corporation, municipal corporation, or other governmental subdivision or agency who, after thirty days' written notice, operates a public water system which is not in compliance with RCW 70.119.030(1), shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Each month of such operation out of compliance with RCW 70.119.030(1) shall constitute a separate offense. Upon conviction, violators shall be fined an amount not exceeding one hundred dollars for each offense. It shall be the duty of the prosecuting attorney or the attorney general, as appropriate, to secure injunctions of continuing violations of any provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations adopted under this chapter. [2009 c 221 § 6; 1991 c 305 § 8; 1983 c 292 § 10; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119.140 Certificates—Reciprocity with other states.** Operators certified by any state under provisions that, in the judgment of the secretary, are substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter and any rules and regula-

tions promulgated hereunder, may be issued, upon application, a certificate without examination.

In making determinations pursuant to this section, the secretary shall consult with the \*board and may consider any generally applicable criteria and guidelines developed by a nationally recognized association of certification authorities. [1977 ex.s. c 99 § 14.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 70.95B.070, which created the water and wastewater operator certification board of examiners, was repealed by 1995 c 269 § 2907, effective July 1, 1995.

**70.119.150 Waterworks operator certification account.** The waterworks operator certification account is created in the general fund of the state treasury. All fees paid pursuant to RCW 70.119.100, 70.119.120(3), and any other receipts realized in the administration of this chapter shall be deposited in the waterworks operator certification account. Moneys in the account shall be spent only after appropriation. Moneys from the account shall be used by the department of health to carry out the purposes of the waterworks operator certification program. [1993 c 306 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 99 § 15.]

**70.119.160 Fee schedules—Certified operators—Public water systems.** The department of health certifies public water system operators and monitors public water systems to ensure that such systems comply with the requirements of this chapter and rules implementing this chapter. The secretary shall establish a schedule of fees for operator applicants and renewal licenses and a separate schedule of fees for public water systems to support the waterworks operator certification program. The fees shall be set at a level sufficient for the department to recover the costs of the waterworks operator certification program and in accordance with the procedures established under RCW 43.70.250. [2009 c 221 § 7; 1993 c 306 § 4.]

**70.119.170 Certification of backflow assembly testers and cross-connection control specialists.** (1) Backflow assembly testers and cross-connection control specialists must hold a valid certificate and must be certified as provided by rule as adopted under the authority of RCW 70.119.050.

(2) Backflow assembly testers who maintain or repair backflow assemblies, devices, or air gaps inside a building are subject to certification under chapter 18.106 RCW. [2009 c 221 § 3.]

**70.119.180 Examinations.** (1) Any examination required by the department as a prerequisite for the issuance of certificate under this chapter must be offered in both eastern and western Washington.

(2) Operators not required to be certified by this chapter are encouraged to become certified on a voluntary basis. [2009 c 221 § 4.]

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**70.119.900 Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 99.** This act shall take effect on January 1, 1978. [1977 ex.s. c 99 § 17.]

## Chapter 70.119A RCW PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS—PENALTIES AND COMPLIANCE

### Sections

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70.119A.900	Short title—1989 c 422.

*Drinking water quality consumer complaints: RCW 80.04.110.*

**70.119A.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout this chapter:

(1) "Area-wide waivers" means a waiver granted by the department as a result of a geographically based testing program meeting required provisions of the federal safe drinking water act.

(2) "Department" means the department of health.

(3) "Federal safe drinking water act" means the federal safe drinking water act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 300f et seq., as now in effect or hereafter amended.

(4) "Group A public water system" means a public water system with fifteen or more service connections, regardless of the number of people; or a system serving an average of twenty-five or more people per day for sixty or more days within a calendar year, regardless of the number of service connections; or a system serving one thousand or more people for two or more consecutive days.

(5) "Group B public water system" means a public water system that does not meet the definition of a group A public water system.

(6) "Local board of health" means the city, town, county, or district board of health.

(7) "Local health jurisdiction" means an entity created under chapter 70.05, 70.08, or 70.46 RCW which provides public health services to persons within the area.

(8) "Local health officer" means the legally qualified physician who has been appointed as the health officer for the city, town, county, or district public health department.

(9) "Order" means a written direction to comply with a provision of the regulations adopted under RCW 43.20.050(2) (a) and (b) or 70.119.050 or to take an action or a series of actions to comply with the regulations.

(10) "Person" includes, but is not limited to, natural persons, municipal corporations, governmental agencies, firms, companies, mutual or cooperative associations, institutions, and partnerships. It also means the authorized agents of any such entities.

(11) "Public health emergency" means a declaration by an authorized health official of a situation in which either illness, or exposure known to cause illness, is occurring or is imminent.

(12) "Public water system" means any system, excluding a system serving only one single-family residence and a system with four or fewer connections all of which serve residences on the same farm, providing water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, including any collection, treatment, storage, or distribution facilities under control of the purveyor and used primarily in connection with the system; and collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under control of the purveyor but primarily used in connection with the system, including:

(a) Any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the purveyor and used primarily in connection with such system; and

(b) Any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under control of the purveyor which are primarily used in connection with such system.

(13) "Purveyor" means any agency or subdivision of the state or any municipal corporation, firm, company, mutual or cooperative association, institution, partnership, or person or any other entity, that owns or operates a public water system. It also means the authorized agents of any such entities.

(14) "Regulations" means rules adopted to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(15) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

(16) "State board of health" is the board created by RCW 43.20.030. [2009 c 495 § 3; 1999 c 118 § 2; 1994 c 252 § 2; 1991 c 304 § 2; 1991 c 3 § 370; 1989 c 422 § 2; 1986 c 271 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective date—2009 c 495:** See note following RCW 43.20.050.

**Finding—Intent—1999 c 118:** "The legislature finds and declares that the provision of safe and reliable water supplies is essential to public health and the continued economic vitality of the state of Washington. Maintaining the authority necessary to ensure safe and reliable water supplies requires that state laws conform with the provisions of the federal safe drinking water act. It is the intent of the legislature that the definition of public water system be amended to reflect recent amendments to the federal safe drinking water act." [1999 c 118 § 1.]

**Finding—1994 c 252:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) The federal safe drinking water act has imposed significant new costs on public water systems and that the state should seek maximum regulatory flexibility allowed under federal law;

(2) There is a need to comprehensively assess and characterize the groundwaters of the state to evaluate public health risks from organic and inorganic chemicals regulated under federal law;

(2016 Ed.)

(3) That federal law provides a mechanism to significantly reduce testing and monitoring costs to public water systems through the use of area-wide waivers.

The legislature therefore directs the department of health to conduct a voluntary program to selectively test the groundwaters of the state for organic and inorganic chemicals regulated under federal law for the purpose of granting area-wide waivers." [1994 c 252 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119A.025 Environmental excellence program agreements—Effect on chapter.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any legal requirement under this chapter, including any standard, limitation, rule, or order is superseded and replaced in accordance with the terms and provisions of an environmental excellence program agreement, entered into under chapter 43.21K RCW. [1997 c 381 § 24.]

**Purpose—1997 c 381:** See RCW 43.21K.005.

**70.119A.030 Public health emergencies—Violations—Penalty.** (1) The secretary or his or her designee or the local health officer may declare a public health emergency. As limited by RCW 70.119A.040, the department may impose penalties for violations of laws or regulations that are determined to be a public health emergency.

(2) As limited by RCW 70.119A.040, the department may impose penalties for violation of laws or rules regulating public water systems and administered by the department of health. [1993 c 305 § 1; 1991 c 304 § 3; 1989 c 422 § 6; 1986 c 271 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119A.040 Additional or alternative penalty—Informal resolution unless a public health emergency.**

(1)(a) In addition to or as an alternative to any other penalty or action allowed by law, a person who violates a law or rule regulating public water systems and administered by the department of health is subject to a penalty of not more than five thousand dollars per day for every such violation, or, in the case of a violation that has been determined to be a public health emergency, a penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars per day for every such violation. Every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense. The amount of fine shall reflect the health significance of the violation and the previous record of compliance on the part of the public water supplier. In case of continuing violation, every day's continuance shall be a separate and distinct violation.

(b) In addition, a person who constructs, modifies, or expands a public water system or who commences the construction, modification, or expansion of a public water system without first obtaining the required departmental approval is subject to penalties of not more than five thousand dollars per service connection, or, in the case of a system serving a transient population, a penalty of not more than four hundred dollars per person based on the highest average daily population the system serves or is anticipated to serve may be imposed. The total penalty that may be imposed pursuant to this subsection (1)(b) is five hundred thousand dollars. For the purpose of computing the penalty under this subsection, a service connection shall include any new service connection actually constructed, any anticipated service connection the system has been designed to serve, and, in the case of a system modification not involving expansions, each

existing service connection that benefits or would benefit from the modification.

(c) Every person who, through an act of commission or omission, procures, aids, or abets a violation is considered to have violated the provisions of this section and is subject to the penalty provided in this section.

(2) The penalty provided for in this section shall be imposed by a notice in writing to the person against whom the civil penalty is assessed and shall describe the violation. The notice shall be personally served in the manner of service of a summons in a civil action or in a manner that shows proof of receipt. A penalty imposed by this section is due twenty-eight days after receipt of notice unless application for an adjudicative proceeding is filed as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) Within twenty-eight days after notice is received, the person incurring the penalty may file an application for an adjudicative proceeding and may pursue subsequent review as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW and applicable rules of the department or board of health.

(4) A penalty imposed by a final administrative order is due upon service of the final administrative order. A person who fails to pay a penalty assessed by a final administrative order within thirty days of service of the final administrative order shall pay, in addition to the amount of the penalty, interest at the rate of one percent of the unpaid balance of the assessed penalty for each month or part of a month that the penalty remains unpaid, commencing with the month in which the notice of penalty was served and such reasonable attorney's fees as are incurred in securing the final administrative order.

(5) A person who institutes proceedings for judicial review of a final administrative order assessing a civil penalty under this chapter shall place the full amount of the penalty in an interest bearing account in the registry of the reviewing court. At the conclusion of the proceeding the court shall, as appropriate, enter a judgment on behalf of the department and order that the judgment be satisfied to the extent possible from moneys paid into the registry of the court or shall enter a judgment in favor of the person appealing the penalty assessment and order return of the moneys paid into the registry of the court together with accrued interest to the person appealing. The judgment may award reasonable attorney's fees for the cost of the attorney general's office in representing the department.

(6) If no appeal is taken from a final administrative order assessing a civil penalty under this chapter, the department may file a certified copy of the final administrative order with the clerk of the superior court in which the public water system is located or in Thurston county, and the clerk shall enter judgment in the name of the department and in the amount of the penalty assessed in the final administrative order.

(7) A judgment entered under subsection (5) or (6) of this section shall have the same force and effect as, and is subject to all of the provisions of law relating to, a judgment in a civil action, and may be enforced in the same manner as any other judgment of the court in which it is entered.

(8) All penalties imposed under this section shall be payable to the state treasury and credited to the safe drinking water account, and shall be used by the department to provide

training and technical assistance to system owners and operators.

(9) Except in cases of public health emergencies, the department may not impose monetary penalties under this section unless a prior effort has been made to resolve the violation informally. [1995 c 376 § 8; 1993 c 305 § 2; 1990 c 133 § 8; 1989 c 175 § 135; 1986 c 271 § 4.]

**Findings—1995 c 376:** See note following RCW 70.116.060.

**Findings—Severability—1990 c 133:** See notes following RCW 36.94.140.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119A.050 Enforcement of regulations by local boards of health—Civil penalties.** Each local board of health that is enforcing the regulations regarding public water systems is authorized to impose and collect civil penalties for violations within the area of its responsibility under the same limitations and requirements imposed upon the department by RCW 70.119A.030 and 70.119A.040, except that judgment shall be entered in the name of the local board and penalties shall be placed into the general fund of the county, city, or town operating the local board of health. [2009 c 495 § 4; 1993 c 305 § 3; 1989 c 422 § 8; 1986 c 271 § 5.]

**Effective date—2009 c 495:** See note following RCW 43.20.050.

**70.119A.060 Public water systems—Mandate—Conditions for approval or creation of new public water system—Department and local health jurisdiction duties.**

(1) To assure safe and reliable public drinking water and to protect the public health:

(a) Public water systems shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local rules; and

(b) Group A public water systems shall:

(i) Protect the water sources used for drinking water;

(ii) Provide treatment adequate to assure that the public health is protected;

(iii) Provide and effectively operate and maintain public water system facilities;

(iv) Plan for future growth and assure the availability of safe and reliable drinking water;

(v) Provide the department with the current names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the owners, operators, and emergency contact persons for the system, including any changes to this information, and provide to users the name and twenty-four hour telephone number of an emergency contact person; and

(vi) Take whatever investigative or corrective action is necessary to assure that a safe and reliable drinking water supply is continuously available to users.

(2) No new public water system may be approved or created unless: (a) It is owned or operated by a satellite system management agency established under RCW 70.116.134 and the satellite system management system complies with financial viability requirements of the department; or (b) a satellite management system is not available and it is determined that the new system has sufficient management and financial resources to provide safe and reliable service. The approval of any new system that is not owned by a satellite system management agency shall be conditioned upon future management or ownership by a satellite system management agency, if such management or ownership can be made with

reasonable economy and efficiency, or upon periodic review of the system's operational history to determine its ability to meet the department's financial viability and other operating requirements. The department and local health jurisdictions shall enforce this requirement under authority provided under this chapter, chapter 70.116, or 70.05 RCW, or other authority governing the approval of new water systems by the department or a local jurisdiction.

(3) The department and local health jurisdictions shall carry out the rules and regulations of the state board of health adopted pursuant to RCW 43.20.050(2) (a) and (b) and other rules adopted by the department relating to public water systems. [2009 c 495 § 5; 1995 c 376 § 3; 1991 c 304 § 4; 1990 c 132 § 4; 1989 c 422 § 3.]

**Effective date—2009 c 495:** See note following RCW 43.20.050.

**Findings—1995 c 376:** See note following RCW 70.116.060.

**Legislative findings—Severability—1990 c 132:** See notes following RCW 43.20.240.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119A.070 Department contracting authority.** The department may enter into contracts to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1989 c 422 § 4.]

**70.119A.080 Drinking water program.** (1) The department shall administer a drinking water program which includes, but is not limited to, those program elements necessary to assume primary enforcement responsibility for part B, and section 1428 of part C of the federal safe drinking water act. No rule promulgated or implemented by the department of health or the state board of health for the purpose of compliance with the requirements of the federal safe drinking water act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 300f et seq., shall be applicable to public water systems to which that federal law is not applicable, unless the department or the state board determines that such rule is necessary for the protection of public health.

(2) The department shall enter into an agreement of administration with the department of ecology and any other appropriate agencies, to administer the federal safe drinking water act.

(3) The department is authorized to accept federal grants for the administration of a primary program. [1991 c 3 § 371; 1989 c 422 § 5.]

**70.119A.100 Operating permits—Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) The responsibility for ensuring that the citizens of this state have a safe and reliable drinking water supply is shared between local government and state government, and is the obligation of every public water system;

(2) A rapid increase in the number of public water systems supplying drinking water to the citizens of this state has significantly increased the burden on both local and state government to monitor and enforce compliance by these systems with state laws that govern planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, financing, management, and emergency response;

(3) The federal safe drinking water act imposes on state and local governments and the public water systems of this state significant new responsibilities for monitoring, testing, and treating drinking water supplies; and

(4) Existing drinking water programs at both the state and local government level need additional authorities to enable them to more comprehensively and systematically address the needs of the public water systems of this state and assure that the public health and safety of its citizens are protected.

Therefore, annual operating permit requirements shall be established in accordance with this chapter. The operating permit requirements shall be administered by the department and shall be used as a means to assure that public water systems provide safe and reliable drinking water to the public. The department and local government shall conduct comprehensive and systematic evaluations to assess the adequacy and financial viability of public water systems. The department may impose permit conditions, requirements for system improvements, and compliance schedules in order to carry out the purpose of chapter 304, Laws of 1991. [1991 c 304 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119A.110 Operating permits—Application process—Annual fee—Adoption of rules—Phase-in of implementation—Satellite systems.** (1) No person may operate a group A public water system unless the person first submits an application to the department and receives an operating permit as provided in this section. A new application must be submitted upon any change in ownership of the system.

(2) The department may require that each application include the information that is reasonable and necessary to determine that the system complies with applicable standards and requirements of the federal safe drinking water act, state law, and rules adopted by the department or by the state board of health.

(3) Following its review of the application, its supporting material, and any information received by the department in its investigation of the application, the department shall issue or deny the operating permit. The department shall act on initial permit applications as expeditiously as possible, and shall in all cases either grant or deny the application within one hundred twenty days of receipt of the application or of any supplemental information required to complete the application. The applicant for a permit shall be entitled to file an appeal in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW if the department denies the initial or subsequent applications or imposes conditions or requirements upon the operator. Any operator of a public water system that requests a hearing may continue to operate the system until a decision is issued after the hearing.

(4) At the time of initial permit application or at the time of permit renewal the department may impose such permit conditions, requirements for system improvements, and compliance schedules as it determines are reasonable and necessary to ensure that the system will provide a safe and reliable water supply to its users.

(5) Operating permits shall be issued for a term of one year, and shall be renewed annually, unless the operator fails to apply for a new permit or the department finds good cause to deny the application for renewal.

(6) Each application shall be accompanied by an annual fee.

(7) The department shall adopt rules, in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, necessary to implement this section.

(8) The department shall establish by rule categories of annual operating permit fees based on system size, complexity, and number of service connections. Fees charged must be sufficient to cover, but may not exceed, the costs to the department of administering a program for safe and reliable drinking water. The department shall use operating permit fees to monitor and enforce compliance by group A public water systems with state and federal laws that govern planning, water use efficiency, design, construction, operation, maintenance, financing, management, and emergency response.

(9) The annual per-connection fee may not exceed one dollar and fifty cents. The department shall phase-in implementation of any annual fee increase greater than ten percent, and shall establish the schedule for implementation by rule. Rules established by the department prior to 2020 must limit the annual operating permit fee for any public water system to no greater than one hundred thousand dollars.

(10) The department shall notify existing public water systems of the requirements of RCW 70.119A.030, 70.119A.060, and this section at least one hundred twenty days prior to the date that an application for a permit is required pursuant to RCW 70.119A.030, 70.119A.060, and this section.

(11) The department shall issue one operating permit to any approved satellite system management agency. Operating permit fees for approved satellite system management agencies must be established by the department by rule. Rules established by the department must set a single fee based on the total number of connections for all group A public water systems owned by a satellite management agency.

(12) For purposes of this section, "group A public water system" and "system" mean those water systems with fifteen or more service connections, regardless of the number of people; or a system serving an average of twenty-five or more people per day for sixty or more days within a calendar year, regardless of the number of service connections. [2011 c 102 § 1; 2003 1st sp.s. c 5 § 18; 1991 c 304 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119A.115 Organic and inorganic chemicals—Area-wide waiver program.** The department shall develop and implement a voluntary consolidated source monitoring program sufficient to accurately characterize the source water quality of the state's drinking water supplies and to maximize the flexibility allowed in the federal safe drinking water act to allow public water systems to be waived from full testing requirements for organic and inorganic chemicals under the federal safe drinking water act. The department shall arrange for the initial sampling and provide for testing and programmatic costs to the extent that the legislature provides funding for this purpose in water system operating permit fees or through specific appropriation of funds from other sources. The department shall assess a fee using its authority under RCW 43.20B.020, sufficient to cover all testing and directly related costs to public water systems that otherwise are not funded. The department shall adjust the amount of the fee based on the size of the public drinking water system. Fees charged by the department for this purpose may not vary by

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more than a factor of ten. The department shall, to the extent feasible and cost-effective, use the services of local governments, local health departments, and private laboratories to implement the testing program. The department shall consult with the departments of agriculture and ecology for the purpose of exchanging water quality and other information. [1997 c 218 § 3; 1994 c 252 § 3.]

**Findings—Effective date—1997 c 218:** See notes following RCW 70.119.030.

**Finding—Effective date—1994 c 252:** See notes following RCW 70.119A.020.

**70.119A.120 Safe drinking water account.** The safe drinking water account is created in the general fund of the state treasury. All receipts from the operating permit fees required to be paid under RCW 70.119A.110 shall be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used by the department of health to carry out the purposes of chapter 304, Laws of 1991 and to carry out contracts with local governments in accordance with this chapter. [1991 c 304 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119A.130 Local government authority.** (1) Local governments may establish separate operating permit requirements for public water systems provided the operating permit requirements have been approved by the department. The department shall not approve local operating permit requirements unless the local system will result in an increased level of service to the public water system. There shall not be duplicate operating permit requirements imposed by local governments and the department.

(2) Local governments may establish requirements for group B public water systems in addition to those established by rule by the state board of health pursuant to RCW 43.20.050(2) or other rules adopted by the department, provided that the requirements are at least as stringent as the state requirements. [2009 c 495 § 6; 1995 c 376 § 9; 1991 c 304 § 7.]

**Effective date—2009 c 495:** See note following RCW 43.20.050.

**Findings—1995 c 376:** See note following RCW 70.116.060.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119A.140 Report by bottled water plant operator or water dealer of contaminant in water source.** In such cases where a bottled water plant operator or water dealer knows or has reason to believe that a contaminant is present in the source water because of spill, release of a hazardous substance, or otherwise, and the contaminant's presence would create a potential health hazard to consumers, the plant operator or water dealer must report such an occurrence to the state's department of health. [1992 c 34 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119A.150 Authority to enter premises—Search warrants—Investigations.** (1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) of this subsection, the secretary or his or her designee shall have the right to enter a premises under the control of a public water system at reasonable times with prior notification in order to determine compliance with laws and

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rules administered by the department of health to test, inspect, or sample features of a public water system and inspect, copy, or photograph monitoring equipment or other features of a public water system, or records required to be kept under laws or rules regulating public water systems. For the purposes of this section, "premises under the control of a public water system" does not include the premises or private property of a customer of a public water system past the point on the system where the service connection is made.

(b) The secretary or his or her designee need not give prior notification to enter a premises under (a) of this subsection if the purpose of the entry is to ensure compliance by the public water system with a prior order of the department or if the secretary or the secretary's designee has reasonable cause to believe the public water system is violating the law and poses a serious threat to public health and safety.

(2) The secretary or his or her designee may apply for an administrative search warrant to a court official authorized to issue a criminal search warrant. An administrative search warrant may be issued for the purposes of inspecting or examining property, buildings, premises, place, books, records, or other physical evidence, or conducting tests or taking samples. The warrant shall be issued upon probable cause. It is sufficient probable cause to show any of the following:

(a) The inspection, examination, test, or sampling is pursuant to a general administrative plan to determine compliance with laws or rules administered by the department; or

(b) The secretary or his or her designee has reason to believe that a violation of a law or rule administered by the department has occurred, is occurring, or may occur.

(3) The local health officer or the designee of a local health officer of a local board of health that is enforcing rules regulating public water systems under an agreement with the department allocating state and local responsibility is authorized to conduct investigations and to apply for, obtain, and execute administrative search warrants necessary to perform the local board's agreed-to responsibilities under the same limitations and requirements imposed on the department under this section. [1993 c 305 § 4.]

**70.119A.170 Drinking water assistance account—Administrative subaccount—Program to provide financial assistance to public water systems—Responsibilities.**

(1) A drinking water assistance account and an administrative subaccount are created in the state treasury. The purpose of the account is to allow the state to use any federal funds that become available to states from congress to fund a state revolving fund loan program as part of the reauthorization of the federal safe drinking water act. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Until June 30, 2018, expenditures from the account may only be made by the secretary of health, the public works board, or the department of commerce. Beginning July 1, 2018, expenditures from the account may only be made by the secretary. Moneys in the account may only be used, consistent with federal law, to assist local governments and public water systems to provide safe and reliable drinking water through a program administered through the department and for other activities authorized under federal law. Money may be placed in the account from the proceeds of bonds when authorized by the legisla-

ture, transfers from other state funds or accounts, federal capitalization grants or other financial assistance, all repayments of moneys borrowed from the account, all interest payments made by borrowers from the account or otherwise earned on the account, or any other lawful source. All interest earned on moneys deposited in the account, including repayments, shall remain in the account and may be used for any eligible purpose.

(2) The department shall maintain a program to use the moneys in the drinking water assistance account as provided by the federal government under the safe drinking water act. The department shall make every reasonable effort to provide cost-effective, timely services and disburse federal funds to eligible public water systems as quickly as possible after the federal government has made them available.

(3) The department shall have the authority to establish assistance priorities and carry out oversight and related activities with respect to assistance provided with federal funds. By December 31, 2016, the department, the public works board, and the department of commerce shall develop a memorandum of understanding to transfer financial administration of the program as authorized under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) The department shall:

(a) Develop guidelines for providing assistance to public water systems and related oversight prioritization and oversight responsibilities including requirements for prioritization of loans or other financial assistance to public water systems;

(b) Establish a prioritized list of projects. Priority considerations must include, but are not limited to:

(i) Financial capability of the applicant to repay the loan;

(ii) The applicant's readiness to proceed and the ability of the applicant to promptly commence and complete the project;

(iii) Consistency with existing water resource planning and management, including coordinated water supply plans, regional water resource plans, and comprehensive plans under the growth management act, chapter 36.70A RCW;

(iv) Least-cost solutions, including restructuring of public water systems, where appropriate;

(v) The provision of regional benefits that affect more than one public water system;

(vi) Projects and activities that facilitate compliance with the federal safe drinking water act;

(vii) Projects and activities that are intended to achieve the public health objectives of federal and state drinking water laws[,] regulations, and rules; and

(viii) Implementation of water use efficiency and other demand management measures consistent with state laws and rules for water utilities;

(c) Provide assistance for the necessary planning and engineering to ensure that consistency, coordination, and proper professional review are incorporated into projects or activities proposed for funding;

(d) Establish minimum standards for water system capacity, including operational, technical, managerial, and financial capability, and as part of water system planning requirements;

(e) Oversee the testing and evaluation of the water quality of public water systems to ensure that priority for financial

assistance is provided to systems and areas with threats to public health from contaminated supplies and reduce in appropriate cases the substantial increases in costs and rates that customers of small systems would otherwise incur under the monitoring and testing requirements of the federal safe drinking water act;

(f) Coordinate, to the maximum extent possible, with other state programs that provide financial assistance to public water systems and state programs that address existing or potential water quality or drinking water contamination problems;

(g) Submit a prioritized list of projects to the public works board for coordination with other state and federal infrastructure assistance programs, and to the appropriate committees of the legislature by February 1st of each year; and

(h) Fulfill the audit, accounting, and reporting requirements under federal law for the administration of the program.

(5) The department shall adopt such rules as are necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to administer the program. [2016 c 111 § 1; 2001 c 141 § 4; 1997 c 218 § 4; 1995 c 376 § 10.]

**Purpose—2001 c 141:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Findings—Effective date—1997 c 218:** See notes following RCW 70.119.030.

**Findings—1995 c 376:** See note following RCW 70.116.060.

#### **70.119A.180 Water use efficiency requirements—**

**Rules.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature that the department establish water use efficiency requirements designed to ensure efficient use of water while maintaining water system financial viability, improving affordability of supplies, and enhancing system reliability.

(2) The requirements of this section shall apply to all municipal water suppliers and shall be tailored to be appropriate to system size, forecasted system demand, and system supply characteristics.

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(a) Water use efficiency includes conservation planning requirements, water distribution system leakage standards, and water conservation performance reporting requirements; and

(b) "Municipal water supplier" and "municipal water supply purposes" have the meanings provided by RCW 90.03.015.

(4) To accomplish the purposes of this section, the department shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section by December 31, 2005. The department shall:

(a) Develop conservation planning requirements that ensure municipal water suppliers are: (i) Implementing programs to integrate conservation with water system operation and management; and (ii) identifying how to appropriately fund and implement conservation activities. Requirements shall apply to the conservation element of water system plans and small water system management programs developed pursuant to chapter 43.20 RCW. In establishing the conservation planning requirements the department shall review the current department conservation planning guidelines and include those elements that are appropriate for rule. Conser-

vation planning requirements shall include but not be limited to:

(A) Selection of cost-effective measures to achieve a system's water conservation objectives. Requirements shall allow the municipal water supplier to select and schedule implementation of the best methods for achieving its conservation objectives;

(B) Evaluation of the feasibility of adopting and implementing water delivery rate structures that encourage water conservation;

(C) Evaluation of each system's water distribution system leakage and, if necessary, identification of steps necessary for achieving water distribution system leakage standards developed under (b) of this subsection;

(D) Collection and reporting of water consumption and source production and/or water purchase data. Data collection and reporting requirements shall be sufficient to identify water use patterns among utility customer classes, where applicable, and evaluate the effectiveness of each system's conservation program. Requirements, including reporting frequency, shall be appropriate to system size and complexity. Reports shall be available to the public; and

(E) Establishment of minimum requirements for water demand forecast methodologies such that demand forecasts prepared by municipal water suppliers are sufficient for use in determining reasonably anticipated future water needs;

(b) Develop water distribution system leakage standards to ensure that municipal water suppliers are taking appropriate steps to reduce water system leakage rates or are maintaining their water distribution systems in a condition that results in leakage rates in compliance with the standards. Limits shall be developed in terms of percentage of total water produced and/or purchased and shall not be lower than ten percent. The department may consider alternatives to the percentage of total water supplied where alternatives provide a better evaluation of the water system's leakage performance. The department shall institute a graduated system of requirements based on levels of water system leakage. A municipal water supplier shall select one or more control methods appropriate for addressing leakage in its water system;

(c) Establish minimum requirements for water conservation performance reporting to assure that municipal water suppliers are regularly evaluating and reporting their water conservation performance. The objective of setting conservation goals is to enhance the efficient use of water by the water system customers. Performance reporting shall include:

(i) Requirements that municipal water suppliers adopt and achieve water conservation goals. The elected governing board or governing body of the water system shall set water conservation goals for the system. In setting water conservation goals the water supplier may consider historic conservation performance and conservation investment, customer base demographics, regional climate variations, forecasted demand and system supply characteristics, system financial viability, system reliability, and affordability of water rates. Conservation goals shall be established by the municipal water supplier in an open public forum;

(ii) Requirements that the municipal water supplier adopt schedules for implementing conservation program ele-

ments and achieving conservation goals to ensure that progress is being made toward adopted conservation goals;

(iii) A reporting system for regular reviews of conservation performance against adopted goals. Performance reports shall be available to customers and the public. Requirements, including reporting frequency, shall be appropriate to system size and complexity;

(iv) Requirements that any system not meeting its water conservation goals shall develop a plan for modifying its conservation program to achieve its goals along with procedures for reporting performance to the department;

(v) If a municipal water supplier determines that further reductions in consumption are not reasonably achievable, it shall identify how current consumption levels will be maintained;

(d) Adopt rules that, to the maximum extent practical, utilize existing mechanisms and simplified procedures in order to minimize the cost and complexity of implementation and to avoid placing unreasonable financial burden on smaller municipal systems.

(5) The department shall provide technical assistance upon request to municipal water suppliers and local governments regarding water conservation, which may include development of best management practices for water conservation programs, conservation landscape ordinances, conservation rate structures for public water systems, and general public education programs on water conservation.

(6) To ensure compliance with this section, the department shall establish a compliance process that incorporates a graduated approach employing the full range of compliance mechanisms available to the department.

(7) Prior to completion of rule making required in subsection (4) of this section, municipal water suppliers shall continue to meet the existing conservation requirements of the department and shall continue to implement their current water conservation programs. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 121; 2003 1st sp.s. c 5 § 7.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.119A.190 Water system acquisition and rehabilitation program—Created.** Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall provide financial assistance through a water system acquisition and rehabilitation program, hereby created. The program shall be jointly administered with the public works board and the \*department of community, trade, and economic development. The agencies shall adopt guidelines for the program using as a model the procedures and criteria of the drinking water revolving loan program authorized under RCW 70.119A.170. All financing provided through the program must be in the form of grants that partially cover project costs. The maximum grant to any eligible entity may not exceed twenty-five percent of the funds allocated to the appropriation in any fiscal year. [2008 c 214 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Finding—Purpose—2008 c 214:** "The legislature finds that it is the state's policy to maintain the highest quality and reliability of drinking water supplies to all citizens of the state. Small water systems may face greater

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challenges in this regard because of declining quality in water sources, catastrophic events such as flooding that impair water sources, the age of the system's infrastructure, saltwater intrusion into water sources, inadequate rate base for conducting necessary improvements, and other challenges. In response to these needs, the water system acquisition and rehabilitation program was created through biennial budget law, and through the current biennium has a total of nine million seven-hundred fifty thousand dollars toward assisting dozens of water systems to improve the quality of water supply service to thousands of customers.

It is the purpose of this act to establish an ongoing water system acquisition and rehabilitation program, to direct a review of the program to date, and to provide for recommendations for strengthening the program and increasing the financial assistance available under the program." [2008 c 214 § 1.]

**70.119A.200 Measuring chlorine residuals.** A group A water system serving fewer than one hundred connections that purchases water from a water system approved by the department shall measure chlorine residuals at the same time and location of collection for a routine and repeat coliform sample. [2009 c 367 § 8.]

**70.119A.210 Fire sprinkler systems—Shutting off—Liability.** (1) A person or purveyor that owns, operates, or maintains a public water system shall not be liable for damages resulting from shutting off water to a residential home with an installed fire sprinkler system if the shut off is due to: (a) Routine maintenance or construction; (b) nonpayment by the customer; or (c) a water system emergency.

(2) Any governmental or municipal corporation, including but not limited to special districts, shall be deemed to be exercising a governmental function when it acts or undertakes to supply water, within or without its corporate limits, to a residential home with an installed fire sprinkler system. [2011 c 331 § 4.]

**Intent—2011 c 331:** See note following RCW 82.02.100.

**70.119A.900 Short title—1989 c 422.** This act shall be known and cited as the "Washington state safe drinking water act." [1989 c 422 § 1.]

## Chapter 70.120 RCW

### MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION CONTROL

#### Sections

70.120.010	Definitions.
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70.120.210	Clean-fuel performance and clean-fuel vehicle emissions specifications.
70.120.230	Scientific advisory board—Composition of board—Duties.
70.120.902	Effective date—1989 c 240.

*Environmental certification programs—Fees—Rules—Liability: RCW 43.21A.175.*

**70.120.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(2) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology.

(3) "Fleet" means a group of fifteen or more motor vehicles registered in the same name and whose owner has been assigned a fleet identifier code by the department of licensing.

(4) "Motor vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle required to be licensed pursuant to chapter 46.16A RCW.

(5) "Motor vehicle dealer" means a motor vehicle dealer, as defined in RCW 46.70.011, that is licensed pursuant to chapter 46.70 RCW.

(6) "Person" means an individual, firm, public or private corporation, association, partnership, political subdivision of the state, municipality, or governmental agency.

(7) The terms "air contaminant," "air pollution," "air quality standard," "ambient air," "emission," and "emission standard" have the meanings given them in RCW 70.94.030. [2011 c 171 § 108; 1991 c 199 § 201; 1979 ex.s. c 163 § 1.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120.020 Programs.** (1) The department shall conduct a public educational program regarding the health effects of air pollution emitted by motor vehicles; the purpose, operation, and effect of emission control devices and systems; and the effect that proper maintenance of motor vehicle engines has on fuel economy and air pollution emission and a public notification program identifying the geographic areas of the state that are designated as being non-compliance areas and emission contributing areas and describing the requirements imposed under this chapter for those areas.

(2)(a) The department shall grant certificates of instruction to persons who successfully complete a course of study, under general requirements established by the director, in the maintenance of motor vehicle engines, the use of engine and exhaust analysis equipment, and the repair and maintenance of emission control devices. The director may establish and implement procedures for granting certification to persons who successfully complete other training programs or who have received certification from public and private organizations which meet the requirements established in this subsection, including programs on clean fuel technology and maintenance.

(b) The department shall make available to the public a list of those persons who have received certificates of instruction under subsection (2)(a) of this section. [1991 c 199 § 202; 1989 c 240 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 163 § 2.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120.070 Vehicle inspections—Failed—Certificate of acceptance.** (1) Any person:

(a) Whose motor vehicle is tested pursuant to this chapter and fails to comply with the emission standards established for the vehicle; and

(b) Who, following such a test, expends more than one hundred dollars on a 1980 or earlier model year motor vehicle

or expends more than one hundred fifty dollars on a 1981 or later model year motor vehicle for repairs solely devoted to meeting the emission standards and that are performed by a certified emission specialist authorized by RCW 70.120.020(2)(a); and

(c) Whose vehicle fails a retest, may be issued a certificate of acceptance if (i) the vehicle has been in use for more than five years or fifty thousand miles, and (ii) any component of the vehicle installed by the manufacturer for the purpose of reducing emissions, or its appropriate replacement, is installed and operative.

To receive the certificate, the person must document compliance with (b) and (c) of this subsection to the satisfaction of the department.

Should any provision of (b) of this subsection be disapproved by the administrator of the United States environmental protection agency, all vehicles shall be required to expend at least four hundred fifty dollars to qualify for a certificate of acceptance.

(2) Persons who fail the initial tests shall be provided with:

(a) Information regarding the availability of federal warranties and certified emission specialists;

(b) Information on the availability and procedure for acquiring license trip-permits;

(c) Information on the availability and procedure for receiving a certificate of acceptance; and

(d) The local phone number of the department's local vehicle specialist. [1998 c 342 § 2; 1991 c 199 § 203; 1989 c 240 § 6; 1980 c 176 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 163 § 7.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120.080 Vehicle inspections—Fleets.** The director may authorize an owner or lessee of a fleet of motor vehicles, or the owner's or lessee's agent, to inspect the vehicles in the fleet and issue certificates of compliance for the vehicles in the fleet if the director determines that: (1) The director's inspection procedures will be complied with; and (2) certificates will be issued only to vehicles in the fleet that meet emission and equipment standards adopted under RCW 70.120.150 and only when appropriate.

In addition, the director may authorize an owner or lessee of one or more diesel motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating in excess of eight thousand five hundred pounds, or the owner's or lessee's agent, to inspect the vehicles and issue certificates of compliance for the vehicles. The inspections shall be conducted in compliance with inspection procedures adopted by the department and certificates of compliance shall only be issued to vehicles that meet emission and equipment standards adopted under RCW 70.120.150.

The director shall establish by rule the fee for fleet or diesel inspections provided for in this section. The fee shall be set at an amount necessary to offset the department's cost to administer the fleet and diesel inspection program authorized by this section.

Owners, leaseholders, or their agents conducting inspections under this section shall pay only the fee established in this section and not be subject to fees under RCW 70.120.170(4). [1991 c 199 § 205; 1979 ex.s. c 163 § 8.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120.100 Vehicle inspections—Complaints.** The department shall investigate complaints received regarding the operation of emission testing stations and shall require corrections or modifications in those operations when deemed necessary.

The department shall also review complaints received regarding the maintenance or repairs secured by owners of motor vehicles for the purpose of complying with the requirements of this chapter. When possible, the department shall assist such owners in determining the merits of the complaints.

The department shall keep a copy of all complaints received, and on request, make copies available to the public. This is not intended to require disclosure of any information that is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2005 c 274 § 340; 1998 c 342 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 163 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120.120 Rules.** The director shall adopt rules implementing and enforcing this chapter in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. The department shall take into account when considering proposed modifications of emission contributing boundaries, as provided for in RCW 70.120.150(6), alternative transportation control and motor vehicle emission reduction measures that are required by local municipal corporations for the purpose of satisfying federal emission guidelines. [1991 c 199 § 206; 1989 c 240 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 163 § 13.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120.130 Authority.** The authority granted by this chapter to the director and the department for controlling vehicle emissions is supplementary to the department's authority to control air pollution pursuant to chapter 70.94 RCW. [1979 ex.s. c 163 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120.150 Vehicle emission and equipment standards—Designation of noncompliance areas and emission contributing areas.** The director:

(1) Shall adopt motor vehicle emission and equipment standards to: Ensure that no less than seventy percent of the vehicles tested comply with the standards on the first inspection conducted, meet federal clean air act requirements, and protect human health and the environment.

(2) Shall adopt rules implementing the smoke opacity testing requirement for diesel vehicles that ensure that such test is objective and repeatable and that properly maintained engines that otherwise would meet the applicable federal emission standards, as measured by the new engine certification test, would not fail the smoke opacity test.

(3) Shall designate a geographic area as being a "non-compliance area" for motor vehicle emissions if (a) the department's analysis of emission and ambient air quality data, covering a period of no less than one year, indicates that the standard has or will probably be exceeded, and (b) the

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department determines that the primary source of the air contaminant is motor vehicle emissions.

(4) Shall reevaluate noncompliance areas if the United States environmental protection agency modifies the relevant air quality standards, and shall discontinue the program if compliance is indicated and if the department determines that the area would continue to be in compliance after the program is discontinued. The director shall notify persons residing in noncompliance areas of the reevaluation.

(5) Shall analyze information regarding the motor vehicle traffic in a noncompliance area to determine the smallest land area within whose boundaries are present registered motor vehicles that contribute significantly to the violation of motor vehicle-related air quality standards in the noncompliance area. The director shall declare the area to be an "emission contributing area." An emission contributing area established for a carbon monoxide or oxides of nitrogen noncompliance area must contain the noncompliance area within its boundaries. An emission contributing area established for an ozone noncompliance area located in this state need not contain the ozone noncompliance area within its boundaries if it can be proven that vehicles registered in the area contribute significantly to violations of the ozone air quality standard in the noncompliance area. An emission contributing area may be established in this state for violations of federal air quality standards for ozone in an adjacent state if (a) the United States environmental protection agency designates an area to be a "nonattainment area for ozone" under the provisions of the federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), and (b) it can be proven that vehicles registered in this state contribute significantly to the violation of the federal air quality standards for ozone in the adjacent state's nonattainment area.

(6) Shall, after consultation with the appropriate local government entities, designate areas as being noncompliance areas or emission contributing areas, and shall establish the boundaries of such areas by rule. The director may also modify boundaries. In establishing the external boundaries of an emission contributing area, the director shall use the boundaries established for ZIP code service areas by the United States postal service.

(7) May make grants to units of government in support of planning efforts to reduce motor vehicle emissions. [1991 c 199 § 207; 1989 c 240 § 2.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120.160 Noncompliance areas—Annual review.**

(1) The director shall review annually the air quality and forecasted air quality of each area in the state designated as a non-compliance area for motor vehicle emissions.

(2) An area shall no longer be designated as a noncompliance area if the director determines that:

(a) Air quality standards for contaminants derived from motor vehicle emissions are no longer being violated in the noncompliance area; and

(b) The standards would not be violated if the emission inspection system in the emission contributing area was discontinued and the requirements of RCW 46.16A.060 no longer applied. [2011 c 171 § 109; 1989 c 240 § 3.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**70.120.170 Motor vehicle emission inspections—Fees—Certificate of compliance—State and local agency vehicles. (Expires January 1, 2020.)** (1) The department shall administer a system for emission inspections of all motor vehicles, except those described in RCW 46.16A.060(2), that are registered within the boundaries of each emission contributing area. Under such system a motor vehicle shall be inspected biennially except where an annual program would be required to meet federal law and prevent federal sanctions. In addition, motor vehicles shall be inspected at each change of registered owner of a registered vehicle as provided under RCW 46.16A.060.

(2) The director shall:

(a) Adopt procedures for conducting emission inspections of motor vehicles. The inspections may include idle and high revolution per minute emission tests. The emission test for diesel vehicles shall consist solely of a smoke opacity test.

(b) Adopt criteria for calibrating emission testing equipment. Electronic equipment used to test for emissions standards provided for in this chapter shall be properly calibrated. The department shall examine frequently the calibration of the emission testing equipment used at the stations.

(c) Authorize, through contracts, the establishment and operation of inspection stations for conducting vehicle emission inspections authorized in this chapter. No person contracted to inspect motor vehicles may perform for compensation repairs on any vehicles. No public body may establish or operate contracted inspection stations. Any contracts must comply with the procedures established for competitive bids in chapter 43.19 RCW.

(d) Beginning in 2012, authorize businesses other than those contracted to operate inspection stations under (c) of this subsection to conduct vehicle emission inspections. Businesses authorized under this subsection may also inspect and perform, for compensation, repairs on vehicles. The fee limitations under subsection (4) of this section do not apply to the fee charged for a vehicle emissions inspection by a business authorized to conduct vehicle emission inspections under this subsection. The director may establish by rule a fee to be paid to the department for the oversight costs for each vehicle emission inspection performed by a business authorized under this subsection (2)(d).

(3) Subsection (2)(c) of this section does not apply to volunteer motor vehicle inspections under RCW 70.120.020(1) if the inspections are conducted for the following purposes:

- (a) Auditing;
- (b) Contractor evaluation;
- (c) Collection of data for establishing calibration and performance standards; or
- (d) Public information and education.

(4)(a) The director shall establish by rule the fee to be charged for emission inspections. The inspection fee shall be a standard fee applicable statewide or throughout an emission contributing area and shall be no greater than fifteen dollars. Surplus moneys collected from fees over the amount due the contractor shall be paid to the state and deposited in the general fund. Fees shall be set at the minimum whole dollar amount required to (i) compensate the contractor or inspection facility owner, and (ii) offset the general fund appropria-

tion to the department to cover the administrative costs of the motor vehicle emission inspection program.

(b) Before each inspection, a person whose motor vehicle is to be inspected shall pay to the inspection station the fee established under this section. The person whose motor vehicle is inspected shall receive the results of the inspection. If the inspected vehicle complies with the standards established by the director, the person shall receive a dated certificate of compliance. If the inspected vehicle does not comply with those standards, one reinspection of the vehicle shall be afforded without charge.

(5) All units of local government and agencies of the state with motor vehicles garaged or regularly operated in an emissions contributing area shall test the emissions of those vehicles annually to ensure that the vehicle's emissions comply with the emission standards established by the director. All state agencies outside of emission contributing areas with more than twenty motor vehicles housed at a single facility or contiguous facilities shall test the emissions of those vehicles annually to ensure that the vehicles' emissions comply with standards established by the director. A report of the results of the tests shall be submitted to the department.

(6) This section expires January 1, 2020. [2011 c 171 § 110; 2005 c 295 § 6; 1998 c 342 § 4; 1991 c 199 § 208; 1989 c 240 § 4.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**Findings—2005 c 295:** See note following RCW 70.120A.010.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120.190 Used vehicles.** (1) Motor vehicle dealers selling a used vehicle not under a new vehicle warranty shall include a notice in each vehicle purchase order form that reads as follows: "The owner of a vehicle may be required to spend up to (a dollar amount established under RCW 70.120.070) for repairs if the vehicle does not meet the vehicle emission standards under this chapter. Unless expressly warranted by the motor vehicle dealer, the dealer is not warranting that this vehicle will pass any emission tests required by federal or state law."

(2) The signature of the purchaser on the notice required under subsection (1) of this section shall constitute a valid disclaimer of any implied warranty by the dealer as to a vehicle's compliance with any emission standards.

(3) The disclosure requirement of subsection (1) of this section applies to all motor vehicle dealers located in counties where state emission inspections are required. [1991 c 199 § 210.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120.210 Clean-fuel performance and clean-fuel vehicle emissions specifications.** By July 1, 1992, the department shall develop, in cooperation with the departments of \*general administration and transportation, and Washington State University, aggressive clean-fuel performance and clean-fuel vehicle emissions specifications including clean-fuel vehicle conversion equipment. To the extent possible, such specifications shall be equivalent for all fuel types. In developing such specifications the department

shall consider the requirements of the clean air act and the findings of the environmental protection agency, other states, the American petroleum institute, the gas research institute, and the motor vehicles manufacturers association. [1996 c 186 § 518; 1991 c 199 § 212.]

\***Reviser's note:** The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 186:** See notes following RCW 43.330.904.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

*Clean-fuel grants:* RCW 70.94.960.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120.230 Scientific advisory board—Composition of board—Duties.** The department shall establish a scientific advisory board to review plans to establish or expand the geographic area where an inspection and maintenance system for motor vehicle emissions is required. The board shall consist of three to five members. All members shall have at least a master's degree in physics, chemistry, or engineering, or a closely related field. No member may be a current employee of a local air pollution control authority, the department, the United States environmental protection agency, or a company that may benefit from a review by the board.

The board shall review an inspection and maintenance plan at the request of a local air pollution control authority, the department, or by a petition of at least fifty people living within the proposed boundaries of a vehicle emission inspection and maintenance system. The entity or entities requesting a scientific review may include specific issues for the board to consider in its review. The board shall limit its review to matters of science and shall not provide advice on penalties or issues that are strictly legal in nature.

The board shall provide a complete written review to the department. If the board members are not in agreement as to the scientific merit of any issue under review, the board may include a dissenting opinion in its report to the department. The department shall immediately make copies available to the local air pollution control authority and to the public.

The department shall conduct a public hearing, within the area affected by the proposed rule, if any significant aspect of the rule is in conflict with a majority opinion of the board. The department shall include in its responsiveness summary the rationale for including a rule that is not consistent with the review of the board, including a response to the issues raised at the public hearing.

Members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [1998 c 342 § 5.]

**70.120.902 Effective date—1989 c 240.** This act shall take effect January 1, 1990. [1989 c 240 § 14.]

## Chapter 70.120A RCW

### MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION STANDARDS

#### Sections

- 70.120A.010 Department of ecology to adopt rules to implement California motor vehicle emission standards—Limitations—Advisory group—Exemptions.  
70.120A.020 Early credits and banking—Alternative means of compliance.

- 70.120A.030 Warranty repair service—Manufacturers, repair shops.  
70.120A.050 New vehicle greenhouse gas emissions disclosure—Rule-making authority.

**70.120A.010 Department of ecology to adopt rules to implement California motor vehicle emission standards—Limitations—Advisory group—Exemptions.** (1) Pursuant to the federal clean air act, the legislature adopts the California motor vehicle emission standards in Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations, effective January 1, 2005, except as provided in this chapter. The department of ecology shall adopt rules to implement the emission standards of the state of California for passenger cars, light duty trucks, and medium duty passenger vehicles, and shall amend the rules from time to time, to maintain consistency with the California motor vehicle emission standards and 42 U.S.C. Sec. 7507 (section 177 of the federal clean air act). Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, the department of ecology shall not adopt the zero emission vehicle program regulations contained in Title 13 section 1962 of the California Code of Regulations effective January 1, 2005. During rule development, the department of ecology shall convene an advisory group composed of industry and consumer group representatives. Any proposed rules or changes to rules shall be subject to review and comment by the advisory group, prior to rule adoption. The order of adoption for the rules required in this section shall include the signature of the governor. The rules shall be effective only for those model years for which the state of Oregon has adopted the California motor vehicle emission standards. This section does not limit the department of ecology's authority to regulate motor vehicle emissions for any other class of vehicle.

(2) Motor vehicles with a model year equal to or later than the first model year for which new vehicles sold to Washington state residents are required to comply with California motor vehicle emission standards are exempt from emission inspections under chapter 70.120 RCW.

(3) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use by a resident of this state of a motor vehicle acquired and used while the resident is a member of the armed services and is stationed outside this state pursuant to military orders. [2010 c 76 § 1; 2005 c 295 § 2.]

**Findings—2005 c 295:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Motor vehicles are the largest source of air pollution in the state of Washington, and motor vehicles contribute approximately fifty-seven percent of criteria air pollutant emissions, eighty percent of air toxics emissions, and fifty-five percent of greenhouse gas emissions;

(2) Air pollution levels routinely measured in the state of Washington continue to harm public health, the environment, and the economy. Air pollution causes or contributes to premature death, cancer, asthma, and heart and lung disease. Over half of the state's population suffers from one or more medical conditions that make them very vulnerable to air pollution. Air pollution increases pain and suffering for vulnerable individuals. Air pollution imposes several hundred million dollars annually in added health care costs for air pollution-associated death and illness, reducing the quality of life and economic security of the citizens of Washington;

(3) Reductions of greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources are necessary, and it is equitable to seek such reductions because reductions in greenhouse gas emissions have already been initiated in other sectors such as power generation;

(4) Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions made under this act should be credited toward any future federal, state, or regional comprehensive regulatory structure enacted to address reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

(5) Under the federal clean air act, the state of Washington has the option to implement either federal motor vehicle emission standards or Cal-

ifornia motor vehicle emission standards for passenger cars, light duty trucks, and medium duty passenger vehicles;

(6) Opting into the California motor vehicle standards will provide significant and necessary air quality benefits to residents of the state of Washington; and

(7) Adoption of the California motor vehicle standards will increase consumer choices of cleaner vehicles, provide better warranties to consumers, and provide sufficient air quality benefit to allow additional business and economic growth in the key airsheds of the state while maintaining conformance with federal air quality standards." [2005 c 295 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.120A.020 Early credits and banking—Alternative means of compliance.** (1) In recognition of the provisions of the federal clean air act which require a minimum phase-in period of three model years for adoption of California motor vehicle emission standards, the implementing rules shall include a system of early credits and banking for manufacturers for zero emission vehicles produced and sold earlier than the implementation date for the standards in Washington. Beginning with the model year in which the new standards become effective, each manufacturer's fleet of passenger cars and light duty trucks delivered for sale in the state of Washington shall proportionately conform to the zero emission vehicle requirements of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations, including early credit and banking provisions set forth in Title 13 of the Code of California Regulations using Washington specific vehicle numbers. A manufacturer shall be given early Washington zero emission vehicle credits proportionally equivalent to the zero emission vehicle credits possessed by the requesting manufacturer for use in the state of California on January 1st of the model year the California standards become effective in Washington.

(2) In addition, an alternative means of compliance with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall be created in the implementing rules provided for in RCW 70.120A.010. The alternative means of compliance shall allow a manufacturer to earn Washington zero emission vehicle credits beginning with the 2005 model year. The alternative means of compliance shall be developed to be consistent in concept with the alternative compliance systems developed for the states of Connecticut, New York, and Maine as they adopted the zero emission vehicle provisions of the California motor vehicle standards and shall contain a Washington multiplier consistent with the multipliers in those systems. The implementing rules shall require timely notification by the manufacturer to the department of ecology of an election to use the alternative means of compliance. [2005 c 295 § 3.]

**Findings—2005 c 295:** See note following RCW 70.120A.010.

**70.120A.030 Warranty repair service—Manufacturers, repair shops.** Individual automobile manufacturers may certify independent automobile repair shops to perform warranty service on the manufacturers' vehicles. Upon certification of the independent automobile repair shops, the manufacturers shall compensate the repair shops at the same rate as franchised dealers for covered warranty repair services. [2005 c 295 § 4.]

**Findings—2005 c 295:** See note following RCW 70.120A.010.

**70.120A.050 New vehicle greenhouse gas emissions disclosure—Rule-making authority.** (1) No model year 2010 or subsequent model year new passenger car, light duty truck, or medium duty passenger vehicle may be sold in Washington unless there is securely and conspicuously affixed in a clearly visible location a label on which the manufacturer clearly discloses comparative greenhouse gas emissions for that new vehicle.

(2) The label required by this section should include a greenhouse gas index or rating system that contains quantitative and graphical information presented in a continuous, easy-to-read scale that compares the greenhouse gas emissions from the vehicle with the average projected greenhouse gas emissions from all passenger cars, light duty trucks, and medium duty passenger vehicles of the same model year. For reference purposes, the index or rating system should also identify the greenhouse gas emissions from the vehicle model of that same model year that has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions.

(3) The index or rating system included in the label under subsection (2) of this section shall be updated as necessary to ensure that the differences in greenhouse gas emissions among vehicles are readily apparent to the consumer.

(4) An automobile manufacturer may apply to the department of ecology for approval of an alternative to the disclosure labeling requirement that is at least as effective in providing notification and disclosure of the vehicle's greenhouse gas emissions as is the labeling required by this section.

(5) A label that complies with the requirements of the California greenhouse gas vehicle labeling program shall be deemed to meet the requirements of this section and any rules adopted under this section.

(6) The department of ecology may adopt such rules as are necessary to implement this section. [2014 c 76 § 8; 2008 c 32 § 2.]

**Intent—2008 c 32:** "The legislature intends that new passenger cars, light duty trucks, and medium duty passenger vehicles for sale in Washington display clear and easy to understand information disclosing the new vehicle's greenhouse gas emissions. Further, the legislature intends that disclosure of such emissions serves as a means of educating consumers, other motorists, and the general public about the sources of greenhouse gas, their impact, available options, and in particular the role and contribution of automobiles and other motor vehicles." [2008 c 32 § 1.]

## Chapter 70.121 RCW

### MILL TAILINGS—LICENSING AND PERPETUAL CARE

#### Sections

70.121.010	Legislative findings.
70.121.020	Definitions.
70.121.030	Licenses—Renewal—Hearings.
70.121.040	Facility operations and decommissioning—Monitoring.
70.121.050	Radiation perpetual maintenance fund—Licensee contributions—Disposition.
70.121.060	State authority to acquire property for surveillance sites.
70.121.070	Status of acquired state property for surveillance sites.
70.121.080	Payment for transferred sites for surveillance.
70.121.090	Authority for on-site inspections and monitoring.
70.121.100	Licensees' bond requirements.
70.121.110	Acceptable bonds.
70.121.120	Forfeited bonds—Use of fund.
70.121.130	Exemptions from bonding requirements.
70.121.140	Amounts owed to state—Lien created.
70.121.150	Amounts owed to the state—Collection by attorney general.

70.121.900 Construction.  
70.121.905 Short title.

*Nuclear energy and radiation: Chapter 70.98 RCW.*

*Radioactive waste storage and transportation act of 1980: Chapter 70.99 RCW.*

**70.121.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) The milling of uranium and thorium creates potential hazards to the health of the citizens of the state of Washington in that potentially hazardous radioactive isotopes, decay products of uranium and thorium, naturally occurring in relatively dispersed geologic formations, are brought to one location on the surface and pulverized in the process of mining and milling uranium and thorium.

(2) These radioactive isotopes, in addition to creating a field of gamma radiation in the vicinity of the tailings area, also exude potentially hazardous radioactive gas and particulates into the atmosphere from the tailings areas, and contaminate the milling facilities, thereby creating hazards which will be present for many generations.

(3) The public health and welfare of the citizens demands that the state assure that the public health be protected by requiring that: (a) Prior to the termination of any radioactive materials license, all milling facilities and associated tailings piles will be decommissioned in such a manner as to bring the potential public health hazard to a minimum; and (b) such environmental radiation monitoring as is necessary to verify the status of decommissioned facilities will be conducted. [1979 ex.s. c 110 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means the department of health.

(2) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

(3) "Site" means the restricted area as defined by the United States nuclear regulatory commission.

(4) "Tailings" means the residue remaining after extraction of uranium or thorium from the ore whether or not the residue is left in piles, but shall not include ore bodies nor ore stock piles.

(5) "License" means a radioactive materials license issued under chapter 70.98 RCW and the rules adopted under chapter 70.98 RCW.

(6) "Termination of license" means the cancellation of the license after permanent cessation of operations. Temporary interruptions or suspensions of production due to economic or other conditions are not a permanent cessation of operations.

(7) "Milling" means grinding, cutting, working, or concentrating ore which has been extracted from the earth by mechanical (conventional) or chemical (in situ) processes.

(8) "Obligor-licensee" means any person who obtains a license to operate a uranium or thorium mill in the state of Washington or any person who owns the property on which the mill operates and who owes money to the state for the licensing fee, for reclamation of the site, for perpetual surveillance and maintenance of the site, or for any other obligation owed the state under this chapter.

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(9) "Statement of claim" means the document recorded or filed pursuant to this chapter, which names an obligor-licensee, names the state as obligee, describes the obligation owed to the state, and describes property owned by the obligor-licensee on which a lien will attach for the benefit of the state, and which creates the lien when filed. [1991 c 3 § 372; 1987 c 184 § 1; 1982 c 78 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 110 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.030 Licenses—Renewal—Hearings.** (1) Any person who proposes to operate a uranium or thorium mill within the state of Washington after January 1, 1980, shall obtain a license from the department to mill thorium and uranium. The period of the license shall be determined by the secretary and shall be initially valid for not more than two years and renewable thereafter for periods of not more than five years. No license may be granted unless:

(a) The owner or operator of the mill submits to the department a plan for reclamation and disposal of tailings and for decommissioning the site that conforms to the criteria and standards then in effect for the protection of the public safety and health; and

(b) The owner of the mill agrees to transfer or revert to the appropriate state or federal agency upon termination of the license all lands, buildings, and grounds, and any interests therein, necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter except where the lands are held in trust for or are owned by any Indian tribe.

(2) Any person operating a uranium or thorium mill on January 1, 1980, shall, at the time of application for renewal of his or her license to mill thorium or uranium, comply with the following conditions for continued operation of the mill:

(a) The owner or operator of the mill shall submit to the department a plan for reclamation and disposal of tailings and for decommissioning the site that conforms to the criteria and standards then in effect for the protection of the public safety and health; and

(b) The owner of the mill shall agree to transfer or revert to the appropriate state or federal agency upon termination of the license all lands, buildings, and grounds, and any interests therein, necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter except where the lands are held in trust for or are owned by any Indian tribe.

(3) The department shall, after public notice and opportunity for written comment, hold a public hearing to consider the adequacy of the proposed plan to protect the safety and health of the public required by subsections (1) and (2) of this section. The proceedings shall be recorded and transcribed. The public hearing shall provide the opportunity for cross-examination by both the department and the person proposing the plan required under this section. The department shall make a written determination as to the licensing of the mill which is based upon the findings included in the determination and upon the evidence presented during the public comment period. The determination is subject to judicial review. If a declaration of nonsignificance is issued for a license renewal application under rules adopted under chapter 43.21C RCW, the public hearing is not required.

(4) The department shall set a schedule of license and amendment fees predicated on the cost of reviewing the license application and of monitoring for compliance with the

conditions of the license. A permit for construction of a uranium or thorium mill may be granted by the secretary prior to licensing. [2012 c 117 § 427; 1979 ex.s. c 110 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.040 Facility operations and decommissioning—Monitoring.** The secretary or his or her representative shall monitor the operations of the mill for compliance with the conditions of the license by the owner or operator. The mill owner or operator shall be responsible for compliance, both during the lifetime of the facility and at shutdown, including but not limited to such requirements as fencing and posting the site; contouring, covering, and stabilizing the pile; and for decommissioning the facility. [2012 c 117 § 428; 1979 ex.s. c 110 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.050 Radiation perpetual maintenance fund—Licensee contributions—Disposition.** On a quarterly basis on and after January 1, 1980, there shall be levied and the department shall collect a charge of five cents per pound on each pound of uranium or thorium compound milled out of the raw ore. All moneys paid to the department from these charges shall be deposited in a special security fund in the treasury of the state of Washington to be known as the "radiation perpetual maintenance fund." This security fund shall be used by the department when a licensee has ceased to operate and the site may still contain, or have associated with the site at which the licensed activity was conducted in spite of full compliance with RCW 70.121.030, radioactive material which will require further maintenance, surveillance, or other care. If, with respect to a licensee, the department determines that the estimated total of these charges will be less than or greater than that required to defray the estimated cost of administration of this responsibility, the department may prescribe such an increased or decreased charge as is considered necessary for this purpose. If, at termination of the license, the department determines that by the applicable standards and practices then in effect, the charges which have been collected from the licensee and earnings generated therefrom are in excess of the amount required to defray the cost of this responsibility, the department may refund the excess portion to the licensee. If, at termination of the license or cessation of operation, the department determines, by the applicable standards and practices then in effect, that the charges which have been collected from the licensee and earnings generated therefrom are together insufficient to defray the cost of this responsibility, the department may collect the excess portion from the licensee. [2012 c 187 § 8; 1987 c 184 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 110 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.060 State authority to acquire property for surveillance sites.** In order to provide for the proper care and surveillance of sites under RCW 70.121.050, the state may acquire by gift or transfer from any government agency, corporation, partnership, or person, all lands, buildings, and grounds necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter. Any such gift or transfer shall be subject to approval by the department. In exercising the authority of this section, the department shall take into consideration the status of the ownership

of the land and interests therein and the ability of the licensee to transfer title and custody thereof to the state. [1979 ex.s. c 110 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.070 Status of acquired state property for surveillance sites.** Recognizing the uncertainty of the existence of a person or corporation in perpetuity, and recognizing that ultimate responsibility to protect the public health and safety must be reposed in a solvent government, without regard to the existence of any particular agency or department thereof, all lands, buildings, and grounds acquired by the state under RCW 70.121.060 shall be owned in fee simple by the state and dedicated in perpetuity to the purposes stated in RCW 70.121.060. All radioactive material received at a site and located therein at the time of acquisition of ownership by the state shall become the property of the state. [1979 ex.s. c 110 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.080 Payment for transferred sites for surveillance.** If a person licensed by any governmental agency other than the state or if any other governmental agency desires to transfer a site to the state for the purpose of administering or providing perpetual care, a lump sum payment shall be made to the radiation perpetual maintenance fund. The amount of the deposit shall be determined by the department taking into consideration the factors stated in RCW 70.121.050. [1979 ex.s. c 110 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.090 Authority for on-site inspections and monitoring.** Each licensee under this chapter, as a condition of his or her license, shall submit to whatever reasonable on-site inspections and on-site monitoring as required in order for the department to carry out its responsibilities and duties under this chapter. Such on-site inspections and monitoring shall be conducted without the necessity of any further approval or any permit or warrant therefor. [2012 c 117 § 429; 1979 ex.s. c 110 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.100 Licensees' bond requirements.** The secretary or the secretary's duly authorized representative shall require the posting of a bond by licensees to be used exclusively to provide funds in the event of abandonment, default, or other inability of the licensee to meet the requirements of the department. The secretary may establish bonding requirements by classes of licensees and by range of monetary amounts. In establishing these requirements, the secretary shall consider the potential for contamination, injury, cost of disposal, and reclamation of the property. The amount of the bond shall be sufficient to pay the costs of reclamation and perpetual maintenance. [1987 c 184 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 110 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.110 Acceptable bonds.** A bond shall be accepted by the department if it is a bond issued by a fidelity or surety company admitted to do business in the state of Washington and the fidelity or surety company is found by

the state finance commission to be financially secure at licensing and licensing renewals, if it is a personal bond secured by such collateral as the secretary deems satisfactory and in accordance with RCW 70.121.100, or if it is a cash bond. [1987 c 184 § 6; 1979 ex.s. c 110 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.120 Forfeited bonds—Use of fund.** All bonds forfeited shall be paid to the department for deposit in the radiation perpetual maintenance fund. All moneys in this fund may only be expended by the department as necessary for the protection of the public health and safety and shall not be used for normal operating expenses of the department. [1979 ex.s. c 110 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.130 Exemptions from bonding requirements.** All state, local, or other governmental agencies, or subdivisions thereof, are exempt from the bonding requirements of this chapter. [1987 c 184 § 7; 1979 ex.s. c 110 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.140 Amounts owed to state—Lien created.** If a licensee fails to pay the department within a reasonable time money owed to the state under this chapter, the obligation owed to the state shall constitute a lien on all property, both real and personal, owned by the obligor-licensee when the department records or files, pursuant to this section, a statement of claim against the obligor-licensee. The statement of claim against the obligor-licensee shall name the obligor-licensee, name the state as obligee, describe the obligation, and describe the property to be held in security for the obligation.

Statements of claim creating a lien on real property, fixtures, timber, agricultural products, oil, gas, or minerals shall be recorded with the county auditor in each county where the property is located. Statements of claim creating a lien in personal property, whether tangible or intangible, shall be filed with the department of licensing.

A lien recorded or filed pursuant to this section has priority over any lien, interest, or other encumbrance previously or thereafter recorded or filed concerning any property described in the statement of claim, to the extent allowed by federal law.

A lien created pursuant to this section shall continue in force until extinguished by foreclosure or bankruptcy proceedings or until a release of the lien signed by the secretary is recorded or filed in the place where the statement of claim was recorded or filed. The secretary shall sign and record or file a release only after the obligation owed to the state under this chapter, together with accrued interest and costs of collection has been paid. [1987 c 184 § 3.]

**70.121.150 Amounts owed to the state—Collection by attorney general.** The attorney general shall use all available methods of obtaining funds owed to the state under this chapter. The attorney general shall foreclose on liens made pursuant to this section, obtain judgments against obligor-licensees and pursue assets of the obligor-licensees found outside the state, consider pursuing the assets of parent corporations and shareholders where an obligor-licensee corpo-

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ration is an underfinanced corporation, and pursue any other legal remedy available. [1987 c 184 § 4.]

**70.121.900 Construction.** This chapter is cumulative and not exclusive, and no part of this chapter shall be construed to repeal any existing law specifically enacted for the protection of the public health and safety. [1979 ex.s. c 110 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.121.905 Short title.** This chapter may be known as the "Mill Tailings Licensing and Perpetual Care Act of 1979". [1979 ex.s. c 110 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 70.122 RCW NATURAL DEATH ACT

### Sections

70.122.010	Legislative findings.
70.122.020	Definitions.
70.122.030	Directive to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment.
70.122.040	Revocation of directive.
70.122.051	Liability of health care provider.
70.122.060	Procedures by physician—Health care facility or personnel may refuse to participate.
70.122.070	Effects of carrying out directive—Insurance.
70.122.080	Effects of carrying out directive on cause of death.
70.122.090	Criminal conduct—Penalties.
70.122.100	Mercy killing, lethal injection, or active euthanasia not authorized.
70.122.110	Discharge so that patient may die at home.
70.122.120	Directive's validity assumed.
70.122.130	Health care declarations registry—Rules—Report.
70.122.900	Short title—1979 c 112.
70.122.910	Construction.
70.122.915	Application—1992 c 98.
70.122.925	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Futile treatment and emergency medical personnel: RCW 43.70.480.*

**70.122.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that adult persons have the fundamental right to control the decisions relating to the rendering of their own health care, including the decision to have life-sustaining treatment withheld or withdrawn in instances of a terminal condition or permanent unconscious condition.

The legislature further finds that modern medical technology has made possible the artificial prolongation of human life beyond natural limits.

The legislature further finds that, in the interest of protecting individual autonomy, such prolongation of the process of dying for persons with a terminal condition or permanent unconscious condition may cause loss of patient dignity, and unnecessary pain and suffering, while providing nothing medically necessary or beneficial to the patient. The legislature further believes that physicians and nurses should not withhold or unreasonably diminish pain medication for patients in a terminal condition where the primary intent of providing such medication is to alleviate pain and maintain or increase the patient's comfort.

The legislature further finds that there exists considerable uncertainty in the medical and legal professions as to the legality of terminating the use or application of life-sustaining treatment where the patient having the capacity to make

health care decisions has voluntarily evidenced a desire that such treatment be withheld or withdrawn.

In recognition of the dignity and privacy which patients have a right to expect, the legislature hereby declares that the laws of the state of Washington shall recognize the right of an adult person to make a written directive instructing such person's physician to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment in the event of a terminal condition or permanent unconscious condition. The legislature also recognizes that a person's right to control his or her health care may be exercised by an authorized representative who validly holds the person's durable power of attorney for health care. [1992 c 98 § 1; 1979 c 112 § 2.]

**70.122.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions contained in this section shall apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Adult person" means a person who has attained the age of majority as defined in RCW 26.28.010 and 26.28.015, and who has the capacity to make health care decisions.

(2) "Attending physician" means the physician selected by, or assigned to, the patient who has primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the patient.

(3) "Directive" means a written document voluntarily executed by the declarer generally consistent with the guidelines of RCW 70.122.030.

(4) "Health facility" means a hospital as defined in \*RCW 70.41.020(4) or a nursing home as defined in RCW 18.51.010, a home health agency or hospice agency as defined in RCW 70.126.010, or an assisted living facility as defined in RCW 18.20.020.

(5) "Life-sustaining treatment" means any medical or surgical intervention that uses mechanical or other artificial means, including artificially provided nutrition and hydration, to sustain, restore, or replace a vital function, which, when applied to a qualified patient, would serve only to prolong the process of dying. "Life-sustaining treatment" shall not include the administration of medication or the performance of any medical or surgical intervention deemed necessary solely to alleviate pain.

(6) "Permanent unconscious condition" means an incurable and irreversible condition in which the patient is medically assessed within reasonable medical judgment as having no reasonable probability of recovery from an irreversible coma or a persistent vegetative state.

(7) "Physician" means a person licensed under chapters 18.71 or 18.57 RCW.

(8) "Qualified patient" means an adult person who is a patient diagnosed in writing to have a terminal condition by the patient's attending physician, who has personally examined the patient, or a patient who is diagnosed in writing to be in a permanent unconscious condition in accordance with accepted medical standards by two physicians, one of whom is the patient's attending physician, and both of whom have personally examined the patient.

(9) "Terminal condition" means an incurable and irreversible condition caused by injury, disease, or illness, that, within reasonable medical judgment, will cause death within a reasonable period of time in accordance with accepted medical standards, and where the application of life-sustaining

treatment serves only to prolong the process of dying. [2012 c 10 § 53; 1992 c 98 § 2; 1979 c 112 § 3.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.41.020 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (4) to subsection (5). RCW 70.41.020 was subsequently amended by 2016 c 226 § 1, changing subsection (5) to subsection (7).

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**70.122.030 Directive to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment.** (1) Any adult person may execute a directive directing the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment in a terminal condition or permanent unconscious condition. The directive shall be signed by the declarer in the presence of two witnesses not related to the declarer by blood or marriage and who would not be entitled to any portion of the estate of the declarer upon declarer's decease under any will of the declarer or codicil thereto then existing or, at the time of the directive, by operation of law then existing. In addition, a witness to a directive shall not be the attending physician, an employee of the attending physician or a health facility in which the declarer is a patient, or any person who has a claim against any portion of the estate of the declarer upon declarer's decease at the time of the execution of the directive. The directive, or a copy thereof, shall be made part of the patient's medical records retained by the attending physician, a copy of which shall be forwarded by the custodian of the records to the health facility when the withholding or withdrawal of life-support treatment is contemplated. The directive may be in the following form, but in addition may include other specific directions:

#### Health Care Directive

Directive made this . . . day of . . . . . (month, year).

I . . . . ., having the capacity to make health care decisions, willfully, and voluntarily make known my desire that my dying shall not be artificially prolonged under the circumstances set forth below, and do hereby declare that:

(a) If at any time I should be diagnosed in writing to be in a terminal condition by the attending physician, or in a permanent unconscious condition by two physicians, and where the application of life-sustaining treatment would serve only to artificially prolong the process of my dying, I direct that such treatment be withheld or withdrawn, and that I be permitted to die naturally. I understand by using this form that a terminal condition means an incurable and irreversible condition caused by injury, disease, or illness, that would within reasonable medical judgment cause death within a reasonable period of time in accordance with accepted medical standards, and where the application of life-sustaining treatment would serve only to prolong the process of dying. I further understand in using this form that a permanent unconscious condition means an incurable and irreversible condition in which I am medically assessed within reasonable medical judgment as having no reasonable probability of recovery from an irreversible coma or a persistent vegetative state.

(b) In the absence of my ability to give directions regarding the use of such life-sustaining treatment, it is my intention that this directive shall be honored by my family and physician(s) as the final expression of my legal right to refuse medical or surgical treatment and I accept the consequences of such refusal. If another person is appointed to make these

decisions for me, whether through a durable power of attorney or otherwise, I request that the person be guided by this directive and any other clear expressions of my desires.

(c) If I am diagnosed to be in a terminal condition or in a permanent unconscious condition (check one):

I DO want to have artificially provided nutrition and hydration.

I DO NOT want to have artificially provided nutrition and hydration.

(d) If I have been diagnosed as pregnant and that diagnosis is known to my physician, this directive shall have no force or effect during the course of my pregnancy.

(e) I understand the full import of this directive and I am emotionally and mentally capable to make the health care decisions contained in this directive.

(f) I understand that before I sign this directive, I can add to or delete from or otherwise change the wording of this directive and that I may add to or delete from this directive at any time and that any changes shall be consistent with Washington state law or federal constitutional law to be legally valid.

(g) It is my wish that every part of this directive be fully implemented. If for any reason any part is held invalid it is my wish that the remainder of my directive be implemented.

Signed .....

City, County, and State of Residence

The declarer has been personally known to me and I believe him or her to be capable of making health care decisions.

Witness .....

Witness .....

(2) Prior to withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, the diagnosis of a terminal condition by the attending physician or the diagnosis of a permanent unconscious state by two physicians shall be entered in writing and made a permanent part of the patient's medical records.

(3) A directive executed in another political jurisdiction is valid to the extent permitted by Washington state law and federal constitutional law. [1992 c 98 § 3; 1979 c 112 § 4.]

**70.122.040 Revocation of directive.** (1) A directive may be revoked at any time by the declarer, without regard to the declarer's mental state or competency, by any of the following methods:

(a) By being canceled, defaced, obliterated, burned, torn, or otherwise destroyed by the declarer or by some person in the declarer's presence and by the declarer's direction.

(b) By a written revocation of the declarer expressing his or her intent to revoke, signed, and dated by the declarer. Such revocation shall become effective only upon communication to the attending physician by the declarer or by a person acting on behalf of the declarer. The attending physician shall record in the patient's medical record the time and date when the physician received notification of the written revocation.

(c) By a verbal expression by the declarer of his or her intent to revoke the directive. Such revocation shall become effective only upon communication to the attending physician by the declarer or by a person acting on behalf of the

declarer. The attending physician shall record in the patient's medical record the time, date, and place of the revocation and the time, date, and place, if different, of when the physician received notification of the revocation.

(d) In the case of a directive that is stored in the health care declarations registry under RCW 70.122.130, by an online method established by the department of health. Failure to use this method of revocation for a directive that is stored in the registry does not invalidate a revocation that is made by another method described under this section.

(2) There shall be no criminal or civil liability on the part of any person for failure to act upon a revocation made pursuant to this section unless that person has actual or constructive knowledge of the revocation except as provided in RCW 70.122.051(4).

(3) If the declarer becomes comatose or is rendered incapable of communicating with the attending physician, the directive shall remain in effect for the duration of the comatose condition or until such time as the declarer's condition renders the declarer able to communicate with the attending physician. [2006 c 108 § 4; 1979 c 112 § 5.]

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 108:** See note following RCW 70.122.130.

**70.122.051 Liability of health care provider.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "provider" means a physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, health care provider acting under the direction of a physician or an advanced registered nurse practitioner, or health care facility, as defined in this chapter or in chapter 71.32 RCW, and its personnel.

(2) Any provider who participates in good faith in the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment from a qualified patient in accordance with the requirements of this chapter, shall be immune from legal liability, including civil, criminal, or professional conduct sanctions, unless otherwise negligent.

(3) The establishment of a health care declarations registry does not create any new or distinct obligation for a provider to determine whether a patient has a health care declaration.

(4) A provider is not subject to civil or criminal liability or sanctions for unprofessional conduct under the uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, when in good faith and without negligence:

(a) The provider provides, does not provide, withdraws, or withholds treatment to a patient in the absence of actual knowledge of the existence of a health care declaration stored in the health care declarations registry established in RCW 70.122.130;

(b) The provider provides, does not provide, withdraws, or withholds treatment pursuant to a health care declaration stored in the health care declarations registry established in RCW 70.122.130 in the absence of actual knowledge of the revocation of the declaration;

(c) The provider provides, does not provide, withdraws, or withholds treatment according to a health care declaration stored in the health care declarations registry established in RCW 70.122.130 in good faith reliance upon the validity of the health care declaration and the declaration is subsequently found to be invalid; or

(d) The provider provides, does not provide, withdraws, or withholds treatment according to the patient's health care

declaration stored in the health care declarations registry established in RCW 70.122.130.

(5) Except for acts of gross negligence, willful misconduct, or intentional wrongdoing, the department of health is not subject to civil liability for any claims or demands arising out of the administration or operation of the health care declarations registry established in RCW 70.122.130. [2006 c 108 § 6; 1992 c 98 § 5.]

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 108:** See note following RCW 70.122.130.

**70.122.060 Procedures by physician—Health care facility or personnel may refuse to participate.** (1) Prior to the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment from a qualified patient pursuant to the directive, the attending physician shall make a reasonable effort to determine that the directive complies with RCW 70.122.030 and, if the patient is capable of making health care decisions, that the directive and all steps proposed by the attending physician to be undertaken are currently in accord with the desires of the qualified patient.

(2) The attending physician or health facility shall inform a patient or patient's authorized representative of the existence of any policy or practice that would preclude the honoring of the patient's directive at the time the physician or facility becomes aware of the existence of such a directive. If the patient, after being informed of such policy or directive, chooses to retain the physician or facility, the physician or facility with the patient or the patient's representative shall prepare a written plan to be filed with the patient's directive that sets forth the physician's or facilities' intended actions should the patient's medical status change so that the directive would become operative. The physician or facility under this subsection has no obligation to honor the patient's directive if they have complied with the requirements of this subsection, including compliance with the written plan required under this subsection.

(3) The directive shall be conclusively presumed, unless revoked, to be the directions of the patient regarding the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment. No physician, health facility, or health personnel acting in good faith with the directive or in accordance with the written plan in subsection (2) of this section shall be criminally or civilly liable for failing to effectuate the directive of the qualified patient pursuant to this subsection.

(4) No nurse, physician, or other health care practitioner may be required by law or contract in any circumstances to participate in the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment if such person objects to so doing. No person may be discriminated against in employment or professional privileges because of the person's participation or refusal to participate in the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment. [1992 c 98 § 6; 1979 c 112 § 7.]

**70.122.070 Effects of carrying out directive—Insurance.** (1) The withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment from a qualified patient pursuant to the patient's directive in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall not, for any purpose, constitute a suicide or a homicide.

(2) The making of a directive pursuant to RCW 70.122.030 shall not restrict, inhibit, or impair in any manner the sale, procurement, or issuance of any policy of life insur-

ance, nor shall it be deemed to modify the terms of an existing policy of life insurance. No policy of life insurance shall be legally impaired or invalidated in any manner by the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment from an insured qualified patient, notwithstanding any term of the policy to the contrary.

(3) No physician, health facility, or other health provider, and no health care service plan, insurer issuing disability insurance, self-insured employee welfare benefit plan, or nonprofit hospital service plan, shall require any person to execute a directive as a condition for being insured for, or receiving, health care services. [1992 c 98 § 7; 1979 c 112 § 8.]

**70.122.080 Effects of carrying out directive on cause of death.** The act of withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, when done pursuant to a directive described in RCW 70.122.030 and which results in the death of the declarer, shall not be construed to be an intervening force or to affect the chain of proximate cause between the conduct of anyone that placed the declarer in a terminal condition or a permanent unconscious condition and the death of the declarer. [1992 c 98 § 8; 1979 c 112 § 10.]

**70.122.090 Criminal conduct—Penalties.** (1) Any person who willfully conceals, cancels, defaces, obliterates, or damages the directive of another without such declarer's consent is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2) Any person who falsifies or forges the directive of another, or willfully conceals or withholds personal knowledge of a revocation as provided in RCW 70.122.040 with the intent to cause a withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment contrary to the wishes of the declarer, and thereby, because of any such act, directly causes life-sustaining treatment to be withheld or withdrawn and death to thereby be hastened, shall be subject to prosecution for murder in the first degree as defined in RCW 9A.32.030. [2003 c 53 § 362; 1992 c 98 § 9; 1979 c 112 § 9.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**70.122.100 Mercy killing, lethal injection, or active euthanasia not authorized.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to condone, authorize, or approve mercy killing, lethal injection, or active euthanasia. [2009 c 1 § 25 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008); 1992 c 98 § 10; 1979 c 112 § 11.]

**Short title—Effective dates—2009 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1000):** See RCW 70.245.901 and 70.245.903.

**70.122.110 Discharge so that patient may die at home.** If a qualified patient capable of making health care decisions indicates that he or she wishes to die at home, the patient shall be discharged as soon as reasonably possible. The health care provider or facility has an obligation to explain the medical risks of an immediate discharge to the qualified patient. If the provider or facility complies with the obligation to explain the medical risks of an immediate discharge to a qualified patient, there shall be no civil or criminal liability for claims arising from such discharge. [1992 c 98 § 4.]

**70.122.120 Directive's validity assumed.** Any person or health facility may assume that a directive complies with this chapter and is valid. [1992 c 98 § 12.]

**70.122.130 Health care declarations registry—Rules—Report. (Effective until January 1, 2017.)** (1) The department of health shall establish and maintain a statewide health care declarations registry containing the health care declarations identified in subsection (2) of this section as submitted by residents of Washington. The department shall digitally reproduce and store health care declarations in the registry. The department may establish standards for individuals to submit digitally reproduced health care declarations directly to the registry, but is not required to review the health care declarations that it receives to ensure they comply with the particular statutory requirements applicable to the document. The department may contract with an organization that meets the standards identified in this section.

(2)(a) An individual may submit any of the following health care declarations to the department of health to be digitally reproduced and stored in the registry:

- (i) A directive, as defined by this chapter;
  - (ii) A durable power of attorney for health care, as authorized in chapter 11.94 RCW;
  - (iii) A mental health advance directive, as defined by chapter 71.32 RCW; or
  - (iv) A form adopted pursuant to the department of health's authority in RCW 43.70.480.
- (b) Failure to submit a health care declaration to the department of health does not affect the validity of the declaration.

(c) Failure to notify the department of health of a valid revocation of a health care declaration does not affect the validity of the revocation.

(d) The entry of a health care directive in the registry under this section does not:

- (i) Affect the validity of the document;
- (ii) Take the place of any requirements in law necessary to make the submitted document legal; or
- (iii) Create a presumption regarding the validity of the document.

(3) The department of health shall prescribe a procedure for an individual to revoke a health care declaration contained in the registry.

(4) The registry must:

- (a) Be maintained in a secure database that is accessible through a web site maintained by the department of health;
- (b) Send annual electronic messages to individuals that have submitted health care declarations to request that they review the registry materials to ensure that it is current;
- (c) Provide individuals who have submitted one or more health care declarations with access to their documents and the ability to revoke their documents at all times; and

(d) Provide the personal representatives of individuals who have submitted one or more health care declarations to the registry, attending physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners, health care providers licensed by a disciplining authority identified in RCW 18.130.040 who is acting under the direction of a physician or an advanced registered nurse practitioner, and health care facilities, as defined in this chap-

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ter or in chapter 71.32 RCW, access to the registry at all times.

(5) In designing the registry and web site, the department of health shall ensure compliance with state and federal requirements related to patient confidentiality.

(6) The department shall provide information to health care providers and health care facilities on the registry web site regarding the different federal and Washington state requirements to ascertain and document whether a patient has an advance directive.

(7) The department of health may accept donations, grants, gifts, or other forms of voluntary contributions to support activities related to the creation and maintenance of the health care declarations registry and statewide public education campaigns related to the existence of the registry. All receipts from donations made under this section, and other contributions and appropriations specifically made for the purposes of creating and maintaining the registry established under this section and statewide public education campaigns related to the existence of the registry, shall be deposited into the general fund. These moneys in the general fund may be spent only after appropriation.

(8) The department of health may adopt rules as necessary to implement chapter 108, Laws of 2006.

(9) By December 1, 2008, the department shall report to the house and senate committees on health care the following information:

- (a) Number of participants in the registry;
- (b) Number of health care declarations submitted by type of declaration as defined in this section;
- (c) Number of health care declarations revoked and the method of revocation;
- (d) Number of providers and facilities, by type, that have been provided access to the registry;

(e) Actual costs of operation of the registry. [2013 c 251 § 12; 2006 c 108 § 2.]

**Residual balance of funds—Effective date—2013 c 251:** See notes following RCW 41.06.280.

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 108:** "The legislature finds that effective communication between patients, their families, and their caregivers regarding their wishes if they become incapacitated results in health care decisions that are more respectful of patients' desires. Whether the communication is for end-of-life planning or incapacity resulting from mental illness, the state must respect those wishes and support efforts to facilitate such communications and to make that information available when it is needed.

It is the intent of the legislature to establish an electronic registry to improve access to health care decision-making documents. The registry would support, not supplant, the current systems for advance directives and mental health advance directives by improving access to these documents. It is the legislature's intent that the registry would be consulted by health care providers in every instance where there may be a question about the patient's wishes for periods of incapacity and the existence of a document that may clarify a patient's intentions unless the circumstances are such that consulting the registry would compromise the emergency care of the patient." [2006 c 108 § 1.]

**70.122.130 Health care declarations registry—Rules—Report. (Effective January 1, 2017.)** (1) The department of health shall establish and maintain a statewide health care declarations registry containing the health care declarations identified in subsection (2) of this section as submitted by residents of Washington. The department shall digitally reproduce and store health care declarations in the registry. The department may establish standards for individuals

to submit digitally reproduced health care declarations directly to the registry, but is not required to review the health care declarations that it receives to ensure they comply with the particular statutory requirements applicable to the document. The department may contract with an organization that meets the standards identified in this section.

(2)(a) An individual may submit any of the following health care declarations to the department of health to be digitally reproduced and stored in the registry:

- (i) A directive, as defined by this chapter;
- (ii) A durable power of attorney for health care, as authorized in chapter 11.125 RCW;
- (iii) A mental health advance directive, as defined by chapter 71.32 RCW; or
- (iv) A form adopted pursuant to the department of health's authority in RCW 43.70.480.

(b) Failure to submit a health care declaration to the department of health does not affect the validity of the declaration.

(c) Failure to notify the department of health of a valid revocation of a health care declaration does not affect the validity of the revocation.

(d) The entry of a health care directive in the registry under this section does not:

- (i) Affect the validity of the document;
- (ii) Take the place of any requirements in law necessary to make the submitted document legal; or
- (iii) Create a presumption regarding the validity of the document.

(3) The department of health shall prescribe a procedure for an individual to revoke a health care declaration contained in the registry.

(4) The registry must:

- (a) Be maintained in a secure database that is accessible through a web site maintained by the department of health;
- (b) Send annual electronic messages to individuals that have submitted health care declarations to request that they review the registry materials to ensure that it is current;
- (c) Provide individuals who have submitted one or more health care declarations with access to their documents and the ability to revoke their documents at all times; and
- (d) Provide the personal representatives of individuals who have submitted one or more health care declarations to the registry, attending physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners, health care providers licensed by a disciplining authority identified in RCW 18.130.040 who is acting under the direction of a physician or an advanced registered nurse practitioner, and health care facilities, as defined in this chapter or in chapter 71.32 RCW, access to the registry at all times.

(5) In designing the registry and web site, the department of health shall ensure compliance with state and federal requirements related to patient confidentiality.

(6) The department shall provide information to health care providers and health care facilities on the registry web site regarding the different federal and Washington state requirements to ascertain and document whether a patient has an advance directive.

(7) The department of health may accept donations, grants, gifts, or other forms of voluntary contributions to support activities related to the creation and maintenance of the

health care declarations registry and statewide public education campaigns related to the existence of the registry. All receipts from donations made under this section, and other contributions and appropriations specifically made for the purposes of creating and maintaining the registry established under this section and statewide public education campaigns related to the existence of the registry, shall be deposited into the general fund. These moneys in the general fund may be spent only after appropriation.

(8) The department of health may adopt rules as necessary to implement chapter 108, Laws of 2006.

(9) By December 1, 2008, the department shall report to the house and senate committees on health care the following information:

- (a) Number of participants in the registry;
- (b) Number of health care declarations submitted by type of declaration as defined in this section;
- (c) Number of health care declarations revoked and the method of revocation;
- (d) Number of providers and facilities, by type, that have been provided access to the registry;
- (e) Actual costs of operation of the registry. [2016 c 209 § 406; 2013 c 251 § 12; 2006 c 108 § 2.]

**Short title—Application—Uniformity—Federal law application—Federal electronic signatures in global and national commerce act—Application—Dates—Effective date—2016 c 209:** See RCW 11.125.010 and 11.125.900 through 11.125.903.

**Residual balance of funds—Effective date—2013 c 251:** See notes following RCW 41.06.280.

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 108:** "The legislature finds that effective communication between patients, their families, and their caregivers regarding their wishes if they become incapacitated results in health care decisions that are more respectful of patients' desires. Whether the communication is for end-of-life planning or incapacity resulting from mental illness, the state must respect those wishes and support efforts to facilitate such communications and to make that information available when it is needed.

It is the intent of the legislature to establish an electronic registry to improve access to health care decision-making documents. The registry would support, not supplant, the current systems for advance directives and mental health advance directives by improving access to these documents. It is the legislature's intent that the registry would be consulted by health care providers in every instance where there may be a question about the patient's wishes for periods of incapacity and the existence of a document that may clarify a patient's intentions unless the circumstances are such that consulting the registry would compromise the emergency care of the patient." [2006 c 108 § 1.]

**70.122.900 Short title—1979 c 112.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Natural Death Act". [1979 c 112 § 1.]

**70.122.910 Construction.** This chapter shall not be construed as providing the exclusive means by which individuals may make decisions regarding their health treatment, including but not limited to, the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, nor limiting the means provided by case law more expansive than chapter 98, Laws of 1992. [1992 c 98 § 11.]

**70.122.915 Application—1992 c 98.** A directive executed anytime before June 11, 1992, which generally complies with chapter 98, Laws of 1992 is effective under chapter 98, Laws of 1992. [1992 c 98 § 13.]

**70.122.925 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 154.]

### Chapter 70.123 RCW

## SHELTERS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

#### Sections

70.123.010	Legislative findings.
70.123.020	Definitions.
70.123.030	Departmental duties and responsibilities.
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70.123.070	Duties and responsibilities of community-based domestic violence programs and emergency shelter programs.
70.123.075	Client records.
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70.123.080	Department to consult.
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70.123.100	Funding for shelters.
70.123.110	Assistance to families in shelters.
70.123.120	Liability for withholding services.
70.123.140	Technical assistance grant for county plans.
70.123.150	Domestic violence prevention account.

*Domestic violence—Official response: Chapter 10.99 RCW.*

*Domestic violence prevention: Chapter 26.50 RCW.*

*Donations of surplus state property: RCW 43.19.1920.*

*Public records: Chapter 42.56 RCW.*

**70.123.010 Legislative findings.** (1) The legislature finds that domestic violence is an issue of serious concern at all levels of society and government and that there is a pressing need for innovative strategies to address and prevent domestic violence and to strengthen services which will ameliorate and reduce the trauma of domestic violence and enhance survivors' resiliency and autonomy.

(2) The legislature finds that there are a wide range of consequences to domestic violence, including deaths, injuries, hospitalizations, homelessness, employment problems, property damage, and lifelong physical and psychological impacts on victims and their children. These impacts also affect victims' friends and families, neighbors, employers, landlords, law enforcement, the courts, the health care system, and Washington state and society as a whole. Advocacy and shelters for victims of domestic violence are essential to provide support to victims in preventing further abuse and to help victims assess and plan for their immediate and longer term safety, including finding long-range alternative living situations, if requested.

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(3) Thus, it is the intent of the legislature to:

(a) Provide for a statewide network of supportive services, emergency shelter services, and advocacy for victims of domestic violence and their dependents;

(b) Provide for culturally relevant and appropriate services for victims of domestic violence and their children from populations that have been traditionally unserved or underserved;

(c) Provide for a statewide domestic violence information and referral resource;

(d) Assist communities in efforts to increase public awareness about, and primary and secondary prevention of domestic violence;

(e) Provide for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of current information related to emerging issues and model and promising practices related to preventing and intervening in situations involving domestic violence; and

(f) Provide for ongoing training and technical assistance for individuals working with victims in community-based domestic violence programs and other persons seeking such training and technical assistance. [2015 c 275 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 245 § 1.]

**70.123.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Community advocate" means a person employed or supervised by a community-based domestic violence program who is trained to provide ongoing assistance and advocacy for victims of domestic violence in assessing and planning for safety needs, making appropriate social service, legal, and housing referrals, providing community education, maintaining contacts necessary for prevention efforts, and developing protocols for local systems coordination.

(2) "Community-based domestic violence program" means a nonprofit program or organization that provides, as its primary purpose, assistance and advocacy for domestic violence victims. Domestic violence assistance and advocacy includes crisis intervention, individual and group support, information and referrals, and safety assessment and planning. Domestic violence assistance and advocacy may also include, but is not limited to: Provision of shelter, emergency transportation, self-help services, culturally specific services, legal advocacy, economic advocacy, community education, primary and secondary prevention efforts, and accompaniment and advocacy through medical, legal, immigration, human services, and financial assistance systems. Domestic violence programs that are under the auspices of, or the direct supervision of, a court, law enforcement or prosecution agency, or the child protective services section of the department as defined in RCW 26.44.020, are not considered community-based domestic violence programs.

(3) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(4) "Domestic violence" means the infliction or threat of physical harm against an intimate partner, and includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse against the partner, and is a part of a pattern of assaultive, coercive, and controlling behaviors directed at achieving compliance from or control over that intimate partner. It may include, but is not limited to, a categorization of offenses, as defined in RCW

10.99.020, committed by one intimate partner against another.

(5) "Domestic violence coalition" means a statewide nonprofit domestic violence organization that has a membership that includes the majority of the primary purpose, community-based domestic violence programs in the state, has board membership that is representative of community-based, primary purpose domestic violence programs, and has as its purpose to provide education, support, and technical assistance to such community-based, primary purpose domestic violence programs and to assist the programs in providing shelter, advocacy, supportive services, and prevention efforts for victims of domestic violence and dating violence and their dependents.

(6) "Domestic violence program" means an agency, organization, or program with a primary purpose and a history of effective work in providing advocacy, safety assessment and planning, and self-help services for domestic violence in a supportive environment, and includes, but is not limited to, a community-based domestic violence program, emergency shelter, or domestic violence transitional housing program.

(7) "Emergency shelter" means a place of supportive services and safe, temporary lodging offered on a twenty-four hour, seven-day per week basis to victims of domestic violence and their children.

(8) "Intimate partner" means a person who is or was married, in a state registered domestic partnership, or in an intimate or dating relationship with another person at the present or at sometime in the past. Any person who has one or more children in common with another person, regardless of whether they have been married, in a domestic partnership with each other, or lived together at any time, shall be treated as an intimate partner.

(9) "Legal advocate" means a person employed by a domestic violence program or court system to advocate for victims of domestic violence, within the criminal and civil justice systems, by attending court proceedings, assisting in document and case preparation, and ensuring linkage with the community advocate.

(10) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social and health services or the secretary's designee.

(11) "Shelter" means temporary lodging and supportive services, offered by community-based domestic violence programs to victims of domestic violence and their children.

(12) "Victim" means an intimate partner who has been subjected to domestic violence. [2015 c 275 § 2; 2008 c 6 § 303; 1991 c 301 § 9; 1979 ex.s. c 245 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**Finding—1991 c 301:** See note following RCW 10.99.020.

### **70.123.030 Departmental duties and responsibilities.**

The department of social and health services, in consultation with relevant state departments, the domestic violence coalition, and individuals or groups having experience and knowledge of the prevention of, and the problems facing victims of domestic violence, including those with experience providing

culturally appropriate services to populations that have traditionally been underserved or unserved, shall:

(1) Develop and maintain a plan for delivering domestic violence victim services, prevention efforts, and access to emergency shelter across the state. In developing the plan under this section, the department shall consider the distribution of community-based domestic violence programs and emergency shelter programs in a particular geographic area, population density, and specific population needs, including the needs in rural and urban areas, the availability and existence of domestic violence outreach and prevention activities, and the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate services. The department shall also develop and maintain a plan for providing a statewide toll-free information and referral hotline or other statewide accessible information and referral service for victims of domestic violence;

(2) Establish minimum standards for community-based domestic violence programs, emergency shelter programs, programs providing culturally or linguistically specific services, programs providing prevention and intervention services to children or youth, and programs conducting domestic violence outreach and prevention activities applying for grants from the department under this chapter;

(3) Receive grant applications for the development and establishment of community-based domestic violence programs, emergency shelter programs, and culturally or linguistically specific services for victims of domestic violence, programs providing prevention and intervention services to children who have been exposed to domestic violence or youth who have been victims of dating violence, and programs conducting domestic violence outreach and prevention activities;

(4) Distribute funds to those community-based domestic violence programs, emergency shelter programs, programs providing culturally or linguistically specific services, programs providing prevention and intervention services to children or youth, and programs conducting domestic violence outreach and prevention activities meeting departmental standards;

(5) Evaluate biennially each community-based domestic violence program, emergency shelter program, program providing culturally or linguistically specific services, program providing prevention and intervention services to children or youth, and program conducting domestic violence outreach and prevention activities receiving departmental funds for compliance with the established minimum standards;

(6) Review the minimum standards each biennium to ensure applicability to community and client needs;

(7) Administer funds available from the domestic violence prevention account under RCW 70.123.150 to provide for:

(a) Culturally specific prevention efforts and culturally appropriate community-based domestic violence services for victims of domestic violence from populations that have been traditionally underserved or unserved;

(b) Age appropriate prevention and intervention services for children who have been exposed to domestic violence or youth who have been victims of dating violence; and

(c) Outreach and education efforts by community-based domestic violence programs designed to increase public awareness about, and primary and secondary prevention of, domestic and dating violence; and

(8) Receive applications from, and award grants or issue contracts to, eligible nonprofit groups or organizations with experience and expertise in the field of domestic violence and a statewide perspective for:

(a) Providing resources, ongoing training opportunities, and technical assistance relating to domestic violence for community-based domestic violence programs across the state to develop effective means for preventing domestic violence and providing effective and supportive services and interventions for victims of domestic violence;

(b) Providing resource information, technical assistance, and collaborating to develop model policies and protocols to improve the capacity of individuals, governmental entities, and communities to prevent domestic violence and to provide effective, supportive services and interventions to address domestic violence; and

(c) Providing opportunities to persons working in the area of domestic violence to exchange information and resources. [2015 c 275 § 3; 2005 c 374 § 4; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 235; 1979 ex.s. c 245 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.123.040 Department to establish minimum standards.** (1) The department shall establish minimum standards that ensure that community-based domestic violence programs provide client-centered advocacy and services designed to enhance immediate and longer term safety, victim autonomy, and security by means such as, but not limited to, safety assessment and planning, information and referral, legal advocacy, culturally and linguistically appropriate services, access to shelter, and client confidentiality.

(2) Minimum standards established by the department under RCW 70.123.030 shall ensure that emergency shelter programs receiving grants under this chapter provide services meeting basic survival needs, where not provided by other means, such as, but not limited to, food, clothing, housing, emergency transportation, child care assistance, safety assessment and planning, and security. Emergency shelters receiving grants under this chapter shall also provide client-centered advocacy and services designed to enhance client autonomy, client confidentiality, and immediate and longer term safety. These services shall be problem-oriented and designed to provide necessary assistance to the victims of domestic violence and their children.

(3) In establishing minimum standards for programs providing culturally relevant prevention efforts and culturally appropriate services, priority for funding must be given to agencies or organizations that have a demonstrated history and expertise of serving domestic violence victims from the relevant populations that have traditionally been underserved or unserved.

(4) In establishing minimum standards for age appropriate prevention and intervention services for children who have been exposed to domestic violence, or youth who have been victims of dating violence, priority for funding must be given to programs with a documented history of effective work in providing advocacy and services to victims of domestic violence or dating violence, or an agency with a demonstrated history of effective work with children and youth partnered with a domestic violence program. [2015 c 275 § 4; 2006 c 259 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 245 § 4.]

(2016 Ed.)

**70.123.070 Duties and responsibilities of community-based domestic violence programs and emergency shelter programs.** (1) Community-based domestic violence programs receiving state funds under this chapter shall:

(a) Provide a location to assist victims of domestic violence who have a need for community advocacy or support services;

(b) Make available confidential services, advocacy, and prevention programs to victims of domestic violence and to their children within available resources;

(c) Require that persons employed by or volunteering services for a community-based domestic violence program protect the confidentiality and privacy of domestic violence victims and their families in accordance with this chapter and RCW 5.60.060(8);

(d) Recruit, to the extent feasible, persons who are former victims of domestic violence to work as volunteers or staff personnel. An effort shall also be made to recruit staff and volunteers from relevant communities to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services;

(e) Ensure that all employees or volunteers providing intervention or prevention programming to domestic violence victims or their children have completed or will complete sufficient training in connection with domestic violence; and

(f) Refrain from engaging in activities that compromise the safety of victims or their children.

(2) Emergency shelter programs receiving state funds under this chapter shall:

(a) Provide intake for and access to safe shelter services to any person who is a victim of domestic violence and to that person's children, within available resources. Priority for emergency shelter shall be made for victims who are in immediate risk of harm or imminent danger from domestic violence;

(b) Require that persons employed by or volunteering services for an emergency shelter protect the confidentiality and privacy of domestic violence victims and their families in accordance with this chapter and RCW 5.60.060(8);

(c) Recruit, to the extent feasible, persons who are former victims of domestic violence to work as volunteers or staff personnel. An effort shall also be made to recruit staff and volunteers from relevant communities to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services;

(d) Ensure that all employees or volunteers providing intervention or prevention programming to domestic violence victims or their children have completed or will complete sufficient training in connection with domestic violence; and

(e) Refrain from engaging in activities that compromise the safety of victims or their children. [2015 c 275 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 245 § 7.]

**70.123.075 Client records.** (1) Client records maintained by domestic violence programs shall not be subject to discovery in any judicial proceeding unless:

(a) A written pretrial motion is made to a court stating that discovery is requested of the client's domestic violence records;

(b) The written motion is accompanied by an affidavit or affidavits setting forth specifically the reasons why discovery is requested of the domestic violence program's records;

(c) The court reviews the domestic violence program's records in camera to determine whether the domestic violence program's records are relevant and whether the probative value of the records is outweighed by the victim's privacy interest in the confidentiality of such records, taking into account the further trauma that may be inflicted upon the victim or the victim's children by the disclosure of the records; and

(d) The court enters an order stating whether the records or any part of the records are discoverable and setting forth the basis for the court's findings. The court shall further order that the parties are prohibited from further dissemination of the records or parts of the records that are discoverable, and that any portion of any domestic violence program records included in the court file be sealed.

(2) For purposes of this section, "domestic violence program" means a program that provides shelter, advocacy, or counseling services for domestic violence victims.

(3) Disclosure of domestic violence program records is not a waiver of the victim's rights or privileges under statutes, rules of evidence, or common law.

(4) If disclosure of a victim's records is required by court order, the domestic violence program shall make reasonable attempts to provide notice to the recipient affected by the disclosure, and shall take steps necessary to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the disclosure of the information. [2015 c 275 § 6; 1994 c 233 § 1; 1991 c 301 § 10.]

**Finding—1991 c 301:** See note following RCW 10.99.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.123.076 Disclosure of recipient information.** (1) Except as authorized in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, or pursuant to court order under RCW 70.123.075, a domestic violence program, an individual who assists a domestic violence program in the delivery of services, or an agent, employee, or volunteer of a domestic violence program shall not disclose information about a recipient of shelter, advocacy, or counseling services without the informed authorization of the recipient. In the case of an unemancipated minor, the minor and the parent or guardian must provide the authorization. For the purposes of this section, a "domestic violence program" means an agency that provides shelter, advocacy, or counseling for domestic violence victims in a supportive environment.

(2)(a) A recipient of shelter, advocacy, or counseling services may authorize a domestic violence program to disclose information about the recipient. The authorization must be in writing, signed by the recipient, or if an unemancipated minor is the recipient, signed by the minor and the parent or guardian, and must contain a reasonable time limit on the duration of the recipient's authorization. If the authorization does not contain a date upon which the authorization to disclose information expires, the recipient's authorization expires ninety days after the date it was signed.

(b) The domestic violence program's disclosure of information shall be only to the extent authorized by the recipient.

The domestic violence program, if requested, shall provide a copy of the disclosed information to the recipient.

(c) Except as provided under this chapter, an authorization is not a waiver of the recipient's rights or privileges under other statutes, rules of evidence, or common law.

(3) If disclosure of a recipient's information is required by statute or court order, the domestic violence program shall make reasonable attempts to provide notice to the recipient affected by the disclosure of information. If personally identifying information is or will be disclosed, the domestic violence program shall take steps necessary to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the disclosure of the information.

(4) To comply with tribal, federal, state, or territorial reporting, evaluation, or data collection requirements, domestic violence programs may share data in the aggregate that does not contain personally identifying information and that: (a) Pertains to services to their clients; or (b) is demographic information. [2006 c 259 § 4.]

**70.123.080 Department to consult.** The department shall consult in all phases with key stakeholders in the implementation of this chapter, including relevant state departments, the domestic violence coalition, individuals or groups who have experience providing culturally appropriate services to populations that have traditionally been underserved or unserved, and other persons and organizations having experience and expertise in the field of domestic violence. [2015 c 275 § 7; 1979 ex.s. c 245 § 8.]

**70.123.090 Department authorized to make available grants to certain entities.** The department is authorized, under this chapter and the rules adopted to effectuate its purposes, to make available grants awarded on a contract basis to public or private nonprofit agencies, organizations, or individuals providing community-based domestic violence services, emergency shelter services, domestic violence hotline or information and referral services, and prevention efforts meeting minimum standards established by the department. Consideration as to need, geographic location, population ratios, the needs of specific underserved and cultural populations, and the extent of existing services shall be made in the award of grants. The department shall provide consultation to any nonprofit organization desiring to apply for the contracts if the organization does not possess the resources and expertise necessary to develop and transmit an application without assistance. [2015 c 275 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 245 § 9.]

**70.123.100 Funding for shelters.** The department shall seek, receive, and make use of any funds which may be available from federal or other sources in order to augment state funds appropriated for the purpose of this chapter, and shall make every effort to qualify for federal funding. [1997 c 160 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 245 § 10.]

**70.123.110 Assistance to families in shelters.** Aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits, essential needs and housing support benefits, pregnant women assistance benefits, or temporary assistance for needy families payments shall be made to otherwise eligible individuals who are residing in a secure shelter, a housing network, an emergency

shelter, or other shelter facility which provides shelter services to persons who are victims of domestic violence. Provisions shall be made by the department for the confidentiality of the shelter addresses where victims are residing. [2015 c 275 § 9; 2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 16; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 16; 1997 c 59 § 9; 1979 ex.s. c 245 § 11.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**70.123.120 Liability for withholding services.** A shelter shall not be held liable in any civil action for denial or withdrawal of services provided pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. [1979 ex.s. c 245 § 12.]

**70.123.140 Technical assistance grant for county plans.** (1) A county or group of counties may apply to the department for a technical assistance grant to develop a comprehensive county plan for dealing with domestic violence. The county authority may contract with a local nonprofit entity to develop the plan.

(2) County comprehensive plans shall be developed in consultation with the department, domestic violence programs, schools, law enforcement, and health care, legal, and social service providers that provide services to persons affected by domestic violence.

(3) County comprehensive plans shall be based on the following principles:

(a) The safety of the victim is primary;

(b) The community needs to be well-educated about domestic violence;

(c) Those who want to and who should intervene need to know how to do so effectively;

(d) Adequate services, both crisis and long-term support, should exist throughout all parts of the county;

(e) Police and courts should hold the batterer accountable for his or her crimes;

(f) Treatment for batterers should be provided by qualified counselors; and

(g) Coordination teams are needed to ensure that the system continues to work over the coming decades.

(4) County comprehensive plans shall provide for the following:

(a) Public education about domestic violence;

(b) Training for professionals on how to recognize domestic violence and assist those affected by it;

(c) Development of protocols among agencies so that professionals respond to domestic violence in an effective, consistent manner;

(d) Development of services to victims of domestic violence and their families, including shelters, safe homes, transitional housing, community and legal advocates, and children's services; and

(e) Local and regional teams to oversee implementation of the system, ensure that efforts continue over the years, and assist with day-to-day and system-wide coordination. [1991 c 301 § 12.]

**Finding—1991 c 301:** See note following RCW 10.99.020.

(2016 Ed.)

### 70.123.150 Domestic violence prevention account.

The domestic violence prevention account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from fees imposed for deposit in the domestic violence prevention account under RCW 36.18.016 must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for funding the following:

(1) Culturally specific prevention efforts and culturally appropriate community-based domestic violence services for victims of domestic violence from populations that have been traditionally underserved or unserved;

(2) Age appropriate prevention and intervention services for children who have been exposed to domestic violence or youth who have been victims of dating violence; and

(3) Outreach and education efforts by community-based domestic violence programs designed to increase public awareness about, and primary and secondary prevention of, domestic and dating violence. [2015 c 275 § 10; 2005 c 374 § 3.]

## Chapter 70.124 RCW ABUSE OF PATIENTS

### Sections

70.124.010	Legislative findings.
70.124.020	Definitions.
70.124.030	Reports of abuse or neglect.
70.124.040	Reports to department or law enforcement agency—Action required.
70.124.050	Investigations required—Seeking restraining orders authorized.
70.124.060	Liability of persons making reports.
70.124.070	Failure to report is gross misdemeanor.
70.124.080	Department reports of abused or neglected patients.
70.124.090	Publicizing objectives.
70.124.100	Retaliation against whistleblowers and residents—Remedies—Rules.

*Persons over sixty, abuse: Chapter 74.34 RCW.*

**70.124.010 Legislative findings.** (1) The Washington state legislature finds and declares that a reporting system is needed to protect state hospital patients from abuse. Instances of nonaccidental injury, neglect, death, sexual abuse, and cruelty to such patients have occurred, and in the instance where such a patient is deprived of his or her right to conditions of minimal health and safety, the state is justified in emergency intervention based upon verified information. Therefore the Washington state legislature hereby provides for the reporting of such cases to the appropriate public authorities.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that: (a) As a result of such reports, protective services shall be made available in an effort to prevent further abuses, and to safeguard the general welfare of the patients; and (b) such reports shall be maintained and disseminated with strictest regard for the privacy of the subjects of such reports and so as to safeguard against arbitrary, malicious, or erroneous information or actions. [1999 c 176 § 20; 1981 c 174 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 228 § 1.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**70.124.020 Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Court" means the superior court of the state of Washington.

(2) "Law enforcement agency" means the police department, the director of public safety, or the office of the sheriff.

(3) "Practitioner of the healing arts" or "practitioner" means a person licensed by this state to practice podiatric medicine and surgery, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, chiropractic, nursing, dentistry, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or medicine and surgery. The term "practitioner" includes a nurse's aide and a duly accredited Christian Science practitioner.

(4) "Department" means the state department of social and health services.

(5) "Social worker" means anyone engaged in a professional capacity during the regular course of employment in encouraging or promoting the health, welfare, support, or education of patients, or providing social services to patients, whether in an individual capacity or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.

(6) "Psychologist" means any person licensed to practice psychology under chapter 18.83 RCW, whether acting in an individual capacity or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.

(7) "Pharmacist" means any registered pharmacist under chapter 18.64 RCW, whether acting in an individual capacity or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.

(8) "Abuse or neglect" or "patient abuse or neglect" means the nonaccidental physical injury or condition, sexual abuse, or negligent treatment of a state hospital patient under circumstances which indicate that the patient's health, welfare, or safety is harmed thereby.

(9) "Negligent treatment" means an act or omission which evinces a serious disregard of consequences of such magnitude as to constitute a clear and present danger to the patient's health, welfare, or safety.

(10) "State hospital" means any hospital operated and maintained by the state for the care of the mentally ill under chapter 72.23 RCW. [1999 c 176 § 21; 1997 c 392 § 519; 1996 c 178 § 24; 1981 c 174 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 228 § 2.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.124.030 Reports of abuse or neglect.** (1) When any practitioner, social worker, psychologist, pharmacist, employee of a state hospital, or employee of the department has reasonable cause to believe that a state hospital patient has suffered abuse or neglect, the person shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to either a law enforcement agency or to the department as provided in RCW 70.124.040.

(2) Any other person who has reasonable cause to believe that a state hospital patient has suffered abuse or neglect may report such incident to either a law enforcement agency or to the department as provided in RCW 70.124.040.

(3) The department or any law enforcement agency receiving a report of an incident of abuse or neglect involving

a state hospital patient who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted other than by accidental means or who has been subjected to sexual abuse shall report the incident to the proper county prosecutor for appropriate action. [1999 c 176 § 22; 1981 c 174 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 228 § 3.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**70.124.040 Reports to department or law enforcement agency—Action required.** (1) Where a report is required under RCW 70.124.030, an immediate oral report must be made by telephone or otherwise to either a law enforcement agency or to the department and, upon request, must be followed by a report in writing. The reports must contain the following information, if known:

(a) The name and address of the person making the report;

(b) The name and address of the state hospital patient;

(c) The name and address of the patient's relatives having responsibility for the patient;

(d) The nature and extent of the alleged injury or injuries;

(e) The nature and extent of the alleged neglect;

(f) The nature and extent of the alleged sexual abuse;

(g) Any evidence of previous injuries, including their nature and extent; and

(h) Any other information that may be helpful in establishing the cause of the patient's death, injury, or injuries, and the identity of the perpetrator or perpetrators.

(2) Each law enforcement agency receiving such a report shall, in addition to taking the action required by RCW 70.124.050, immediately relay the report to the department, and to other law enforcement agencies, including the medic-aid fraud control unit of the office of the attorney general, as appropriate. For any report it receives, the department shall likewise take the required action and in addition relay the report to the appropriate law enforcement agency or agencies. The appropriate law enforcement agency or agencies must receive immediate notification when the department, upon receipt of such report, has reasonable cause to believe that a criminal act has been committed. [1999 c 176 § 23. Prior: 1997 c 392 § 520; 1997 c 386 § 30; 1981 c 174 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 228 § 4.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.124.050 Investigations required—Seeking restraining orders authorized.** Upon the receipt of a report concerning the possible occurrence of abuse or neglect, it is the duty of the law enforcement agency and the department to commence an investigation within twenty-four hours of such receipt and, where appropriate, submit a report to the appropriate prosecuting attorney. The local prosecutor may seek a restraining order to prohibit continued patient abuse. In all cases investigated by the department a report to the complainant shall be made by the department. [1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 24; 1979 ex.s. c 228 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.124.060 Liability of persons making reports.** (1)

A person other than a person alleged to have committed the abuse or neglect participating in good faith in the making of a report pursuant to this chapter, or testifying as to alleged patient abuse or neglect in a judicial proceeding, is, in so doing, immune from any liability, civil or criminal, arising out of such reporting or testifying under any law of this state or its political subdivisions, and if such person is an employee of a state hospital it is an unfair practice under chapter 49.60 RCW for the employer to discharge, expel, or otherwise discriminate against the employee for such reporting activity.

(2) Conduct conforming with the reporting requirements of this chapter is not a violation of the confidential communication privilege of RCW 5.60.060 (3) or (4) or 18.83.110. Nothing in this chapter supersedes or abridges remedies provided in chapter 4.92 RCW. [1999 c 176 § 24; 1993 c 510 § 25; 1981 c 174 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 228 § 6.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.124.070 Failure to report is gross misdemeanor.**

A person who is required to make or to cause to be made a report pursuant to RCW 70.124.030 or 70.124.040 and who knowingly fails to make such report or fails to cause such report to be made is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1997 c 392 § 521; 1979 ex.s. c 228 § 7.]

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

**70.124.080 Department reports of abused or neglected patients.** The department shall forward to the appropriate state licensing authority a copy of any report received pursuant to this chapter which alleges that a person who is professionally licensed by this state has abused or neglected a patient. [1979 ex.s. c 228 § 8.]

**70.124.090 Publicizing objectives.** In the adoption of rules under the authority of this chapter, the department shall provide for the publication and dissemination to state hospitals and state hospital employees and the posting where appropriate by state hospitals of informational, educational, or training materials calculated to aid and assist in achieving the objectives of this chapter. [1999 c 176 § 25; 1981 c 174 § 6; 1979 ex.s. c 228 § 9.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**70.124.100 Retaliation against whistleblowers and residents—Remedies—Rules.** (1) An employee who is a whistleblower and who as a result of being a whistleblower has been subjected to workplace reprisal or retaliatory action, has the remedies provided under chapter 49.60 RCW. RCW 4.24.500 through 4.24.520, providing certain protection to persons who communicate to government agencies, apply to complaints made under this section. The identity of a whistleblower who complains, in good faith, to the department about suspected abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or

abandonment by any person in a state hospital may remain confidential if requested. The identity of the whistleblower shall subsequently remain confidential unless the department determines that the complaint was not made in good faith.

(2)(a) An attempt to discharge a resident from a state hospital or any type of discriminatory treatment of a resident by whom, or upon whose behalf, a complaint substantiated by the department has been submitted to the department or any proceeding instituted under or related to this chapter within one year of the filing of the complaint or the institution of the action, raises a rebuttable presumption that the action was in retaliation for the filing of the complaint.

(b) The presumption is rebutted by credible evidence establishing the alleged retaliatory action was initiated prior to the complaint.

(c) The presumption is rebutted by a functional assessment conducted by the department that shows that the resident's needs cannot be met by the reasonable accommodations of the facility due to the increased needs of the resident.

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Whistleblower" means a resident or employee of a state hospital or any person licensed under Title 18 RCW, who in good faith reports alleged abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or abandonment to the department or to a law enforcement agency;

(b) "Workplace reprisal or retaliatory action" means, but is not limited to: Denial of adequate staff to perform duties; frequent staff changes; frequent and undesirable office changes; refusal to assign meaningful work; unwarranted and unsubstantiated report of misconduct under Title 18 RCW; letters of reprimand or unsatisfactory performance evaluations; demotion; denial of employment; or a supervisor or superior encouraging coworkers to behave in a hostile manner toward the whistleblower; and

(c) "Reasonable accommodation" by a facility to the needs of a prospective or current resident has the meaning given to this term under the federal Americans with disabilities act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. and other applicable federal or state antidiscrimination laws and regulations.

(4) This section does not prohibit a state hospital from exercising its authority to terminate, suspend, or discipline an employee who engages in workplace reprisal or retaliatory action against a whistleblower. The protections provided to whistleblowers under this chapter shall not prevent a state hospital from: (a) Terminating, suspending, or disciplining a whistleblower for other lawful purposes; or (b) for facilities with six or fewer residents, reducing the hours of employment or terminating employment as a result of the demonstrated inability to meet payroll requirements. The department shall determine if the facility cannot meet payroll in cases where a whistleblower has been terminated or had hours of employment reduced due to the inability of a facility to meet payroll.

(5) The department shall adopt rules to implement procedures for filing, investigation, and resolution of whistleblower complaints that are integrated with complaint procedures under this chapter.

(6) No resident who relies upon and is being provided spiritual treatment in lieu of medical treatment in accordance with the tenets and practices of a well-recognized religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered aban-

done, abused, or neglected, nor shall anything in this chapter be construed to authorize, permit, or require medical treatment contrary to the stated or clearly implied objection of such a person.

(7) The department shall adopt rules designed to discourage whistleblower complaints made in bad faith or for retaliatory purposes. [1999 c 176 § 26; 1997 c 392 § 201.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

## Chapter 70.125 RCW

### VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ACT

#### Sections

70.125.010	Short title.
70.125.020	Findings.
70.125.030	Definitions.
70.125.060	Personal representative may accompany victim during treatment or proceedings.
70.125.065	Records of community sexual assault program and underserved populations provider not available as part of discovery—Exceptions.
70.125.090	Sexual assault examination kit—Request for laboratory examination—Report to the legislature.

*Public records:* Chapter 42.56 RCW.

*Victims of crimes*

*compensation, assistance:* Chapter 7.68 RCW.

*survivors, witnesses:* Chapter 7.69 RCW.

**70.125.010 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the Victims of Sexual Assault Act. [1979 ex.s. c 219 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.125.020 Findings.** The legislature hereby finds and declares that:

(1) Sexual assault is a serious crime in society, affecting a large number of children, women, and men each year;

(2) Efforts over many years to distribute information and collect data have demonstrated the incidence of sexual assault that continues to impact communities, families, and individuals;

(3) Over the past three decades, law enforcement, prosecutors, medical professionals, educators, mental health providers, public health professionals, and victim advocates have benefited from a commitment to training and learning regarding appropriate responses to and services for victims of sexual assault;

(4) This same effort has resulted in increased public awareness of sexual assault and its impact on communities, families, and individuals;

(5) Law enforcement, prosecutors, medical professionals, educators, mental health providers, public health professionals, and victim advocates should continue to work closely and collaboratively to improve responses to and services for victims of sexual assault;

(6) The physical, emotional, financial, and psychological needs of victims and their families are particularly well-served by timely and effective services provided in local communities; and

(7) Persons who are victims of sexual assault benefit directly from continued public awareness and education, prosecutions of offenders, a criminal justice system which treats them in a humane manner, and access to victim-centered, culturally relevant services. [2012 c 29 § 9; 1979 ex.s. c 219 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.125.030 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Community sexual assault program" means a community-based social service agency that is qualified to provide and provides core services to victims of sexual assault.

(2) "Core services" means those services that are victim-centered community-based advocacy responses to alleviate the impact of sexual assault, as delineated in the Washington state sexual assault services plan of 1995 and its subsequent revisions.

(3) "Department" means the department of commerce.

(4) "Law enforcement agencies" means police and sheriff's departments and tribal law enforcement departments or agencies of this state.

(5) "Personal representative" means a friend, relative, attorney, or employee or volunteer from a community sexual assault program or specialized treatment service provider.

(6) "Services for underserved populations" means culturally relevant victim-centered community-based advocacy responses to alleviate the impact of sexual assault, as delineated in the Washington state sexual assault services plan of 1995 and its subsequent revisions.

(7) "Sexual assault" means one or more of the following:

(a) Rape or rape of a child;

(b) Assault with intent to commit rape or rape of a child;

(c) Incest or indecent liberties;

(d) Child molestation;

(e) Sexual misconduct with a minor;

(f) Custodial sexual misconduct;

(g) Crimes with a sexual motivation;

(h) Sexual exploitation or commercial sex abuse of a minor;

(i) Promoting prostitution; or

(j) An attempt to commit any of the aforementioned offenses.

(8) "Specialized services" means those services intended to alleviate the impact of sexual assault, as delineated in the Washington state sexual assault services plan of 1995 and its subsequent revisions.

(9) "Victim" means any person who suffers physical, emotional, financial, and psychological impact as a proximate result of a sexual assault. [2012 c 29 § 10. Prior: 2009 c 565 § 50; 2000 c 54 § 1; 1999 c 45 § 6; 1996 c 123 § 6; 1988 c 145 § 19; 1979 ex.s. c 219 § 3.]

\***Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.125.060 Personal representative may accompany victim during treatment or proceedings.** If the victim of a sexual assault so desires, a personal representative of the victim's choice may accompany the victim to the hospital or

other health care facility, and to proceedings concerning the alleged assault, including police and prosecution interviews and court proceedings. [1979 ex.s. c 219 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.125.065 Records of community sexual assault program and underserved populations provider not available as part of discovery—Exceptions.** Records maintained by a community sexual assault program and underserved populations provider shall not be made available to any defense attorney as part of discovery in a sexual assault case unless:

(1) A written pretrial motion is made by the defendant to the court stating that the defendant is requesting discovery of the community sexual assault program or underserved populations provider records;

(2) The written motion is accompanied by an affidavit or affidavits setting forth specifically the reasons why the defendant is requesting discovery of the community sexual assault program or underserved populations provider records;

(3) The court reviews the community sexual assault program or underserved populations provider records in camera to determine whether the community sexual assault program or underserved populations provider records are relevant and whether the probative value of the records is outweighed by the victim's privacy interest in the confidentiality of such records taking into account the further trauma that may be inflicted upon the victim by the disclosure of the records to the defendant; and

(4) The court enters an order stating whether the records or any part of the records are discoverable and setting forth the basis for the court's findings. [2012 c 29 § 11; 1981 c 145 § 9.]

**70.125.090 Sexual assault examination kit—Request for laboratory examination—Report to the legislature.**

(1) When a law enforcement agency receives a sexual assault examination kit, the law enforcement agency must, within thirty days of its receipt, submit a request for laboratory examination to the Washington state patrol crime laboratory for prioritization for testing by it or another accredited laboratory that holds an outsourcing agreement with the Washington state patrol if:

(a) Consent has been given by the victim; or

(b) The victim is a person under the age of eighteen who is not emancipated pursuant to chapter 13.64 RCW.

(2) Subject to available funding, the Washington state patrol crime laboratory must give priority to the laboratory examination of sexual assault examination kits at the request of a local law enforcement agency for:

(a) Active investigations and cases with impending court dates;

(b) Active investigations where public safety is an immediate concern;

(c) Violent crimes investigations, including active sexual assault investigations;

(d) Postconviction cases; and

(e) Other crimes' investigations and nonactive investigations, such as previously unsubmitted older sexual assault kits or recently collected sexual assault kits that the submit-

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ting agency has determined to be lower priority based on their initial investigation.

(3) The failure of a law enforcement agency to submit a request for laboratory examination within the time prescribed under this section does not constitute grounds in any criminal proceeding for challenging the validity of a DNA evidence association, and any evidence obtained from the sexual assault examination kit may not be excluded by a court on those grounds.

(4) A person accused or convicted of committing a crime against a victim has no standing to object to any failure to comply with the requirements of this section, and the failure to comply with the requirements of this section is not grounds for setting aside the conviction or sentence.

(5) Nothing in this section may be construed to create a private right of action or claim on the part of any individual, entity, or agency against any law enforcement agency or any contractor of any law enforcement agency.

(6) This section applies prospectively only and not retroactively. It only applies to sexual assault examinations performed on or after July 24, 2015.

(7)(a) Until June 30, 2018, the Washington state patrol shall compile the following information related to the sexual assault examination kits identified in this section:

(i) The number of requests for laboratory examination made for sexual assault examination kits and the law enforcement agencies that submitted the requests; and

(ii) The progress made towards testing the sexual assault examination kits, including the status of requests for laboratory examination made by each law enforcement agency.

(b) The Washington state patrol shall make recommendations for increasing the progress on testing any untested sexual assault examination kits.

(c) Beginning in 2015, the Washington state patrol shall report its findings and recommendations annually to the appropriate committees of the legislature and the governor by December 1st of each year. [2015 c 247 § 1.]

## Chapter 70.126 RCW

### HOME HEALTH CARE AND HOSPICE CARE

#### Sections

70.126.001 Legislative finding.

70.126.010 Definitions.

70.126.020 Home health care—Services and supplies included, not included.

70.126.030 Hospice care—Provider, plan, services included.

70.126.060 Application of chapter.

*Optional coverage required by certain insurers: RCW 48.21.220, 48.21A.090, 48.44.320.*

**70.126.001 Legislative finding.** The legislature finds that the cost of medical care in general and hospital care in particular has risen dramatically in recent years, and that in 1981, such costs rose faster than in any year since World War II. The purpose of RCW 70.126.001 through \*70.126.050 is to support the provision of less expensive and more appropriate levels of care, home health care and hospice care, in order to avoid hospitalization or shorten hospital stays. [1983 c 249 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.126.040 and 70.126.050 were repealed by 1988 c 245 § 34, effective July 1, 1989.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.126.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Hospice" means a private or public agency or organization that administers and provides hospice care and is licensed by the department of social and health services as a hospice care agency.

(2) "Hospice care" means care prescribed and supervised by the attending physician and provided by the hospice to the terminally ill in accordance with the standards of RCW 70.126.030.

(3) "Home health agency" means a private or public agency or organization that administers and provides home health care and is licensed by the department of social and health services as a home health care agency.

(4) "Home health care" means services, supplies, and medical equipment that meet the standards of RCW 70.126.020, prescribed and supervised by the attending physician, and provided through a home health agency and rendered to members in their residences when hospitalization would otherwise be required.

(5) "Home health aide" means a person employed by a home health agency or a hospice who is providing part-time or intermittent care under the supervision of a registered nurse, a physical therapist, occupational therapist, or speech therapist. Such care includes ambulation and exercise, assistance with self-administered medications, reporting changes in patients' conditions and needs, completing appropriate records, and personal care or household services that are needed to achieve the medically desired results.

(6) "Home health care plan of treatment" means a written plan of care established and periodically reviewed by a physician that describes medically necessary home health care to be provided to a patient for treatment of illness or injury.

(7) "Hospice plan of care" means a written plan of care established and periodically reviewed by a physician that describes hospice care to be provided to a terminally ill patient for palliation or medically necessary treatment of an illness or injury.

(8) "Physician" means a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW. [1988 c 245 § 29; 1984 c 22 § 4; 1983 c 249 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.126.020 Home health care—Services and supplies included, not included.** (1) Home health care shall be provided by a home health agency and shall:

(a) Be delivered by a registered nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, or home health aide on a part-time or intermittent basis;

(b) Include, as applicable under the written plan, supplies and equipment such as:

(i) Drugs and medicines that are legally obtainable only upon a physician's written prescription, and insulin;

(ii) Rental of durable medical apparatus and medical equipment such as wheelchairs, hospital beds, respirators, splints, trusses, braces, or crutches needed for treatment;

(iii) Supplies normally used for hospital inpatients and dispensed by the home health agency such as oxygen, cath-

eters, needles, syringes, dressings, materials used in aseptic techniques, irrigation solutions, and intravenous fluids.

(2) The following services may be included when medically necessary, ordered by the attending physician, and included in the approved plan of treatment:

(a) Licensed practical nurses;

(b) Respiratory therapists;

(c) Social workers holding a master's degree or further advanced degree from a social work educational program accredited and approved as provided in RCW 18.320.010;

(d) Ambulance service that is certified by the physician as necessary in the approved plan of treatment because of the patient's physical condition or for unexpected emergency situations.

(3) Services not included in home health care include:

(a) Nonmedical, custodial, or housekeeping services except by home health aides as ordered in the approved plan of treatment;

(b) "Meals on Wheels" or similar food services;

(c) Nutritional guidance;

(d) Services performed by family members;

(e) Services not included in an approved plan of treatment;

(f) Supportive environmental materials such as handrails, ramps, telephones, air conditioners, and similar appliances and devices. [2011 c 89 § 12; 1984 c 22 § 5; 1983 c 249 § 6.]

**Effective date—2011 c 89:** See note following RCW 18.320.005.

**Findings—2011 c 89:** See RCW 18.320.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.126.030 Hospice care—Provider, plan, services included.** (1) Hospice care shall be provided by a hospice and shall meet the standards of RCW 70.126.020(1) (a) and (b)(ii) and (iii).

(2) A written hospice care plan shall be approved by a physician and shall be reviewed at designated intervals.

(3) The following services for necessary medical or palliative care shall be included when ordered by the attending physician and included in the approved plan of treatment:

(a) Short-term care as an inpatient;

(b) Care of the terminally ill in an individual's home on an outpatient basis as included in the approved plan of treatment;

(c) Respite care that is continuous care in the most appropriate setting for a maximum of five days per three-month period of hospice care. [1984 c 22 § 6; 1983 c 249 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.126.060 Application of chapter.** The provisions of this chapter apply only for the purposes of determining benefits to be included in the offering of optional coverage for home health and hospice care services, as provided in RCW 48.21.220, 48.21A.090, and 48.44.320 and do not apply for the purposes of licensure. [1988 c 245 § 30.]

**Chapter 70.127 RCW**  
**IN-HOME SERVICES AGENCIES**

## Sections

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70.127.216	Unlicensed operation of an in-home services agency—Consumer protection act.
70.127.280	Hospice care centers—Applicants—Rules.

**70.127.005 Legislative intent.** The legislature finds that the availability of home health, hospice, and home care services has improved the quality of life for Washington's citizens. However, the delivery of these services bring risks because the in-home location of services makes their actual delivery virtually invisible. Also, the complexity of products, services, and delivery systems in today's health care delivery system challenges even informed and healthy individuals. The fact that these services are delivered to the state's most vulnerable population, the ill or disabled who are frequently also elderly, adds to these risks.

It is the intent of the legislature to protect the citizens of Washington state by licensing home health, hospice, and home care agencies. This legislation is not intended to unreasonably restrict entry into the in-home service marketplace. Standards established are intended to be the minimum necessary to ensure safe and competent care, and should be demonstrably related to patient safety and welfare. [1988 c 245 § 1.]

**70.127.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Administrator" means an individual responsible for managing the operation of an agency.

(2) "Department" means the department of health.

(3) "Director of clinical services" means an individual responsible for nursing, therapy, nutritional, social, and related services that support the plan of care provided by in-home health and hospice agencies.

(4) "Family" means individuals who are important to, and designated by, the patient or client and who need not be relatives.

(5) "Home care agency" means a person administering or providing home care services directly or through a contract arrangement to individuals in places of temporary or permanent residence. A home care agency that provides delegated tasks of nursing under RCW 18.79.260(3)(e) is not considered a home health agency for the purposes of this chapter.

(6) "Home care services" means nonmedical services and assistance provided to ill, disabled, or vulnerable individuals that enable them to remain in their residences. Home care services include, but are not limited to: Personal care such as assistance with dressing, feeding, and personal hygiene to facilitate self-care; homemaker assistance with household tasks, such as housekeeping, shopping, meal planning and preparation, and transportation; respite care assistance and support provided to the family; or other nonmedical services or delegated tasks of nursing under RCW 18.79.260(3)(e).

(7) "Home health agency" means a person administering or providing two or more home health services directly or through a contract arrangement to individuals in places of temporary or permanent residence. A person administering or providing nursing services only may elect to be designated a home health agency for purposes of licensure.

(8) "Home health services" means services provided to ill, disabled, or vulnerable individuals. These services include but are not limited to nursing services, home health aide services, physical therapy services, occupational therapy services, speech therapy services, respiratory therapy services, nutritional services, medical social services, and home medical supplies or equipment services.

(9) "Home health aide services" means services provided by a home health agency or a hospice agency under the supervision of a registered nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or speech therapist who is employed by or under contract to a home health or hospice agency. Such care includes ambulation and exercise, assistance with self-administered medications, reporting changes in patients' conditions and needs, completing appropriate records, and personal care or homemaker services.

(10) "Home medical supplies" or "equipment services" means diagnostic, treatment, and monitoring equipment and supplies provided for the direct care of individuals within a plan of care.

(11) "Hospice agency" means a person administering or providing hospice services directly or through a contract arrangement to individuals in places of temporary or permanent residence under the direction of an interdisciplinary team composed of at least a nurse, social worker, physician, spiritual counselor, and a volunteer.

(12) "Hospice care center" means a homelike, noninstitutional facility where hospice services are provided, and that meets the requirements for operation under RCW 70.127.280.

(13) "Hospice services" means symptom and pain management provided to a terminally ill individual, and emotional, spiritual, and bereavement support for the individual and family in a place of temporary or permanent residence, and may include the provision of home health and home care services for the terminally ill individual.

(14) "In-home services agency" means a person licensed to administer or provide home health, home care, hospice ser-

vices, or hospice care center services directly or through a contract arrangement to individuals in a place of temporary or permanent residence.

(15) "Person" means any individual, business, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, public or private agency or organization, or the legal successor thereof that employs or contracts with two or more individuals.

(16) "Plan of care" means a written document based on assessment of individual needs that identifies services to meet these needs.

(17) "Quality improvement" means reviewing and evaluating appropriateness and effectiveness of services provided under this chapter.

(18) "Service area" means the geographic area in which the department has given prior approval to a licensee to provide home health, hospice, or home care services.

(19) "Social worker" means a person with a degree from a social work educational program accredited and approved as provided in RCW 18.320.010 or who meets qualifications provided in 42 C.F.R. Sec. 418.114 as it existed on January 1, 2012.

(20) "Survey" means an inspection conducted by the department to evaluate and monitor an agency's compliance with this chapter. [2011 c 89 § 13; 2003 c 140 § 7; 2000 c 175 § 1; 1999 c 190 § 1; 1993 c 42 § 1; 1991 c 3 § 373; 1988 c 245 § 2.]

**Effective date—2011 c 89:** See note following RCW 18.320.005.

**Findings—2011 c 89:** See RCW 18.320.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.020 Licenses required after July 1, 1990—Penalties.** (1) After July 1, 1990, a license is required for a person to advertise, operate, manage, conduct, open, or maintain an in-home services agency.

(2) An in-home services agency license is required for a nursing home, hospital, or other person that functions as a home health, hospice, hospice care center, or home care agency.

(3) Any person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day of a continuing violation is a separate violation.

(4) If any corporation conducts any activity for which a license is required by this chapter without the required license, it may be punished by forfeiture of its corporate charter.

(5) All fines, forfeitures, and penalties collected or assessed by a court because of a violation of this section shall be deposited in the department's local fee account. [2003 c 53 § 363; 2000 c 175 § 2; 1988 c 245 § 3.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.030 Use of certain terms limited to licensees.** It is unlawful for any person to use the words:

(1) "Home health agency," "home health care services," "visiting nurse services," "home health," or "home health services" in its corporate or business name, or advertise using such words unless licensed to provide those services under this chapter;

(2) "Hospice agency," "hospice," "hospice services," "hospice care," or "hospice care center" in its corporate or business name, or advertise using such words unless licensed to provide those services under this chapter;

(3) "Home care agency," "home care services," or "home care" in its corporate or business name, or advertise using such words unless licensed to provide those services under this chapter; or

(4) "In-home services agency," "in-home services," or any similar term to indicate that a person is a home health, home care, hospice care center, or hospice agency in its corporate or business name, or advertise using such words unless licensed to provide those services under this chapter. [2000 c 175 § 3; 1988 c 245 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.040 Persons, activities, or entities not subject to regulation under chapter.** The following are not subject to regulation for the purposes of this chapter:

(1) A family member providing home health, hospice, or home care services;

(2) A person who provides only meal services in an individual's permanent or temporary residence;

(3) An individual providing home care through a direct agreement with a recipient of care in an individual's permanent or temporary residence;

(4) A person furnishing or delivering home medical supplies or equipment that does not involve the provision of services beyond those necessary to deliver, set up, and monitor the proper functioning of the equipment and educate the user on its proper use;

(5) A person who provides services through a contract with a licensed agency;

(6) An employee or volunteer of a licensed agency who provides services only as an employee or volunteer;

(7) Facilities and institutions, including but not limited to nursing homes under chapter 18.51 RCW, hospitals under chapter 70.41 RCW, adult family homes under chapter 70.128 RCW, assisted living facilities under chapter 18.20 RCW, developmental disability residential programs under chapter 71A.12 RCW, other entities licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW, or other licensed facilities and institutions, only when providing services to persons residing within the facility or institution;

(8) Local and combined city-county health departments providing services under chapters 70.05 and 70.08 RCW;

(9) An individual providing care to ill individuals, individuals with disabilities, or vulnerable individuals through a contract with the department of social and health services;

(10) Nursing homes, hospitals, or other institutions, agencies, organizations, or persons that contract with licensed home health, hospice, or home care agencies for the delivery of services;

(11) In-home assessments of an ill individual, an individual with a disability, or a vulnerable individual that does not result in regular ongoing care at home;

(12) Services conducted by and for the adherents of a church or religious denomination that rely upon spiritual means alone through prayer for healing in accordance with the tenets and practices of such church or religious denomi-

nation and the bona fide religious beliefs genuinely held by such adherents;

(13) A medicare-approved dialysis center operating a medicare-approved home dialysis program;

(14) A person providing case management services. For the purposes of this subsection, "case management" means the assessment, coordination, authorization, planning, training, and monitoring of home health, hospice, and home care, and does not include the direct provision of care to an individual;

(15) Pharmacies licensed under RCW 18.64.043 that deliver prescription drugs and durable medical equipment that does not involve the use of professional services beyond those authorized to be performed by licensed pharmacists pursuant to chapter 18.64 RCW and those necessary to set up and monitor the proper functioning of the equipment and educate the person on its proper use;

(16) A volunteer hospice complying with the requirements of RCW 70.127.050;

(17) A person who provides home care services without compensation; and

(18) Nursing homes that provide telephone or web-based transitional care management services. [2012 c 10 § 54; 2011 c 366 § 6. Prior: 2003 c 275 § 3; 2003 c 140 § 8; 2000 c 175 § 4; 1993 c 42 § 2; 1988 c 245 § 5.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Findings—Purpose—Conflict with federal requirements—2011 c 366:** See notes following RCW 18.20.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.050 Volunteer organizations—Use of phrase "volunteer hospice."** (1) An entity that provides hospice care without receiving compensation for delivery of any of its services is exempt from licensure pursuant to RCW 70.127.020(1) if it notifies the department, on forms provided by the department, of its name, address, name of owner, and a statement affirming that it provides hospice care without receiving compensation for delivery of any of its services. This form must be filed with the department within sixty days after being informed in writing by the department of this requirement for obtaining exemption from licensure under this chapter.

(2) For the purposes of this section, it is not relevant if the entity compensates its staff. For the purposes of this section, the word "compensation" does not include donations.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 70.127.030(2), an entity that provides hospice care without receiving compensation for delivery of any of its services is allowed to use the phrase "volunteer hospice."

(4) Nothing in this chapter precludes an entity providing hospice care without receiving compensation for delivery of any of its services from obtaining a hospice license if it so chooses, but that entity would be exempt from the requirements set forth in RCW 70.127.080(1)(d). [2000 c 175 § 5; 1993 c 42 § 3; 1988 c 245 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.080 Licenses—Application procedure and requirements.** (1) An applicant for an in-home services agency license shall:

(a) File a written application on a form provided by the department;

(b) Demonstrate ability to comply with this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter;

(c) Cooperate with on-site survey conducted by the department except as provided in RCW 70.127.085;

(d) Provide evidence of and maintain professional liability, public liability, and property damage insurance in an amount established by the department, based on industry standards. This subsection shall not apply to hospice agency applicants that provide hospice care without receiving compensation for delivery of services;

(e) Provide documentation of an organizational structure, and the identity of the applicant, officers, administrator, directors of clinical services, partners, managing employees, or owners of ten percent or more of the applicant's assets;

(f) File with the department for approval a description of the service area in which the applicant will operate and a description of how the applicant intends to provide management and supervision of services throughout the service area. The department shall adopt rules necessary to establish criteria for approval that are related to appropriate management and supervision of services throughout the service area. In developing the rules, the department may not establish criteria that:

(i) Limit the number or type of agencies in any service area; or

(ii) Limit the number of persons any agency may serve within its service area unless the criteria are related to the need for trained and available staff to provide services within the service area;

(g) File with the department a list of the home health, hospice, and home care services provided directly and under contract;

(h) Pay to the department a license fee as provided in RCW 70.127.090;

(i) Comply with RCW 43.43.830 through 43.43.842 for criminal background checks; and

(j) Provide any other information that the department may reasonably require.

(2) A certificate of need under chapter 70.38 RCW is not required for licensure except for the operation of a hospice care center. [2000 c 175 § 6; 1999 c 190 § 2; 1993 c 42 § 4; 1988 c 245 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.085 State licensure survey.** (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 70.127.080(1)(c), an in-home services agency that is certified by the federal medicare program, or accredited by the community health accreditation program, or the joint commission on accreditation of health care organizations as a home health or hospice agency is not subject to a state licensure survey if:

(a) The department determines that the applicable survey standards of the certification or accreditation program are substantially equivalent to those required by this chapter;

(b) An on-site survey has been conducted for the purposes of certification or accreditation during the previous twenty-four months; and

(c) The department receives directly from the certifying or accrediting entity or from the licensee applicant copies of

the initial and subsequent survey reports and other relevant reports or findings that indicate compliance with licensure requirements.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 70.127.080(1)(c), an in-home services agency providing services under contract with the department of social and health services or area agency on aging to provide home care services and that is monitored by the department of social and health services or area agency on aging is not subject to a state licensure survey by the department of health if:

(a) The department determines that the department of social and health services or an area agency on aging monitoring standards are substantially equivalent to those required by this chapter;

(b) An on-site monitoring has been conducted by the department of social and health services or an area agency on aging during the previous twenty-four months;

(c) The department of social and health services or an area agency on aging includes in its monitoring a sample of private pay clients, if applicable; and

(d) The department receives directly from the department of social and health services copies of monitoring reports and other relevant reports or findings that indicate compliance with licensure requirements.

(3) The department retains authority to survey those services areas not addressed by the national accrediting body, department of social and health services, or an area agency on aging.

(4) In reviewing the federal, the joint commission on accreditation of health care organizations, the community health accreditation program, or the department of social and health services survey standards for substantial equivalency to those set forth in this chapter, the department is directed to provide the most liberal interpretation consistent with the intent of this chapter. In the event the department determines at any time that the survey standards are not substantially equivalent to those required by this chapter, the department is directed to notify the affected licensees. The notification shall contain a detailed description of the deficiencies in the alternative survey process, as well as an explanation concerning the risk to the consumer. The determination of substantial equivalency for alternative survey process and lack of substantial equivalency are agency actions and subject to RCW 34.05.210 through 34.05.395 and 34.05.510 through 34.05.675.

(5) The department is authorized to perform a validation survey on in-home services agencies who previously received a survey through accreditation or contracts with the department of social and health services or an area agency on aging under subsection (2) of this section. The department is authorized to perform a validation survey on no greater than ten percent of each type of certification or accreditation survey.

(6) This section does not affect the department's enforcement authority for licensed agencies. [2000 c 175 § 7; 1993 c 42 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.090 License or renewal—Fees—Sliding scale.**

(1) Application and renewal fee: An application for a license or any renewal shall be accompanied by a fee as established

by the department under RCW 43.70.250. The department shall adopt by rule licensure fees based on a sliding scale using such factors as the number of agency full-time equivalents, geographic area served, number of locations, or type and volume of services provided. For agencies receiving a licensure survey that requires more than two on-site surveys by the department per licensure period, an additional fee as determined by the department by rule shall be charged for each additional on-site survey. The department may set different licensure fees for each licensure category. Agencies receiving a license without necessity of an on-site survey by the department under this chapter shall pay the same licensure or transfer fee as other agencies in their licensure category.

(2) Change of ownership fee: The department shall charge a reasonable fee for processing changes in ownership. The fee for transfer of ownership may not exceed fifty percent of the base licensure fee.

(3) Late fee: The department may establish a late fee for failure to apply for licensure or renewal as required by this chapter. [2000 c 175 § 8; 1999 c 190 § 3; 1993 c 42 § 5; 1988 c 245 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.100 Licenses—Issuance—Prerequisites—Transfer or assignment—Surveys.** Upon receipt of an application under RCW 70.127.080 for a license and the license fee, the department shall issue a license if the applicant meets the requirements established under this chapter. A license issued under this chapter shall not be transferred or assigned without thirty days prior notice to the department and the department's approval. A license, unless suspended or revoked, is effective for a period of two years, however an initial license is only effective for twelve months. The department shall conduct a survey within each licensure period and may conduct a licensure survey after ownership transfer. [2000 c 175 § 9; 1993 c 42 § 6; 1988 c 245 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.120 Rules for recordkeeping, services, staff and volunteer policies, complaints.** The department shall adopt rules consistent with RCW 70.127.005 necessary to implement this chapter under chapter 34.05 RCW. In order to ensure safe and adequate care, the rules shall address at a minimum the following:

(1) Maintenance and preservation of all records relating directly to the care and treatment of individuals by licensees;

(2) Establishment and implementation of a procedure for the receipt, investigation, and disposition of complaints regarding services provided;

(3) Establishment and implementation of a plan for ongoing care of individuals and preservation of records if the licensee ceases operations;

(4) Supervision of services;

(5) Establishment and implementation of written policies regarding response to referrals and access to services;

(6) Establishment and implementation of written personnel policies, procedures and personnel records for paid staff that provide for prehire screening, minimum qualifications, regular performance evaluations, including observation in the home, participation in orientation and in-service training, and

involvement in quality improvement activities. The department may not establish experience or other qualifications for agency personnel or contractors beyond that required by state law;

(7) Establishment and implementation of written policies and procedures for volunteers who have direct patient/client contact and that provide for background and health screening, orientation, and supervision;

(8) Establishment and implementation of written policies for obtaining regular reports on patient satisfaction;

(9) Establishment and implementation of a quality improvement process;

(10) Establishment and implementation of policies related to the delivery of care including:

(a) Plan of care for each individual served;

(b) Periodic review of the plan of care;

(c) Supervision of care and clinical consultation as necessary;

(d) Care consistent with the plan;

(e) Admission, transfer, and discharge from care; and

(f) For hospice services:

(i) Availability of twenty-four hour seven days a week hospice registered nurse consultation and in-home services as appropriate;

(ii) Interdisciplinary team communication as appropriate and necessary; and

(iii) The use and availability of volunteers to provide family support and respite care; and

(11) Establishment and implementation of policies related to agency implementation and oversight of nurse delegation as defined in RCW 18.79.260(3)(e). [2003 c 140 § 9; 2000 c 175 § 10; 1993 c 42 § 8; 1988 c 245 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.125 Interpretive guidelines for services.** The department is directed to continue to develop, with opportunity for comment from licensees, interpretive guidelines that are specific to each type of service and consistent with legislative intent. [2000 c 175 § 11; 1993 c 42 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.130 Legend drugs and controlled substances—Rules.** Licensees shall conform to the standards of RCW 69.41.030 and 69.50.308. Rules adopted by the department concerning the use of legend drugs or controlled substances shall reference and be consistent with pharmacy quality assurance commission rules. [2013 c 19 § 125; 1993 c 42 § 9; 1988 c 245 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.140 Bill of rights—Billing statements.** (1) An in-home services agency shall provide each individual or designated representative with a written bill of rights affirming each individual's right to:

(a) A listing of the in-home services offered by the in-home services agency and those being provided;

(b) The name of the individual supervising the care and the manner in which that individual may be contacted;

(c) A description of the process for submitting and addressing complaints;

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(d) Submit complaints without retaliation and to have the complaint addressed by the agency;

(e) Be informed of the state complaint hotline number;

(f) A statement advising the individual or representative of the right to ongoing participation in the development of the plan of care;

(g) A statement providing that the individual or representative is entitled to information regarding access to the department's listing of providers and to select any licensee to provide care, subject to the individual's reimbursement mechanism or other relevant contractual obligations;

(h) Be treated with courtesy, respect, privacy, and freedom from abuse and discrimination;

(i) Refuse treatment or services;

(j) Have property treated with respect;

(k) Privacy of personal information and confidentiality of health care records;

(l) Be cared for by properly trained staff with coordination of services;

(m) A fully itemized billing statement upon request, including the date of each service and the charge. Licensees providing services through a managed care plan shall not be required to provide itemized billing statements; and

(n) Be informed about advanced directives and the agency's responsibility to implement them.

(2) An in-home services agency shall ensure rights under this section are implemented and updated as appropriate. [2000 c 175 § 12; 1988 c 245 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.150 Durable power of attorney—Prohibition for licensees, contractees, or employees.** No licensee, contractee, or employee may hold a durable power of attorney on behalf of any individual who is receiving care from the licensee. [2000 c 175 § 13; 1988 c 245 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.170 Licenses—Denial, restriction, conditions, modification, suspension, revocation—Civil penalties.** Pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW and RCW 70.127.180(3), the department may deny, restrict, condition, modify, suspend, or revoke a license under this chapter or, in lieu thereof or in addition thereto, assess monetary penalties of a civil nature not to exceed one thousand dollars per violation, or require a refund of any amounts billed to, and collected from, the consumer or third-party payor in any case in which it finds that the licensee, or any applicant, officer, director, partner, managing employee, or owner of ten percent or more of the applicant's or licensee's assets:

(1) Failed or refused to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the standards or rules adopted under this chapter;

(2) Was the holder of a license issued pursuant to this chapter that was revoked for cause and never reissued by the department, or that was suspended for cause and the terms of the suspension have not been fulfilled and the licensee has continued to operate;

(3) Has knowingly or with reason to know made a misrepresentation of, false statement of, or failed to disclose, a material fact to the department in an application for the license or any data attached thereto or in any record required

by this chapter or matter under investigation by the department, or during a survey, or concerning information requested by the department;

(4) Refused to allow representatives of the department to inspect any book, record, or file required by this chapter to be maintained or any portion of the licensee's premises;

(5) Willfully prevented, interfered with, or attempted to impede in any way the work of any representative of the department and the lawful enforcement of any provision of this chapter. This includes but is not limited to: Willful misrepresentation of facts during a survey, investigation, or administrative proceeding or any other legal action; or use of threats or harassment against any patient, client, or witness, or use of financial inducements to any patient, client, or witness to prevent or attempt to prevent him or her from providing evidence during a survey or investigation, in an administrative proceeding, or any other legal action involving the department;

(6) Willfully prevented or interfered with any representative of the department in the preservation of evidence of any violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter;

(7) Failed to pay any civil monetary penalty assessed by the department pursuant to this chapter within ten days after the assessment becomes final;

(8) Used advertising that is false, fraudulent, or misleading;

(9) Has repeated incidents of personnel performing services beyond their authorized scope of practice;

(10) Misrepresented or was fraudulent in any aspect of the conduct of the licensee's business;

(11) Within the last five years, has been found in a civil or criminal proceeding to have committed any act that reasonably relates to the person's fitness to establish, maintain, or administer an agency or to provide care in the home of another;

(12) Was the holder of a license to provide care or treatment to ill, disabled, or vulnerable individuals that was denied, restricted, not renewed, surrendered, suspended, or revoked by a competent authority in any state, federal, or foreign jurisdiction. A certified copy of the order, stipulation, or agreement is conclusive evidence of the denial, restriction, nonrenewal, surrender, suspension, or revocation;

(13) Violated any state or federal statute, or administrative rule regulating the operation of the agency;

(14) Failed to comply with an order issued by the secretary or designee;

(15) Aided or abetted the unlicensed operation of an in-home services agency;

(16) Operated beyond the scope of the in-home services agency license;

(17) Failed to adequately supervise staff to the extent that the health or safety of a patient or client was at risk;

(18) Compromised the health or safety of a patient or client, including, but not limited to, the individual performing services beyond their authorized scope of practice;

(19) Continued to operate after license revocation, suspension, or expiration, or operating outside the parameters of a modified, conditioned, or restricted license;

(20) Failed or refused to comply with chapter 70.02 RCW;

(21) Abused, neglected, abandoned, or financially exploited a patient or client as these terms are defined in RCW 74.34.020;

(22) Misappropriated the property of an individual;

(23) Is unqualified or unable to operate or direct the operation of the agency according to this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter;

(24) Obtained or attempted to obtain a license by fraudulent means or misrepresentation; or

(25) Failed to report abuse or neglect of a patient or client in violation of chapter 74.34 RCW. [2003 c 140 § 10; 2000 c 175 § 14; 1988 c 245 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.180 Surveys and in-home visits—Notice of violations—Enforcement action.** (1) The department may at any time conduct a survey of all records and operations of a licensee in order to determine compliance with this chapter. The department may conduct in-home visits to observe patient/client care and services. The right to conduct a survey shall extend to any premises and records of persons whom the department has reason to believe are providing home health, hospice, or home care services without a license.

(2) Following a survey, the department shall give written notice of any violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter. The notice shall describe the reasons for noncompliance.

(3) The licensee may be subject to formal enforcement action under RCW 70.127.170 if the department determines: (a) The licensee has previously been subject to a formal enforcement action for the same or similar type of violation of the same statute or rule, or has been given previous notice of the same or similar type of violation of the same statute or rule; (b) the licensee failed to achieve compliance with a statute, rule, or order by the date established in a previously issued notice or order; (c) the violation resulted in actual serious physical or emotional harm or immediate threat to the health, safety, welfare, or rights of one or more individuals; or (d) the violation has a potential for serious physical or emotional harm or immediate threat to the health, safety, welfare, or rights of one or more individuals. [2000 c 175 § 15; 1988 c 245 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.190 Disclosure of compliance information.** All information received by the department through filed reports, surveys, and in-home visits conducted under this chapter shall not be disclosed publicly in any manner that would identify individuals receiving care under this chapter. [2000 c 175 § 16; 1988 c 245 § 20.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.200 Unlicensed agencies—Department may seek injunctive or other relief—Injunctive relief does not prohibit criminal or civil penalties—Fines.** (1) Notwithstanding the existence or use of any other remedy, the department may, in the manner provided by law and upon the advice of the attorney general, who shall represent the department in the proceedings, maintain an action in the name of the state for an injunction or other process against any person to restrain or prevent the advertising, operating, maintaining,

managing, or opening of a home health, hospice, hospice care center, or home care agency without an in-home services agency license under this chapter.

(2) The injunction shall not relieve the person operating an in-home services agency without a license from criminal prosecution, or the imposition of a civil fine under RCW 70.127.213(2), but the remedy by injunction shall be in addition to any criminal liability or civil fine. A person that violates an injunction issued under this chapter shall pay a civil penalty, as determined by the court, of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars, which shall be deposited in the department's local fee account. For the purpose of this section, the superior court issuing any injunction shall retain jurisdiction and the cause shall be continued, and in such cases the attorney general acting in the name of the state may petition for the recovery of civil penalties. All fines, forfeitures, and penalties collected or assessed by a court because of a violation of RCW 70.127.020 shall be deposited in the department's local fee account. [2000 c 175 § 17; 1988 c 245 § 21.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.213 Unlicensed operation of an in-home services agency—Cease and desist orders—Adjudicative proceedings—Fines.** (1) The department may issue a notice of intention to issue a cease and desist order to any person whom the department has reason to believe is engaged in the unlicensed operation of an in-home services agency. The person to whom the notice of intent is issued may request an adjudicative proceeding to contest the charges. The request for hearing must be filed within twenty days after service of the notice of intent to issue a cease and desist order. The failure to request a hearing constitutes a default, whereupon the department may enter a permanent cease and desist order, which may include a civil fine. All proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

(2) If the department makes a final determination that a person has engaged or is engaging in unlicensed operation of an in-home services agency, the department may issue a cease and desist order. In addition, the department may impose a civil fine in an amount not exceeding one thousand dollars for each day upon which the person engaged in unlicensed operation of an in-home services agency. The proceeds of such fines shall be deposited in the department's local fee account.

(3) If the department makes a written finding of fact that the public interest will be irreparably harmed by delay in issuing an order, the department may issue a temporary cease and desist order. The person receiving a temporary cease and desist order shall be provided an opportunity for a prompt hearing. The temporary cease and desist order shall remain in effect until further order of the department. The failure to request a prompt or regularly scheduled hearing constitutes a default, whereupon the department may enter a permanent cease and desist order, which may include a civil fine.

(4) Neither the issuance of a cease and desist order nor payment of a civil fine shall relieve the person so operating an in-home services agency without a license from criminal prosecution, but the remedy of a cease and desist order or civil fine shall be in addition to any criminal liability. The cease and desist order is conclusive proof of unlicensed operation and may be enforced under RCW 7.21.060. This

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method of enforcement of the cease and desist order or civil fine may be used in addition to, or as an alternative to, any provisions for enforcement of agency orders set out in chapter 34.05 RCW. [2000 c 175 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.216 Unlicensed operation of an in-home services agency—Consumer protection act.** The legislature finds that the operation of an in-home services agency without a license in violation of this chapter is a matter vitally affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Operation of an in-home services agency without a license in violation of this chapter is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business. Such a violation is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. [2000 c 175 § 20.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.127.280 Hospice care centers—Applicants—Rules.** (1) Applicants desiring to operate a hospice care center are subject to the following:

(a) The application may only be made by a licensed hospice agency. The agency shall list which of the following service categories will be provided:

- (i) General inpatient care;
- (ii) Continuous home care;
- (iii) Routine home care; or
- (iv) Inpatient respite care;

(b) A certificate of need is required under chapter 70.38 RCW;

(c) A hospice agency may operate more than one hospice care center in its service area;

(d) For hospice agencies that operate a hospice care center, no more than forty-nine percent of patient care days, in the aggregate on a biennial basis, may be provided in the hospice care center;

(e) The maximum number of beds in a hospice care center is twenty;

(f) The maximum number of individuals per room is one, unless the individual requests a roommate;

(g) A hospice care center may either be owned or leased by a hospice agency. If the agency leases space, all delivery of interdisciplinary services, to include staffing and management, shall be done by the hospice agency; and

(h) A hospice care center may either be freestanding or a separate portion of another building.

(2) The department is authorized to develop rules to implement this section. The rules shall be specific to each hospice care center service category provided. The rules shall at least specifically address the following:

(a) Adequate space for family members to visit, meet, cook, share meals, and stay overnight with patients or clients;

(b) A separate external entrance, clearly identifiable to the public when part of an existing structure;

(c) Construction, maintenance, and operation of a hospice care center;

(d) Means to inform the public which hospice care center service categories are provided; and

(e) A registered nurse present twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week for hospice care centers delivering general inpatient services.

(3) Hospice agencies which as of January 1, 2000, operate the functional equivalent of a hospice care center through licensure as a hospital, under chapter 70.41 RCW, shall be exempt from the certificate of need requirement for hospice care centers if they apply for and receive a license as an in-home services agency to operate a hospice home care center by July 1, 2002. [2000 c 175 § 21.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### Chapter 70.128 RCW ADULT FAMILY HOMES

#### Sections

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**70.128.005 Findings—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Adult family homes are an important part of the state's long-term care system. Adult family homes provide an alternative to institutional care and promote a high degree of independent living for residents.

(b) Persons with functional limitations have broadly varying service needs. Adult family homes that can meet those needs are an essential component of a long-term system. Different populations living in adult family homes, such as persons with developmental disabilities and elderly persons, often have significantly different needs and capacities from one another.

(c) There is a need to update certain restrictive covenants to take into consideration the legislative findings cited in (a) and (b) of this subsection; the need to prevent or reduce institutionalization; and the legislative and judicial mandates to provide care and services in the least restrictive setting appropriate to the needs of the individual. Restrictive covenants which directly or indirectly restrict or prohibit the use of property for adult family homes (i) are contrary to the public interest served by establishing adult family homes and (ii) discriminate against individuals with disabilities in violation of RCW 49.60.224.

(2) It is the legislature's intent that department rules and policies relating to the licensing and operation of adult family homes recognize and accommodate the different needs and capacities of the various populations served by the homes. Furthermore, the development and operation of adult family homes that promote the health, welfare, and safety of residents, and provide quality personal care and special care services should be encouraged.

(3) The legislature finds that many residents of community-based long-term care facilities are vulnerable and their health and well-being are dependent on their caregivers. The quality, skills, and knowledge of their caregivers are the key to good care. The legislature finds that the need for well-trained caregivers is growing as the state's population ages and residents' needs increase. The legislature intends that current training standards be enhanced.

(4) The legislature finds that the state of Washington has a compelling interest in developing and enforcing standards that promote the health, welfare, and safety of vulnerable adults residing in adult family homes. The health, safety, and well-being of vulnerable adults must be the paramount concern in determining whether to issue a license to an applicant, whether to suspend or revoke a license, or whether to take other licensing actions. [2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 201; 2009 c 530 § 2; 2001 c 319 § 1; 2000 c 121 § 4; 1995 c 260 § 1; 1989 c 427 § 14.]

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** "The legislature finds that Washington's long-term care system should more aggressively promote protections for the vulnerable populations it serves. The legislature intends to address current statutes and funding levels that limit the department of social and health services' ability to promote vulnerable adult protections. The legislature further intends that the cost of facility oversight should be supported by an appropriate license fee paid by the regulated businesses, rather than by the general taxpayers." [2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 101.]

**70.128.007 Purpose.** The purposes of this chapter are to:

- (1) Encourage the establishment and maintenance of adult family homes that provide a humane, safe, and residential home environment for persons with functional limitations who need personal and special care;
- (2) Establish standards for regulating adult family homes that adequately protect residents;
- (3) Encourage consumers, families, providers, and the public to become active in assuring their full participation in development of adult family homes that provide high quality and cost-effective care;
- (4) Provide for appropriate care of residents in adult family homes by requiring that each resident have a care plan that promotes the most appropriate level of physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being consistent with client choice; and
- (5) Accord each resident the right to participate in the development of the care plan and in other major decisions involving the resident and their care. [2001 c 319 § 5; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 19; 1989 c 427 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

- (1) "Adult family home" means a residential home in which a person or persons provide personal care, special care, room, and board to more than one but not more than six adults who are not related by blood or marriage to the person or persons providing the services.
- (2) "Provider" means any person who is licensed under this chapter to operate an adult family home. For the purposes of this section, "person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or limited liability company.
- (3) "Department" means the department of social and health services.
- (4) "Resident" means an adult in need of personal or special care in an adult family home who is not related to the provider.
- (5) "Adults" means persons who have attained the age of eighteen years.
- (6) "Home" means an adult family home.
- (7) "Imminent danger" means serious physical harm to or death of a resident has occurred, or there is a serious threat to resident life, health, or safety.
- (8) "Special care" means care beyond personal care as defined by the department, in rule.
- (9) "Capacity" means the maximum number of persons in need of personal or special care permitted in an adult family home at a given time. This number shall include related children or adults in the home and who received special care.
- (10) "Resident manager" means a person employed or designated by the provider to manage the adult family home.
- (11) "Adult family home licensee" means a provider as defined in this section who does not receive payments from the medicaid and state-funded long-term care programs. [2007 c 184 § 7. Prior: 2001 c 319 § 6; 2001 c 319 § 2; 1995 c 260 § 2; 1989 c 427 § 16.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—2007 c 184:** See notes following RCW 41.56.029.

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**70.128.030 Exemptions.** The following residential facilities shall be exempt from the operation of this chapter:

- (1) Nursing homes licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW;
- (2) Assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW;
- (3) Facilities approved and certified under chapter 71A.22 RCW;
- (4) Residential treatment centers for individuals with mental illness licensed under chapter 71.24 RCW;
- (5) Hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW;
- (6) Homes for individuals with developmental disabilities licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW. [2012 c 10 § 55; 1989 c 427 § 17.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**70.128.040 Adoption of rules and standards—Negotiated rule making—Specialty license.** (1) The department shall adopt rules and standards with respect to adult family homes and the operators thereof to be licensed under this chapter to carry out the purposes and requirements of this chapter. The rules and standards relating to applicants and operators shall address the differences between individual providers and providers that are partnerships, corporations, associations, or companies. The rules and standards shall also recognize and be appropriate to the different needs and capacities of the various populations served by adult family homes such as but not limited to persons who are developmentally disabled or elderly. In developing rules and standards the department shall recognize the residential family-like nature of adult family homes and not develop rules and standards which by their complexity serve as an overly restrictive barrier to the development of the adult family homes in the state. Procedures and forms established by the department shall be developed so they are easy to understand and comply with. Paper work requirements shall be minimal. Easy to understand materials shall be developed for applicants and providers explaining licensure requirements and procedures.

(2)(a) In developing the rules and standards, the department shall consult with all divisions and administrations within the department serving the various populations living in adult family homes, including the division of developmental disabilities and the aging and adult services administration. Involvement by the divisions and administration shall be for the purposes of assisting the department to develop rules and standards appropriate to the different needs and capacities of the various populations served by adult family homes. During the initial stages of development of proposed rules, the department shall provide notice of development of the rules to organizations representing adult family homes and their residents, and other groups that the department finds appropriate. The notice shall state the subject of the rules under consideration and solicit written recommendations regarding their form and content.

(b) In addition, the department shall engage in negotiated rule making pursuant to RCW 34.05.310(2)(a) with the exclusive representative of the adult family home licensees selected in accordance with RCW 70.128.043 and with other affected interests before adopting requirements that affect adult family home licensees.

(3) Except where provided otherwise, chapter 34.05 RCW shall govern all department rule-making and adjudicative activities under this chapter.

(4) The department shall establish a specialty license to include geriatric specialty certification for providers who have successfully completed the University of Washington school of nursing certified geriatric certification program and testing. [2009 c 530 § 1; 2007 c 184 § 8; 1995 c 260 § 3; 1989 c 427 § 18.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—2007 c 184:** See notes following RCW 41.56.029.

**70.128.043 Negotiated rule making—Statewide unit of licensees—Intent.** (1) Solely for the purposes of negotiated rule making pursuant to RCW 34.05.310(2)(a) and 70.128.040, a statewide unit of all adult family home licensees is appropriate. As of July 22, 2007, the exclusive representative of adult family home licensees in the statewide unit shall be the organization certified by the American arbitration association as the sole representative after the association conducts a cross-check comparing authorization cards against the department of social and health services' records and finds that majority support for the organization exists. If adult family home licensees seek to select a different representative thereafter, the adult family home licensees may request that the American arbitration association conduct an election and certify the results of the election.

(2) In enacting this section, the legislature intends to provide state action immunity under federal and state antitrust laws for the joint activities of licensees and their exclusive representative to the extent such activities are authorized by this chapter. [2007 c 184 § 6.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—2007 c 184:** See notes following RCW 41.56.029.

**70.128.050 License—Required as of July 1, 1990—Limitations.** (1) After July 1, 1990, no person shall operate or maintain an adult family home in this state without a license under this chapter.

(2) Couples legally married or state registered domestic partners:

(a) May not apply for separate licenses; and

(b) May apply jointly to be coproviders if they are both qualified. One person may apply to be a provider without requiring the other person to apply. [2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 202; 1989 c 427 § 19.]

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

**70.128.055 Operating without a license—Misdemeanor.** A person operating or maintaining an adult family home without a license under this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day of a continuing violation after conviction is considered a separate offense. [1991 c 40 § 1.]

**70.128.057 Operating without a license—Injunction or civil penalty.** Notwithstanding the existence or use of any other remedy, the department may, in the manner provided by law, upon the advice of the attorney general who shall represent the department in the proceedings, maintain an action in the name of the state for an injunction, civil penalty, or

other process against a person to restrain or prevent the operation or maintenance of an adult family home without a license under this chapter. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 20; 1991 c 40 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.058 Operating without a license—Application of consumer protection act.** The legislature finds that the operation of an adult family home without a license in violation of this chapter is a matter vitally affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Operation of an adult family home without a license in violation of this chapter is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business. Such a violation is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 21.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.060 License—Generally—Fees.** (1) An application for license shall be made to the department upon forms provided by it and shall contain such information as the department reasonably requires.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this section, the department shall issue a license to an adult family home if the department finds that the applicant and the home are in compliance with this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter. The department may not issue a license if (a) the applicant or a person affiliated with the applicant has prior violations of this chapter relating to the adult family home subject to the application or any other adult family home, or of any other law regulating residential care facilities within the past ten years that resulted in revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal of a license or contract with the department; or (b) the applicant or a person affiliated with the applicant has a history of significant noncompliance with federal, state, or local laws, rules, or regulations relating to the provision of care or services to vulnerable adults or to children. A person is considered affiliated with an applicant if the person is listed on the license application as a partner, officer, director, resident manager, or majority owner of the applying entity, or is the spouse of the applicant.

(3) The license fee shall be submitted with the application.

(4) Proof of financial solvency must be submitted when requested by the department.

(5) The department shall serve upon the applicant a copy of the decision granting or denying an application for a license. An applicant shall have the right to contest denial of his or her application for a license as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW by requesting a hearing in writing within twenty-eight days after receipt of the notice of denial.

(6) The department shall not issue a license to a provider if the department finds that the provider or spouse of the provider or any partner, officer, director, managerial employee, or majority owner has a history of significant noncompliance with federal or state regulations, rules, or laws in providing care or services to vulnerable adults or to children.

(7) The department shall license an adult family home for the maximum level of care that the adult family home

may provide. The department shall define, in rule, license levels based upon the education, training, and caregiving experience of the licensed provider or staff.

(8) For adult family homes that serve residents with special needs such as dementia, developmental disabilities, or mental illness, specialty training is required of providers and resident managers consistent with RCW 70.128.230, and also is required for caregivers, with standardized competency testing for caregivers hired after July 28, 2013, as set forth by the department in rule. The department shall examine, with input from experts, providers, consumers, and advocates, whether the existing specialty training courses are adequate for providers, resident managers, and caregivers to meet these residents' special needs, are sufficiently standardized in curricula and instructional techniques, and are accompanied by effective tools to fairly evaluate successful student completion. The department may enhance the existing specialty training requirements by rule, and may update curricula, instructional techniques, and competency testing based upon its review and stakeholder input. In addition, the department shall examine, with input from experts, providers, consumers, and advocates, whether additional specialty training categories should be created for adult family homes serving residents with other special needs, such as traumatic brain injury, skilled nursing, or bariatric care. The department may establish, by rule, additional specialty training categories and requirements for providers, resident managers, and caregivers, if needed to better serve residents with such special needs.

(9) The department shall establish, by rule, standards used to license nonresident providers and multiple facility operators.

(10) The department shall establish, by rule, for multiple facility operators educational standards substantially equivalent to recognized national certification standards for residential care administrators.

(11)(a)(i) At the time of an application for an adult family home license and upon the annual fee renewal date set by the department, the licensee shall pay a license fee. Beginning July 1, 2011, the per bed license fee and any processing fees, including the initial license fee, must be established in the omnibus appropriations act and any amendment or additions made to that act. The license fees established in the omnibus appropriations act and any amendment or additions made to that act may not exceed the department's annual licensing and oversight activity costs and must include the department's cost of paying providers for the amount of the license fee attributed to medicaid clients.

(ii) In addition to the fees established in (a)(i) of this subsection, the department shall charge the licensee a nonrefundable fee in the event of a change in ownership of the adult family home. The fee must be established in the omnibus appropriations act and any amendment or additions made to that act.

(b) The department may authorize a one-time waiver of all or any portion of the licensing, processing, or change of ownership fees required under this subsection (11) in any case in which the department determines that an adult family home is being relicensed because of exceptional circumstances, such as death or incapacity of a provider, and that to require the full payment of the licensing, processing, or

change of ownership fees would present a hardship to the applicant.

(12) A provider who receives notification of the department's initiation of a denial, suspension, nonrenewal, or revocation of an adult family home license may, in lieu of appealing the department's action, surrender or relinquish the license. The department shall not issue a new license to or contract with the provider, for the purposes of providing care to vulnerable adults or children, for a period of twenty years following the surrendering or relinquishment of the former license. The licensing record shall indicate that the provider relinquished or surrendered the license, without admitting the violations, after receiving notice of the department's initiation of a denial, suspension, nonrenewal, or revocation of a license.

(13) The department shall establish, by rule, the circumstances requiring a change in the licensed provider, which include, but are not limited to, a change in ownership or control of the adult family home or provider, a change in the provider's form of legal organization, such as from sole proprietorship to partnership or corporation, and a dissolution or merger of the licensed entity with another legal organization. The new provider is subject to the provisions of this chapter, the rules adopted under this chapter, and other applicable law. In order to ensure that the safety of residents is not compromised by a change in provider, the new provider is responsible for correction of all violations that may exist at the time of the new license. [2015 c 66 § 1; 2013 c 300 § 2; 2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 403; 2009 c 530 § 5; 2004 c 140 § 3; 2001 c 193 § 9; 1995 c 260 § 4; 1989 c 427 § 20.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 3 §§ 401-403:** See note following RCW 18.51.050.

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

**70.128.064 Priority processing for license applications—Provisional license.** In order to prevent disruption to current residents, at the request of the current licensed provider, the department shall give processing priority to the application of a person seeking to be licensed as the new provider for the adult family home. The department may issue a provisional license when a currently licensed adult family home provider has applied to be licensed as the new provider for a currently licensed adult family home, the application has been initially processed, and all that remains to complete the application process is an on-site inspection. [2001 c 319 § 10.]

**70.128.065 Multiple facility operators—Requirements—Licensure of additional homes.** (1) A multiple facility operator must successfully demonstrate to the department financial solvency and management experience for the homes under its ownership and the ability to meet other relevant safety, health, and operating standards pertaining to the operation of multiple homes, including ways to mitigate the potential impact of vehicular traffic related to the operation of the homes.

(2) The department shall only accept and process an application for licensure of an additional home when:

(a) A period of no less than twenty-four months has passed since the issuance of the initial adult family home license; and

(b) The department has taken no enforcement actions against the applicant's currently licensed adult family homes during the twenty-four months prior to application.

(3)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the department shall only accept and process an additional application for licensure of other adult family homes when twelve months has passed since the previous adult family home license, and the department has taken no enforcement actions against the applicant's currently licensed adult family homes during the twelve months prior to application.

(b) The department shall accept and process applications for licensure of additional adult family homes when less than twelve months have passed since the previous adult family home license, if the applications are due to the change in ownership of existing adult family homes that are currently licensed and the department has taken no enforcement actions against the applicant's currently licensed adult family homes during the twelve months prior to application.

(4) In the event of serious noncompliance leading to the imposition of one or more actions listed in RCW 70.128.160(2) for violation of federal, state, or local laws, or regulations relating to provision of care or services to vulnerable adults or children, the department is authorized to take one or more actions listed in RCW 70.128.160(2) against any home or homes operated by the provider if there is a violation in the home or homes.

(5) In the event of serious noncompliance in a home operated by a provider with multiple adult family homes, leading to the imposition of one or more actions listed in RCW 70.128.160(2), the department shall inspect the other homes operated by the provider to determine whether the same or related deficiencies are present in those homes. The cost of these additional inspections may be imposed on the provider as a civil penalty up to a maximum of three hundred dollars per additional inspection.

(6) A provider is ultimately responsible for the day-to-day operations of each licensed home. [2013 c 185 § 1; 2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 203; 1996 c 81 § 6.]

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.070 License—Inspections—Correction of violations.** (1) A license shall remain valid unless voluntarily surrendered, suspended, or revoked in accordance with this chapter.

(2)(a) Homes applying for a license shall be inspected at the time of licensure.

(b) Homes licensed by the department shall be inspected at least every eighteen months, with an annual average of fifteen months. However, an adult family home may be allowed to continue without inspection for two years if the adult family home had no inspection citations for the past three consecutive inspections and has received no written notice of violations resulting from complaint investigations during that same time period.

(c) The department may make an unannounced inspection of a licensed home at any time to assure that the home and provider are in compliance with this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

(3) If the department finds that the home is not in compliance with this chapter, it shall require the home to correct any violations as provided in this chapter. [2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 204; 2004 c 143 § 1; 1998 c 272 § 4; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 22; 1989 c 427 § 22.]

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

**Findings—Severability—Effective date—1998 c 272:** See notes following RCW 18.20.230.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.080 License and inspection report—Availability for review.** An adult family home shall have readily available for review by the department, residents, and the public:

(1) Its license to operate; and

(2) A copy of each inspection report received by the home from the department for the past three years. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 23; 1989 c 427 § 21.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.090 Inspections—Generally.** (1) During inspections of an adult family home, the department shall have access and authority to examine areas and articles in the home used to provide care or support to residents, including residents' records, accounts, and the physical premises, including the buildings, grounds, and equipment. The personal records of the provider are not subject to department inspection nor is the separate bedroom of the provider, not used in direct care of a client, subject to review. The department may inspect all rooms during the initial licensing of the home. However, during a complaint investigation, the department shall have access to the entire premises and all pertinent records when necessary to conduct official business. The department also shall have the authority to interview the provider and residents of an adult family home.

(2) Whenever an inspection is conducted, the department shall prepare a written report that summarizes all information obtained during the inspection, and if the home is in violation of this chapter, serve a copy of the inspection report upon the provider at the same time as a notice of violation. This notice shall be mailed to the provider within ten working days of the completion of the inspection process. If the home is not in violation of this chapter, a copy of the inspection report shall be mailed to the provider within ten calendar days of the inspection of the home. All inspection reports shall be made available to the public at the department during business hours.

(3) The provider shall develop corrective measures for any violations found by the department's inspection. The department shall upon request provide consultation and technical assistance to assist the provider in developing effective corrective measures. The department shall include a statement of the provider's corrective measures in the department's inspection report. [2001 c 319 § 7; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 24; 1989 c 427 § 30.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.100 Immediate suspension of license when conditions warrant.** The department has the authority to immediately suspend a license if it finds that conditions there constitute an imminent danger to residents. [1989 c 427 § 32.]

**70.128.105 Injunction if conditions warrant.** The department may commence an action in superior court to enjoin the operation of an adult family home if it finds that conditions there constitute an imminent danger to residents. [1991 c 40 § 3.]

**70.128.110 Prohibition against recommending unlicensed home—Report and investigation of unlicensed home.** (1) No public agency contractor or employee shall place, refer, or recommend placement of a person into an adult family home that is operating without a license.

(2) Any public agency contractor or employee who knows that an adult family home is operating without a license shall report the name and address of the home to the department. The department shall investigate any report filed under this section. [1989 c 427 § 23.]

**70.128.120 Adult family home provider, applicant, resident manager—Minimum qualifications.** Each adult family home provider, applicant, and each resident manager shall have the following minimum qualifications, except that only applicants are required to meet the provisions of subsections (10) and (11) of this section:

(1) Twenty-one years of age or older;

(2) For those applying after September 1, 2001, to be licensed as providers, and for resident managers whose employment begins after September 1, 2001, a United States high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536 or any English or translated government documentation of the following:

(a) Successful completion of government-approved public or private school education in a foreign country that includes an annual average of one thousand hours of instruction over twelve years or no less than twelve thousand hours of instruction;

(b) A foreign college, foreign university, or United States community college two-year diploma;

(c) Admission to, or completion of coursework at, a foreign university or college for which credit was granted;

(d) Admission to, or completion of coursework at, a United States college or university for which credits were awarded;

(e) Admission to, or completion of postgraduate coursework at, a United States college or university for which credits were awarded; or

(f) Successful passage of the United States board examination for registered nursing, or any professional medical occupation for which college or university education preparation was required;

(3) Good moral and responsible character and reputation;

(4) Literacy and the ability to communicate in the English language;

(5) Management and administrative ability to carry out the requirements of this chapter;

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(6) Satisfactory completion of department-approved basic training and continuing education training as required by RCW 74.39A.074, and in rules adopted by the department;

(7) Satisfactory completion of department-approved, or equivalent, special care training before a provider may provide special care services to a resident;

(8) Not been convicted of any crime that is disqualifying under RCW 43.43.830 or 43.43.842, or department rules adopted under this chapter, or been found to have abused, neglected, exploited, or abandoned a minor or vulnerable adult as specified in RCW 74.39A.056(2);

(9) For those applying to be licensed as providers, and for resident managers whose employment begins after August 24, 2011, at least one thousand hours in the previous sixty months of successful, direct caregiving experience obtained after age eighteen to vulnerable adults in a licensed or contracted setting prior to operating or managing an adult family home. The applicant or resident manager must have credible evidence of the successful, direct caregiving experience or, currently hold one of the following professional licenses: Physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW; osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW; osteopathic physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.57A RCW; physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW; registered nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or licensed practical nurse licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW;

(10) For applicants, proof of financial solvency, as defined in rule; and

(11) Applicants must successfully complete an adult family home administration and business planning class, prior to being granted a license. The class must be a minimum of forty-eight hours of classroom time and approved by the department. The department shall promote and prioritize bilingual capabilities within available resources and when materials are available for this purpose. Under exceptional circumstances, such as the sudden and unexpected death of a provider, the department may consider granting a license to an applicant who has not completed the class but who meets all other requirements. If the department decides to grant the license due to exceptional circumstances, the applicant must have enrolled in or completed the class within four months of licensure. [2015 c 66 § 2; 2013 c 39 § 21; 2012 c 164 § 703; 2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 205; 2006 c 249 § 1; 2002 c 223 § 1; 2001 c 319 § 8; 2000 c 121 § 5; 1996 c 81 § 1; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 117; 1995 c 260 § 5; 1989 c 427 § 24.]

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.122 Adult family homes licensed by Indian tribes.** The legislature recognizes that adult family homes located within the boundaries of a federally recognized Indian reservation may be licensed by the Indian tribe. The department may pay for care for persons residing in such homes, if there has been a tribal or state criminal background check of the provider and any staff, and the client is otherwise

eligible for services administered by the department. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 25.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.125 Resident rights.** RCW 70.129.005 through 70.129.030, 70.129.040, and 70.129.050 through 70.129.170 apply to this chapter and persons regulated under this chapter. [2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 302; 1994 c 214 § 24.]

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.130 Adult family homes—Requirements.** (1) The provider is ultimately responsible for the day-to-day operations of each licensed adult family home.

(2) The provider shall promote the health, safety, and well-being of each resident residing in each licensed adult family home.

(3) Adult family homes shall be maintained internally and externally in good repair and condition. Such homes shall have safe and functioning systems for heating, cooling, hot and cold water, electricity, plumbing, garbage disposal, sewage, cooking, laundry, artificial and natural light, ventilation, and any other feature of the home.

(4) In order to preserve and promote the residential home-like nature of adult family homes, adult family homes licensed after August 24, 2011, shall:

(a) Have sufficient space to accommodate all residents at one time in the dining and living room areas;

(b) Have hallways and doorways wide enough to accommodate residents who use mobility aids such as wheelchairs and walkers; and

(c) Have outdoor areas that are safe and accessible for residents to use.

(5) The adult family home must provide all residents access to resident common areas throughout the adult family home including, but not limited to, kitchens, dining and living areas, and bathrooms, to the extent that they are safe under the resident's care plan.

(6) Adult family homes shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner, including proper sewage disposal, food handling, and hygiene practices.

(7) Adult family homes shall develop a fire drill plan for emergency evacuation of residents, shall have working smoke detectors in each bedroom where a resident is located, shall have working fire extinguishers on each floor of the home, and shall not keep nonambulatory patients above the first floor of the home.

(8) The adult family home shall ensure that all residents can be safely evacuated in an emergency.

(9) Adult family homes shall have clean, functioning, and safe household items and furnishings.

(10) Adult family homes shall provide a nutritious and balanced diet and shall recognize residents' needs for special diets.

(11) Adult family homes shall establish health care procedures for the care of residents including medication administration and emergency medical care.

(a) Adult family home residents shall be permitted to self-administer medications.

(b) Adult family home providers may administer medications and deliver special care only to the extent authorized by law.

(12) Adult family home providers shall either: (a) Reside at the adult family home; or (b) employ or otherwise contract with a qualified resident manager to reside at the adult family home. The department may exempt, for good cause, a provider from the requirements of this subsection by rule.

(13) A provider will ensure that any volunteer, student, employee, or person residing within the adult family home who will have unsupervised access to any resident shall not have been convicted of a crime listed under RCW 43.43.830 or 43.43.842, or been found to have abused, neglected, exploited, or abandoned a minor or vulnerable adult as specified in RCW 74.39A.056(2). A provider may conditionally employ a person pending the completion of a criminal conviction background inquiry, but may not allow the person to have unsupervised access to any resident.

(14) A provider shall offer activities to residents under care as defined by the department in rule.

(15) An adult family home must be financially solvent, and upon request for good cause, shall provide the department with detailed information about the home's finances. Financial records of the adult family home may be examined when the department has good cause to believe that a financial obligation related to resident care or services will not be met.

(16) An adult family home provider must ensure that staff are competent and receive necessary training to perform assigned tasks. Staff must satisfactorily complete department-approved staff orientation, basic training, and continuing education as specified by the department by rule. The provider shall ensure that a qualified caregiver is on-site whenever a resident is at the adult family home; any exceptions will be specified by the department in rule. Notwithstanding RCW 70.128.230, until orientation and basic training are successfully completed, a caregiver may not provide hands-on personal care to a resident without on-site supervision by a person who has successfully completed basic training or been exempted from the training pursuant to statute.

(17) The provider and resident manager must assure that there is:

(a) A mechanism to communicate with the resident in his or her primary language either through a qualified person on-site or readily available at all times, or other reasonable accommodations, such as language lines; and

(b) Staff on-site at all times capable of understanding and speaking English well enough to be able to respond appropriately to emergency situations and be able to read and understand resident care plans. [2012 c 164 § 704; 2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 206; 2000 c 121 § 6; 1995 c 260 § 6; 1989 c 427 § 26.]

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

**70.128.135 Compliance with chapter 70.24 RCW.** Adult family homes shall comply with the provisions of chapter 70.24 RCW. [2001 c 319 § 9.]

**70.128.140 Compliance with local codes and state and local fire safety regulations.** (1) Each adult family home shall meet applicable local licensing, zoning, building, and housing codes, and state and local fire safety regulations as they pertain to a single-family residence. It is the responsibility of the home to check with local authorities to ensure all local codes are met.

(2) An adult family home must be considered a residential use of property for zoning and public and private utility rate purposes. Adult family homes are a permitted use in all areas zoned for residential or commercial purposes, including areas zoned for single-family dwellings. [2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 27; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 26; 1989 c 427 § 27.]

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.150 Adult family homes to work with local quality assurance projects—Interference with representative of ombuds program—Penalty.** Whenever possible, adult family homes are encouraged to contact and work with local quality assurance projects such as the volunteer ombuds with the goal of assuring high quality care is provided in the home.

An adult family home may not willfully interfere with a representative of the long-term care ombuds program in the performance of official duties. The department shall impose a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars for any such willful interference. [2013 c 23 § 181; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 27; 1989 c 427 § 28.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.160 Department authority to take actions in response to noncompliance or violations—Civil penalties—Adult family home account.** (1) The department is authorized to take one or more of the actions listed in subsection (2) of this section in any case in which the department finds that an adult family home provider has:

(a) Failed or refused to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter;

(b) Operated an adult family home without a license or under a revoked license;

(c) Knowingly or with reason to know made a false statement of material fact on his or her application for license or any data attached thereto, or in any matter under investigation by the department; or

(d) Willfully prevented or interfered with any inspection or investigation by the department.

(2) When authorized by subsection (1) of this section, the department may take one or more of the following actions:

(a) Refuse to issue a license;

(b) Impose reasonable conditions on a license, such as correction within a specified time, training, and limits on the type of clients the provider may admit or serve;

(c) Impose civil penalties of at least one hundred dollars per day per violation;

(d) Impose civil penalties of up to three thousand dollars for each incident that violates adult family home licensing laws and rules, including, but not limited to, chapters 70.128, 70.129, 74.34, and 74.39A RCW and related rules. Each day upon which the same or substantially similar action occurs is

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a separate violation subject to the assessment of a separate penalty;

(e) Impose civil penalties of up to ten thousand dollars for a current or former licensed provider who is operating an unlicensed home;

(f) Suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license; or

(g) Suspend admissions to the adult family home by imposing stop placement.

(3) When the department orders stop placement, the facility shall not admit any person until the stop placement order is terminated. The department may approve readmission of a resident to the facility from a hospital or nursing home during the stop placement. The department shall terminate the stop placement only after: (a) The violations necessitating the stop placement have been corrected; and (b) the provider exhibits the capacity to maintain correction of the violations previously found deficient. However, if upon the revisit the department finds new violations that the department reasonably believes will result in a new stop placement, the previous stop placement shall remain in effect until the new stop placement is imposed. In order to protect the home's existing residents from potential ongoing neglect, when the provider has been cited for a violation that is repeated, uncorrected, pervasive, or presents a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of one or more residents, and the department has imposed a stop placement, the department shall also impose a condition on license or other remedy to facilitate or spur prompter compliance if the violation has not been corrected, and the provider has not exhibited the capacity to maintain correction, within sixty days of the stop placement.

(4) Nothing in subsection (3) of this section is intended to apply to stop placement imposed in conjunction with a license revocation or summary suspension or to prevent the department from imposing a condition on license or other remedy prior to sixty days after a stop placement, if the department considers it necessary to protect one or more residents' well-being. After a department finding of a violation for which a stop placement has been imposed, the department shall make an on-site revisit of the provider within fifteen working days from the request for revisit, to ensure correction of the violation. For violations that are serious or recurring or uncorrected following a previous citation, and create actual or threatened harm to one or more residents' well-being, including violations of residents' rights, the department shall make an on-site revisit as soon as appropriate to ensure correction of the violation. Verification of correction of all other violations may be made by either a department on-site revisit or by written or photographic documentation found by the department to be credible. This subsection does not prevent the department from enforcing license suspensions or revocations. Nothing in this subsection shall interfere with or diminish the department's authority and duty to ensure that the provider adequately cares for residents, including to make departmental on-site revisits as needed to ensure that the provider protects residents, and to enforce compliance with this chapter.

(5) Chapter 34.05 RCW applies to department actions under this section, except that orders of the department imposing license suspension, stop placement, or conditions for continuation of a license are effective immediately upon notice and shall continue in effect pending a hearing, which

must commence no later than sixty days after receipt of a request for a hearing. The time for commencement of a hearing may be extended by agreement of the parties or by the presiding officer for good cause shown by either party, but must commence no later than one hundred twenty days after receipt of a request for a hearing.

(6) A separate adult family home account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from civil penalties imposed under this chapter must be deposited into the account. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. The department shall use the special account only for promoting the quality of life and care of residents living in adult family homes. During the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium, the account may be expended for funding costs associated with the adult family home program.

(7) The department shall by rule specify criteria as to when and how the sanctions specified in this section must be applied. The criteria must provide for the imposition of incrementally more severe penalties for deficiencies that are repeated, uncorrected, pervasive, or present a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of one or more residents. The criteria shall be tiered such that those homes consistently found to have deficiencies will be subjected to increasingly severe penalties. The department shall implement prompt and specific enforcement remedies without delay for providers found to have delivered care or failed to deliver care resulting in problems that are repeated, uncorrected, pervasive, or present a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of one or more residents. In the selection of remedies, the health, safety, and well-being of residents must be of paramount importance. [2016 1st sp.s. c 36 § 944; 2015 c 266 § 1; 2013 c 300 § 4; 2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 208; 2001 c 193 § 5; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 28; 1989 c 427 § 31.]

**Effective date—2016 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 18.20.430.

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.163 Temporary management program—Purposes—Voluntary participation—Temporary management duties, duration—Rules.** (1) When the department has summarily suspended a license, the licensee may, subject to the department's approval, elect to participate in a temporary management program. All provisions of this section shall apply.

The purposes of a temporary management program are as follows:

(a) To mitigate dislocation and transfer trauma of residents while the department and licensee may pursue dispute resolution or appeal of a summary suspension of license;

(b) To facilitate the continuity of safe and appropriate resident care and services;

(c) To preserve a residential option that meets a specialized service need and/or is in a geographical area that has a lack of available providers; and

(d) To provide residents with the opportunity for orderly discharge.

(2) Licensee participation in the temporary management program is voluntary. The department shall have the discretion to approve any temporary manager and the temporary management arrangements. The temporary management shall assume the total responsibility for the daily operations of the home.

(3) The temporary management shall contract with the licensee as an independent contractor and is responsible for ensuring that all minimum licensing requirements are met. The temporary management shall protect the health, safety, and well-being of the residents for the duration of the temporary management and shall perform all acts reasonably necessary to ensure that residents' needs are met. The licensee is responsible for all costs related to administering the temporary management program and contracting with the temporary management. The temporary management agreement shall at a minimum address the following:

(a) Provision of liability insurance to protect residents and their property;

(b) Preservation of resident trust funds;

(c) The timely payment of past due or current accounts, operating expenses, including but not limited to staff compensation, and all debt that comes due during the period of the temporary management;

(d) The responsibilities for addressing all other financial obligations that would interfere with the ability of the temporary manager to provide adequate care and services to residents; and

(e) The authority of the temporary manager to manage the home, including the hiring, managing, and firing of employees for good cause, and to provide adequate care and services to residents.

(4) The licensee and department shall provide written notification immediately to all residents, legal representatives, interested family members, and the state long-term care ombudsman, of the temporary management and the reasons for it. This notification shall include notice that residents may move from the home without notifying the licensee in advance, and without incurring any charges, fees, or costs otherwise available for insufficient advance notice, during the temporary management period.

(5) The temporary management period under this section concludes twenty-eight days after issuance of the formal notification of enforcement action or conclusion of administrative proceedings, whichever date is later. Nothing in this section precludes the department from revoking its approval of the temporary management and/or exercising its licensing enforcement authority under this chapter. The department's decision whether to approve or to revoke a temporary management arrangement is not subject to the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

(6) The department is authorized to adopt rules implementing this section. In implementing this section, the department shall consult with consumers, advocates, and organizations representing adult family homes. The department may recruit and approve qualified, licensed providers interested in serving as temporary managers. [2013 c 23 § 182; 2009 c 560 § 6; 2001 c 193 § 6.]

**Intent—Effective date—Disposition of property and funds—Assignment/delegation of contractual rights or duties—2009 c 560:** See notes following RCW 18.06.080.

**70.128.167 Disputed violations, enforcement remedies—Informal dispute resolution process.** (1) The licensee or its designee has the right to an informal dispute resolution process to dispute any violation found or enforcement remedy imposed by the department during a licensing inspection or complaint investigation. The purpose of the informal dispute resolution process is to provide an opportunity for an exchange of information that may lead to the modification, deletion, or removal of a violation, or parts of a violation, or enforcement remedy imposed by the department.

(2) The informal dispute resolution process provided by the department shall include, but is not necessarily limited to, an opportunity for review by a department employee who did not participate in, or oversee, the determination of the violation or enforcement remedy under dispute. The department shall develop, or further develop, an informal dispute resolution process consistent with this section.

(3) A request for an informal dispute resolution shall be made to the department within ten working days from the receipt of a written finding of a violation or enforcement remedy. The request shall identify the violation or violations and enforcement remedy or remedies being disputed. The department shall convene a meeting, when possible, within ten working days of receipt of the request for informal dispute resolution, unless by mutual agreement a later date is agreed upon.

(4) If the department determines that a violation or enforcement remedy should not be cited or imposed, the department shall delete the violation or immediately rescind or modify the enforcement remedy. Upon request, the department shall issue a clean copy of the revised report, statement of deficiencies, or notice of enforcement action.

(5) The request for informal dispute resolution does not delay the effective date of any enforcement remedy imposed by the department, except that civil monetary fines are not payable until the exhaustion of any formal hearing and appeal rights provided under this chapter. The licensee shall submit to the department, within the time period prescribed by the department, a plan of correction to address any undisputed violations, and including any violations that still remain following the informal dispute resolution. [2001 c 193 § 8.]

**70.128.170 Homes relying on prayer for healing—Application of chapter.** Nothing in this chapter or the rules adopted under it may be construed as authorizing the supervision, regulation, or control of the remedial care or treatment of residents in any adult family home conducted by and for the adherents of a church or religious denomination who rely upon spiritual means alone through prayer for healing in accordance with the tenets and practices of such church or religious denomination and the bona fide religious beliefs genuinely held by such adherents. [1989 c 427 § 33.]

**70.128.200 Toll-free telephone number for complaints—Discrimination or retaliation prohibited.** (1) The department shall maintain a toll-free telephone number for receiving complaints regarding adult family homes.

(2) An adult family home shall post in a place and manner clearly visible to residents and visitors the department's toll-free complaint telephone number.

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(3) No adult family home shall discriminate or retaliate in any manner against a resident on the basis or for the reason that such resident or any other person made a complaint to the department or the long-term care ombuds or cooperated with the investigation of such a complaint. [2013 c 23 § 183; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 30.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.210 Training standards review—Delivery system—Issues reviewed—Report to the legislature.** (1) The department of social and health services shall review, in coordination with the department of health, the nursing care quality assurance commission, adult family home providers, assisted living facility providers, in-home personal care providers, and long-term care consumers and advocates, training standards for providers, resident managers, and resident caregiving staff. The departments and the commission shall submit to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate by December 1, 1998, specific recommendations on training standards and the delivery system, including necessary statutory changes and funding requirements. Any proposed enhancements shall be consistent with this section, shall take into account and not duplicate other training requirements applicable to adult family homes and staff, and shall be developed with the input of adult family home and resident representatives, health care professionals, and other vested interest groups. Training standards and the delivery system shall be relevant to the needs of residents served by the adult family home and recipients of long-term in-home personal care services and shall be sufficient to ensure that providers, resident managers, and caregiving staff have the skills and knowledge necessary to provide high quality, appropriate care.

(2) The recommendations on training standards and the delivery system developed under subsection (1) of this section shall be based on a review and consideration of the following: Quality of care; availability of training; affordability, including the training costs incurred by the department of social and health services and private providers; portability of existing training requirements; competency testing; practical and clinical course work; methods of delivery of training; standards for management; uniform caregiving staff training; necessary enhancements for special needs populations; and resident rights training. Residents with special needs include, but are not limited to, residents with a diagnosis of mental illness, dementia, or developmental disability. Development of training recommendations for developmental disabilities services shall be coordinated with the study requirements in section 6, chapter 272, Laws of 1998.

(3) The department of social and health services shall report to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate by December 1, 1998, on the cost of implementing the proposed training standards for state-funded residents, and on the extent to which that cost is covered by existing state payment rates. [2012 c 10 § 56; 1998 c 272 § 3.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Findings—Severability—Effective date—1998 c 272:** See notes following RCW 18.20.230.

**70.128.220 Elder care—Professionalization of providers.** Adult family homes have developed rapidly in response to the health and social needs of the aging population in community settings, especially as the aging population has increased in proportion to the general population. The growing demand for elder care with a new focus on issues affecting senior citizens, including persons with developmental disabilities, mental illness, or dementia, has prompted a growing professionalization of adult family home providers to address quality care and quality of life issues consistent with standards of accountability and regulatory safeguards for the health and safety of the residents. [2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 209; 2002 c 223 § 3; 1998 c 272 § 9.]

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

**Findings—Severability—Effective date—1998 c 272:** See notes following RCW 18.20.230.

**70.128.230 Long-term caregiver training.** (1) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Caregiver" includes all adult family home resident managers and any person who provides residents with hands-on personal care on behalf of an adult family home, except volunteers who are directly supervised.

(b) "Indirect supervision" means oversight by a person who has demonstrated competency in the core areas or has been fully exempted from the training requirements pursuant to this section and is quickly and easily available to the caregiver, but not necessarily on-site.

(2) Training must have three components: Orientation, basic training, and continuing education. All adult family home providers, resident managers, and employees, or volunteers who routinely interact with residents shall complete orientation. Caregivers shall complete orientation, basic training, and continuing education.

(3) Orientation consists of introductory information on residents' rights, communication skills, fire and life safety, and universal precautions. Orientation must be provided at the facility by appropriate adult family home staff to all adult family home employees before the employees have routine interaction with residents.

(4) Basic training consists of modules on the core knowledge and skills that caregivers need to learn and understand to effectively and safely provide care to residents. Basic training must be outcome-based, and the effectiveness of the basic training must be measured by demonstrated competency in the core areas through the use of a competency test. Basic training must be completed by caregivers within one hundred twenty days of the date on which they begin to provide hands-on care. Until competency in the core areas has been demonstrated, caregivers shall not provide hands-on personal care to residents without direct supervision.

(5) For adult family homes that serve residents with special needs such as dementia, developmental disabilities, or mental illness, specialty training is required of providers and resident managers.

(a) Specialty training consists of modules on the core knowledge and skills that providers and resident managers need to effectively and safely provide care to residents with special needs. Specialty training should be integrated into

basic training wherever appropriate. Specialty training must be outcome-based, and the effectiveness of the specialty training measured by demonstrated competency in the core specialty areas through the use of a competency test.

(b) Specialty training must be completed by providers and resident managers before admitting and serving residents who have been determined to have special needs related to mental illness, dementia, or a developmental disability. Should a resident develop special needs while living in a home without specialty designation, the provider and resident manager have one hundred twenty days to complete specialty training.

(6) Continuing education consists of ongoing delivery of information to caregivers on various topics relevant to the care setting and care needs of residents. Competency testing is not required for continuing education. Continuing education is not required in the same calendar year in which basic or modified basic training is successfully completed. Continuing education is required in each calendar year thereafter. If specialty training is completed, the specialty training applies toward any continuing education requirement for up to two years following the completion of the specialty training.

(7) Persons who successfully challenge the competency test for basic training are fully exempt from the basic training requirements of this section. Persons who successfully challenge the specialty training competency test are fully exempt from the specialty training requirements of this section.

(8) (a) Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW are exempt from any continuing education requirement established under this section.

(b) The department may adopt rules that would exempt licensed persons from all or part of the training requirements under this chapter, if they are (i) performing the tasks for which they are licensed and (ii) subject to chapter 18.130 RCW.

(9) In an effort to improve access to training and education and reduce costs, especially for rural communities, the coordinated system of long-term care training and education must include the use of innovative types of learning strategies such as internet resources, videotapes, and distance learning using satellite technology coordinated through community colleges, private associations, or other entities, as defined by the department.

(10) Adult family homes that desire to deliver facility-based training with facility designated trainers, or adult family homes that desire to pool their resources to create shared training systems, must be encouraged by the department in their efforts. The department shall develop criteria for reviewing and approving trainers and training materials. The department may approve a curriculum based upon attestation by an adult family home administrator that the adult family home's training curriculum addresses basic and specialty training competencies identified by the department, and shall review a curriculum to verify that it meets these requirements. The department may conduct the review as part of the next regularly scheduled inspection authorized under RCW 70.128.070. The department shall rescind approval of any curriculum if it determines that the curriculum does not meet these requirements.

(11) The department shall adopt rules by September 1, 2002, for the implementation of this section.

(12)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the orientation, basic training, specialty training, and continuing education requirements of this section commence September 1, 2002, and shall be applied to (i) employees hired subsequent to September 1, 2002; or (ii) existing employees that on September 1, 2002, have not successfully completed the training requirements under RCW 70.128.120 or 70.128.130 and this section. Existing employees who have not successfully completed the training requirements under RCW 70.128.120 or 70.128.130 shall be subject to all applicable requirements of this section.

(b) Beginning January 7, 2012, long-term care workers, as defined in RCW 74.39A.009, employed by an adult family home are also subject to the training requirements under RCW 74.39A.074. [2013 c 259 § 5; 2012 c 164 § 705; 2002 c 233 § 3; 2000 c 121 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.128.240 Approval system—Department-approved training—Adoption of rules.** By March 1, 2002, the department must, by rule, create an approval system for those seeking to conduct department-approved training under RCW 70.128.230, \*70.128.120 (5) and (6), and \*\*70.128.130(10). The department shall adopt rules based on recommendations of the community long-term care training and education steering committee established in \*\*\*RCW 74.39A.190. [2000 c 121 § 7.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 70.128.120 was amended by 2001 c 319 § 8, changing subsections (5) and (6) to subsections (6) and (7).

\*\*\*(2) RCW 70.128.130 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 206, changing subsection (10) to subsection (16).

\*\*\*\*(3) RCW 74.39A.190 was repealed by 2007 c 361 § 10.

**70.128.250 Required training and continuing education—Food safety training and testing.** The department shall implement, as part of the required training and continuing education, food safety training and testing integrated into the curriculum that meets the standards established by the state board of health pursuant to chapter 69.06 RCW. Individual food handler permits are not required for persons who begin working in an adult family home after June 30, 2005, and successfully complete the basic and modified-basic caregiver training, provided they receive information or training regarding safe food handling practices from the employer prior to providing food handling or service for the clients. Documentation that the information or training has been provided to the individual must be kept on file by the employer.

Licensed adult family home providers or employees who hold individual food handler permits prior to June 30, 2005, will be required to maintain continuing education of .5 hours per year in order to maintain food handling and safety training. Licensed adult family home providers or employees who hold individual food handler permits prior to June 30, 2005, will not be required to renew the permit provided the continuing education requirement as stated above is met. [2005 c 505 § 6.]

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**70.128.260 Limitation on restrictive covenants.** (1) To effectuate the public policies of this chapter, restrictive covenants may not limit, directly or indirectly:

(a) Persons with disabilities from living in an adult family home licensed under this chapter; or

(b) Persons and legal entities from operating adult family homes licensed under this chapter, whether for-profit or non-profit, to provide services covered under this chapter. However, this subsection does not prohibit application of reasonable nondiscriminatory regulation, including but not limited to landscaping standards or regulation of sign location or size, that applies to all residential property subject to the restrictive covenant.

(2) This section applies retroactively to all restrictive covenants in effect on July 26, 2009. Any provision in a restrictive covenant in effect on or after July 26, 2009, that is inconsistent with subsection (1) of this section is unenforceable to the extent of the conflict. [2009 c 530 § 3.]

**70.128.270 Legislative intent—Enacting recommendations included in the adult family home quality assurance panel report.** (1) The protection of vulnerable residents living in adult family homes and other long-term care facilities in the state is a matter of ongoing concern and grave importance. In 2011, the legislature examined problems with the quality of care and oversight of adult family homes in Washington. The 2011 legislature passed Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1277 to address some of these issues, and in addition, created an adult family home quality assurance panel, chaired by the state long-term care ombudsman [ombuds], to meet and make recommendations to the governor and legislature by December 1, 2012, for further improvements in adult family home care and the oversight of the homes by the department of social and health services.

(2) The legislature recognizes that significant progress has been made over the years in adult family home care, and that many adult family homes provide high quality care and are the preferred alternative for many residents in contrast to a larger care facility setting. The legislature finds however that the quality of care in some adult family homes would be improved, and abuse and neglect would decline, if these homes' caregivers and providers received better training and mentoring, residents and their families were more informed and able to select an appropriate home, and oversight by the department of social and health services was more vigorous and prompt against poorly performing homes. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to enact the recommendations included in the adult family home quality assurance panel report in order to improve the quality of care of vulnerable residents and the department's oversight of adult family homes. [2013 c 300 § 1.]

(2) The legislature recognizes that significant progress has been made over the years in adult family home care, and that many adult family homes provide high quality care and are the preferred alternative for many residents in contrast to a larger care facility setting. The legislature finds however that the quality of care in some adult family homes would be improved, and abuse and neglect would decline, if these homes' caregivers and providers received better training and mentoring, residents and their families were more informed and able to select an appropriate home, and oversight by the department of social and health services was more vigorous and prompt against poorly performing homes. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to enact the recommendations included in the adult family home quality assurance panel report in order to improve the quality of care of vulnerable residents and the department's oversight of adult family homes. [2013 c 300 § 1.]

**70.128.280 Required disclosure—Forms—Decrease in scope of care, services, activities—Notice—Increased needs of a resident—Denial of admission to a prospective resident—Department web site.** (1) In order to enhance the selection of an appropriate adult family home, all adult family homes licensed under this chapter shall disclose the scope of, and charges for, the care, services, and activities provided by the home or customarily arranged for by the home. The disclosure must be provided to the home's residents and the

residents' representatives, if any, prior to admission, and to interested prospective residents and their representatives upon request, using standardized disclosure forms developed by the department with stakeholders' input. The home may also disclose supplemental information to prospective residents and other interested persons.

(2)(a) The disclosure forms that the department develops must be standardized, reasonable in length, and easy to read. The form setting forth the scope of an adult family home's care, services, and activities must be available from the adult family home through a link to the department's web site developed pursuant to this section. This form must indicate, among other categories, the scope of personal care and medication service provided, the scope of skilled nursing services or nursing delegation provided or available, any specialty care designations held by the adult family home, the customary number of caregivers present during the day and whether the home has awake staff at night, any particular cultural or language access available, and clearly state whether the home admits medicaid clients or retains residents who later become eligible for medicaid. The adult family home shall provide or arrange for the care, services, and activities disclosed in its form.

(b) The department must also develop a second standardized disclosure form with stakeholders' input for use by adult family homes to set forth an adult family home's charges for its care, services, items, and activities, including the charges not covered by the home's daily or monthly rate, or by medicaid, medicare, or other programs. This form must be available from the home and disclosed to residents and their representatives, if any, prior to admission, and to interested prospective residents and their representatives upon request.

(3)(a) If the adult family home decreases the scope of care, services, or activities it provides, due to circumstances beyond the home's control, the home shall provide a minimum of thirty days' written notice to the residents, and the residents' representative if any, before the effective date of the decrease in the scope of care, services, or activities provided.

(b) If the adult family home voluntarily decreases the scope of care, services, or activities it provides, and any such decrease will result in the discharge of one or more residents, then ninety days' written notice must be provided prior to the effective date of the decrease. Notice must be given to the residents and the residents' representative, if any.

(c) If the adult family home increases the scope of care, services, or activities it provides, the home shall promptly provide written notice to the residents, and the residents' representative if any, and shall indicate the date on which the increase is effective.

(4) When the care needs of a resident exceed the disclosed scope of care or services that the adult family home provides, the home may exceed the care or services previously disclosed, provided that the additional care or services are permitted by the adult family home's license, and the home can safely and appropriately serve the resident with available staff or through the provision of reasonable accommodations required by state or federal law. The provision of care or services to a resident that exceed those previously disclosed by the home does not mean that the home is capable of or required to provide the same care or services to other resi-

dents, unless required as a reasonable accommodation under state or federal law.

(5) An adult family home may deny admission to a prospective resident if the home determines that the needs of the prospective resident cannot be met, so long as the adult family home operates in compliance with state and federal law, including RCW 70.129.030(3) and the reasonable accommodation requirements of state and federal antidiscrimination laws.

(6) The department shall work with consumers, advocates, and other stakeholders to combine and improve existing web resources to create a more robust, comprehensive, and user-friendly web site for family members, residents, and prospective residents of adult family homes in Washington. The department may contract with outside vendors and experts to assist in the development of the web site. The web site should be easy to navigate and have links to information important for residents, prospective residents, and their family members or representatives including, but not limited to: (a) Explanations of the types of licensed long-term care facilities, levels of care, and specialty designations; (b) lists of suggested questions when looking for a care facility; (c) warning signs of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation; and (d) contact information for the department and the long-term care ombudsman [ombuds]. In addition, the consumer oriented web site should include a searchable list of all adult family homes in Washington, with links to inspection and investigation reports and any enforcement actions by the department for the previous three years. If a violation or enforcement remedy is deleted, rescinded, or modified under RCW 70.128.167 or chapter 34.05 RCW, the department shall make the appropriate changes to the information on the web site as soon as reasonably feasible, but no later than thirty days after the violation or enforcement remedy has been deleted, rescinded, or modified. To facilitate the comparison of adult family homes, the web site should also include a link to each licensed adult family home's disclosure form required by subsection (2)(a) of this section. The department's web site should also include periodically updated information about whether an adult family home has a current vacancy, if the home provides such information to the department, or may include links to other consumer-oriented web sites with the vacancy information. [2013 c 300 § 3.]

**70.128.290 Correction of a violation or deficiency—Not included in a home's report—Criteria.** (1) If during an inspection, reinspection, or complaint investigation by the department, an adult family home corrects a violation or deficiency that the department discovers, the department shall record and consider such violation or deficiency for purposes of the home's compliance history; however, the licensor or complaint investigator may not include in the home's report the violation or deficiency if the violation or deficiency:

(a) Is corrected to the satisfaction of the department prior to the exit conference;

(b) Is not recurring; and

(c) Did not pose a significant risk of harm or actual harm to a resident.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "recurring" means that the violation or deficiency was found under the same regulation or statute in one of the two most recent preceding

inspections, reinspections, or complaint investigations. [2013 c 300 § 5.]

**70.128.901 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 155.]

**Chapter 70.129 RCW  
LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENT RIGHTS**

Sections

- 70.129.005 Intent—Basic rights.
- 70.129.007 Rights are minimal—Other rights not diminished.
- 70.129.010 Definitions.
- 70.129.020 Exercise of rights.
- 70.129.030 Notice of rights and services—Admission of individuals.
- 70.129.040 Protection of resident's funds—Financial affairs rights.
- 70.129.050 Privacy and confidentiality of personal and medical records.
- 70.129.060 Grievances.
- 70.129.070 Examination of survey or inspection results—Contact with client advocates.
- 70.129.080 Mail and telephone—Privacy in communications.
- 70.129.090 Advocacy, access, and visitation rights.
- 70.129.100 Personal property—Storage space.
- 70.129.105 Waiver of liability and resident rights limited.
- 70.129.110 Disclosure, transfer, and discharge requirements.
- 70.129.120 Restraints—Physical or chemical.
- 70.129.130 Abuse, punishment, seclusion—Background checks.
- 70.129.140 Quality of life—Rights.
- 70.129.150 Disclosure of fees and notice requirements—Deposits.
- 70.129.160 Ombuds implementation duties.
- 70.129.170 Nonjudicial remedies through regulatory authorities encouraged—Remedies cumulative.
- 70.129.180 Facility's policy on accepting medicaid as a payment source—Disclosure.
- 70.129.901 Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 214.

**70.129.005 Intent—Basic rights.** The legislature recognizes that long-term care facilities are a critical part of the state's long-term care services system. It is the intent of the legislature that individuals who reside in long-term care facilities receive appropriate services, be treated with courtesy, and continue to enjoy their basic civil and legal rights.

It is also the intent of the legislature that long-term care facility residents have the opportunity to exercise reasonable control over life decisions. The legislature finds that choice, participation, privacy, and the opportunity to engage in religious, political, civic, recreational, and other social activities foster a sense of self-worth and enhance the quality of life for long-term care residents.

The legislature finds that the public interest would be best served by providing the same basic resident rights in all long-term care settings. Residents in nursing facilities are guaranteed certain rights by federal law and regulation, 42

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U.S.C. 1396r and 42 C.F.R. part 483. It is the intent of the legislature to extend those basic rights to residents in veterans' homes, assisted living facilities, and adult family homes.

The legislature intends that a facility should care for its residents in a manner and in an environment that promotes maintenance or enhancement of each resident's quality of life. A resident should have a safe, clean, comfortable, and homelike environment, allowing the resident to use his or her personal belongings to the extent possible. [2012 c 10 § 57; 1994 c 214 § 1.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.129.007 Rights are minimal—Other rights not diminished.** The rights set forth in this chapter are the minimal rights guaranteed to all residents of long-term care facilities, and are not intended to diminish rights set forth in other state or federal laws that may contain additional rights. [1994 c 214 § 20.]

**70.129.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means the department of state government responsible for licensing the provider in question.

(2) "Facility" means a long-term care facility.

(3) "Long-term care facility" means a facility that is licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 18.20, 72.36, or 70.128 RCW.

(4) "Resident" means the individual receiving services in a long-term care facility, that resident's attorney-in-fact, guardian, or other legal representative acting within the scope of their authority.

(5) "Physical restraint" means a manual method, obstacle, or physical or mechanical device, material, or equipment attached or adjacent to the resident's body that restricts freedom of movement or access to his or her body, is used for discipline or convenience, and not required to treat the resident's medical symptoms.

(6) "Chemical restraint" means a psychopharmacologic drug that is used for discipline or convenience and not required to treat the resident's medical symptoms.

(7) "Representative" means a person appointed under RCW 7.70.065.

(8) "Reasonable accommodation" by a facility to the needs of a prospective or current resident has the meaning given to this term under the federal Americans with disabilities act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. and other applicable federal or state antidiscrimination laws and regulations. [1997 c 392 § 203; 1994 c 214 § 2.]

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

**70.129.020 Exercise of rights.** The resident has a right to a dignified existence, self-determination, and communication with and access to persons and services inside and outside the facility. A facility must protect and promote the rights of each resident and assist the resident which include:

(1) The resident has the right to exercise his or her rights as a resident of the facility and as a citizen or resident of the United States and the state of Washington.

(2) The resident has the right to be free of interference, coercion, discrimination, and reprisal from the facility in exercising his or her rights.

(3) In the case of a resident adjudged incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction, the rights of the resident are exercised by the person appointed to act on the resident's behalf.

(4) In the case of a resident who has not been adjudged incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction, a representative may exercise the resident's rights to the extent provided by law. [1994 c 214 § 3.]

**70.129.030 Notice of rights and services—Admission of individuals.** (1) The facility must inform the resident both orally and in writing in a language that the resident understands of his or her rights and all rules and regulations governing resident conduct and responsibilities during the stay in the facility. The notification must be made prior to or upon admission. Receipt of the information must be acknowledged in writing.

(2) The resident or his or her legal representative has the right:

(a) Upon an oral or written request, to access all records pertaining to himself or herself including clinical records within twenty-four hours; and

(b) After receipt of his or her records for inspection, to purchase at a cost not to exceed the community standard photocopies of the records or portions of them upon request and two working days' advance notice to the facility.

(3) The facility shall only admit or retain individuals whose needs it can safely and appropriately serve in the facility with appropriate available staff and through the provision of reasonable accommodations required by state or federal law. Except in cases of genuine emergency, the facility shall not admit an individual before obtaining a thorough assessment of the resident's needs and preferences. The assessment shall contain, unless unavailable despite the best efforts of the facility, the resident applicant, and other interested parties, the following minimum information: Recent medical history; necessary and contraindicated medications; a licensed medical or other health professional's diagnosis, unless the individual objects for religious reasons; significant known behaviors or symptoms that may cause concern or require special care; mental illness, except where protected by confidentiality laws; level of personal care needs; activities and service preferences; and preferences regarding other issues important to the resident applicant, such as food and daily routine.

(4) The facility must inform each resident in writing in a language the resident or his or her representative understands before admission, and at least once every twenty-four months thereafter of: (a) Services, items, and activities customarily available in the facility or arranged for by the facility as permitted by the facility's license; (b) charges for those services, items, and activities including charges for services, items, and activities not covered by the facility's per diem rate or applicable public benefit programs; and (c) the rules of facility operations required under RCW 70.129.140(2). Each resident and his or her representative must be informed in writ-

ing in advance of changes in the availability or the charges for services, items, or activities, or of changes in the facility's rules. Except in emergencies, thirty days' advance notice must be given prior to the change. However, for facilities licensed for six or fewer residents, if there has been a substantial and continuing change in the resident's condition necessitating substantially greater or lesser services, items, or activities, then the charges for those services, items, or activities may be changed upon fourteen days' advance written notice.

(5) The facility must furnish a written description of residents rights that includes:

(a) A description of the manner of protecting personal funds, under RCW 70.129.040;

(b) A posting of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the state survey and certification agency, the state licensure office, the state ombuds program, and the protection and advocacy systems; and

(c) A statement that the resident may file a complaint with the appropriate state licensing agency concerning alleged resident abuse, neglect, and misappropriation of resident property in the facility.

(6) Notification of changes.

(a) A facility must immediately consult with the resident's physician, and if known, make reasonable efforts to notify the resident's legal representative or an interested family member when there is:

(i) An accident involving the resident which requires or has the potential for requiring physician intervention;

(ii) A significant change in the resident's physical, mental, or psychosocial status (i.e., a deterioration in health, mental, or psychosocial status in either life-threatening conditions or clinical complications).

(b) The facility must promptly notify the resident or the resident's representative shall make reasonable efforts to notify an interested family member, if known, when there is:

(i) A change in room or roommate assignment; or

(ii) A decision to transfer or discharge the resident from the facility.

(c) The facility must record and update the address and phone number of the resident's representative or interested family member, upon receipt of notice from them. [2013 c 23 § 184; 1998 c 272 § 5; 1997 c 386 § 31; 1994 c 214 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.129.040 Protection of resident's funds—Financial affairs rights.** (1) The resident has the right to manage his or her financial affairs, and the facility may not require residents to deposit their personal funds with the facility.

(2) Upon written authorization of a resident, if the facility agrees to manage the resident's personal funds, the facility must hold, safeguard, manage, and account for the personal funds of the resident deposited with the facility as specified in this section.

(a) The facility must deposit a resident's personal funds in excess of one hundred dollars in an interest-bearing account or accounts that is separate from any of the facility's operating accounts, and that credits all interest earned on residents' funds to that account. In pooled accounts, there must be a separate accounting for each resident's share.

(b) The facility must maintain a resident's personal funds that do not exceed one hundred dollars in a noninterest-bearing account, interest-bearing account, or petty cash fund.

(3) The facility must establish and maintain a system that assures a full and complete and separate accounting of each resident's personal funds entrusted to the facility on the resident's behalf.

(a) The system must preclude any commingling of resident funds with facility funds or with the funds of any person other than another resident.

(b) The individual financial record must be available on request to the resident or his or her legal representative.

(4) Upon the death of a resident with personal funds deposited with the facility, the facility must convey within thirty days the resident's funds, and a final accounting of those funds, to the individual or probate jurisdiction administering the resident's estate; but in the case of a resident who received long-term care services paid for by the state, the funds and accounting shall be sent to the state of Washington, department of social and health services, office of financial recovery. The department shall establish a release procedure for use for burial expenses.

(5) If any funds in excess of one hundred dollars are paid to an adult family home by the resident or a representative of the resident, as a security deposit for performance of the resident's obligations, or as prepayment of charges beyond the first month's residency, the funds shall be deposited by the adult family home in an interest-bearing account that is separate from any of the home's operating accounts, and that credits all interest earned on the resident's funds to that account. In pooled accounts, there must be a separate accounting for each resident's share. The account or accounts shall be in a financial institution as defined by \*RCW 30.22.041, and the resident shall be notified in writing of the name, address, and location of the depository. The adult family home may not commingle resident funds from these accounts with the adult family home's funds or with the funds of any person other than another resident. The individual resident's account record shall be available upon request by the resident or the resident's representative.

(6) The adult family home shall provide the resident or the resident's representative full disclosure in writing, prior to the receipt of any funds for a deposit, security, prepaid charges, or any other fees or charges, specifying what the funds are paid for and the basis for retaining any portion of the funds if the resident dies, is hospitalized, or is transferred or discharged from the adult family home. The disclosure must be in a language that the resident or the resident's representative understands, and be acknowledged in writing by the resident or the resident's representative. The adult family home shall retain a copy of the disclosure and the acknowledgment. The adult family home may not retain funds for reasonable wear and tear by the resident or for any basis that would violate RCW 70.129.150.

(7) Funds paid by the resident or the resident's representative to the adult family home, which the adult family home in turn pays to a placement agency or person, shall be governed by the disclosure requirements of this section. If the resident then dies, is hospitalized, or is transferred or discharged from the adult family home, and is entitled to any refund of funds under this section or RCW 70.129.150, the

adult family home shall refund the funds to the resident or the resident's representative within thirty days of the resident leaving the adult family home, and may not require the resident to obtain the refund from the placement agency or person.

(8) If, during the stay of the resident, the status of the adult family home licensee or ownership is changed or transferred to another, any funds in the resident's accounts affected by the change or transfer shall simultaneously be deposited in an equivalent account or accounts by the successor or new licensee or owner, who shall promptly notify the resident or the resident's representative in writing of the name, address, and location of the new depository.

(9) Because it is a matter of great public importance to protect residents who need long-term care from deceptive disclosures and unfair retention of deposits, fees, or prepaid charges by adult family homes, a violation of this section or RCW 70.129.150 shall be construed for purposes of the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW, to constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice or an unfair method of competition in the conduct of trade or commerce. The resident's claim to any funds paid under this section shall be prior to that of any creditor of the adult family home, its owner, or licensee, even if such funds are commingled. [2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 301; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 66; 1994 c 214 § 5.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 30.22.041 was recodified as RCW 30A.22.041 pursuant to 2014 c 37 § 4, effective January 5, 2015.

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.129.050 Privacy and confidentiality of personal and medical records.** The resident has the right to personal privacy and confidentiality of his or her personal and clinical records.

(1) Personal privacy includes accommodations, medical treatment, written and telephone communications, personal care, visits, and meetings of family and resident groups. This does not require the facility to provide a private room for each resident however, a resident cannot be prohibited by the facility from meeting with guests in his or her bedroom if no roommates object.

(2) The resident may approve or refuse the release of personal and clinical records to an individual outside the facility unless otherwise provided by law. [1994 c 214 § 6.]

**70.129.060 Grievances.** A resident has the right to:

(1) Voice grievances. Such grievances include those with respect to treatment that has been furnished as well as that which has not been furnished; and

(2) Prompt efforts by the facility to resolve grievances the resident may have, including those with respect to the behavior of other residents. [1994 c 214 § 7.]

**70.129.070 Examination of survey or inspection results—Contact with client advocates.** A resident has the right to:

(1) Examine the results of the most recent survey or inspection of the facility conducted by federal or state surveyors or inspectors and plans of correction in effect with respect to the facility. A notice that the results are available

must be publicly posted with the facility's state license, and the results must be made available for examination by the facility in a place readily accessible to residents; and

(2) Receive information from agencies acting as client advocates, and be afforded the opportunity to contact these agencies. [1994 c 214 § 8.]

**70.129.080 Mail and telephone—Privacy in communications.** The resident has the right to privacy in communications, including the right to:

- (1) Send and promptly receive mail that is unopened;
- (2) Have access to stationery, postage, and writing implements at the resident's own expense; and
- (3) Have reasonable access to the use of a telephone where calls can be made without being overheard. [1994 c 214 § 9.]

**70.129.090 Advocacy, access, and visitation rights.**

(1) The resident has the right and the facility must not interfere with access to any resident by the following:

- (a) Any representative of the state;
- (b) The resident's individual physician;
- (c) The state long-term care ombuds as established under chapter 43.190 RCW;
- (d) The agency responsible for the protection and advocacy system for individuals with developmental disabilities as established under part C of the developmental disabilities assistance and bill of rights act;

(e) The agency responsible for the protection and advocacy system for individuals with mental illness as established under the protection and advocacy for mentally ill individuals act;

(f) Subject to reasonable restrictions to protect the rights of others and to the resident's right to deny or withdraw consent at any time, immediate family or other relatives of the resident and others who are visiting with the consent of the resident;

(g) The agency responsible for the protection and advocacy system for individuals with disabilities as established under section 509 of the rehabilitation act of 1973, as amended, who are not served under the mandates of existing protection and advocacy systems created under federal law.

(2) The facility must provide reasonable access to a resident by his or her representative or an entity or individual that provides health, social, legal, or other services to the resident, subject to the resident's right to deny or withdraw consent at any time.

(3) The facility must allow representatives of the state ombuds to examine a resident's clinical records with the permission of the resident or the resident's legal representative, and consistent with state and federal law. [2013 c 23 § 185; 1994 c 214 § 10.]

**70.129.100 Personal property—Storage space.** (1) The resident has the right to retain and use personal possessions, including some furnishings, and appropriate clothing, as space permits, unless to do so would infringe upon the rights or health and safety of other residents.

(2) The facility shall, upon request, provide the resident with a lockable container or other lockable storage space for small items of personal property, unless the resident's indi-

vidual room is lockable with a key issued to the resident. [1994 c 214 § 11.]

**70.129.105 Waiver of liability and resident rights limited.** No long-term care facility or nursing facility licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW shall require or request residents to sign waivers of potential liability for losses of personal property or injury, or to sign waivers of residents' rights set forth in this chapter or in the applicable licensing or certification laws. [1997 c 392 § 211; 1994 c 214 § 17.]

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

**70.129.110 Disclosure, transfer, and discharge requirements.** (1) The facility must permit each resident to remain in the facility, and not transfer or discharge the resident from the facility unless:

(a) The transfer or discharge is necessary for the resident's welfare and the resident's needs cannot be met in the facility;

(b) The safety of individuals in the facility is endangered;

(c) The health of individuals in the facility would otherwise be endangered;

(d) The resident has failed to make the required payment for his or her stay; or

(e) The facility ceases to operate.

(2) All long-term care facilities shall fully disclose to potential residents or their legal representative the service capabilities of the facility prior to admission to the facility. If the care needs of the applicant who is medicaid eligible are in excess of the facility's service capabilities, the department shall identify other care settings or residential care options consistent with federal law.

(3) Before a long-term care facility transfers or discharges a resident, the facility must:

(a) First attempt through reasonable accommodations to avoid the transfer or discharge, unless agreed to by the resident;

(b) Notify the resident and representative and make a reasonable effort to notify, if known, an interested family member of the transfer or discharge and the reasons for the move in writing and in a language and manner they understand;

(c) Record the reasons in the resident's record; and

(d) Include in the notice the items described in subsection (5) of this section.

(4)(a) Except when specified in this subsection, the notice of transfer or discharge required under subsection (3) of this section must be made by the facility at least thirty days before the resident is transferred or discharged.

(b) Notice may be made as soon as practicable before transfer or discharge when:

(i) The safety of individuals in the facility would be endangered;

(ii) The health of individuals in the facility would be endangered;

(iii) An immediate transfer or discharge is required by the resident's urgent medical needs; or

(iv) A resident has not resided in the facility for thirty days.

(5) The written notice specified in subsection (3) of this section must include the following:

- (a) The reason for transfer or discharge;
- (b) The effective date of transfer or discharge;
- (c) The location to which the resident is transferred or discharged;

(d) The name, address, and telephone number of the state long-term care ombuds;

(e) For residents with developmental disabilities, the mailing address and telephone number of the agency responsible for the protection and advocacy of individuals with developmental disabilities established under part C of the developmental disabilities assistance and bill of rights act; and

(f) For residents with mental illness, the mailing address and telephone number of the agency responsible for the protection and advocacy of individuals with mental illness established under the protection and advocacy for mentally ill individuals act.

(6) A facility must provide sufficient preparation and orientation to residents to ensure safe and orderly transfer or discharge from the facility.

(7) A resident discharged in violation of this section has the right to be readmitted immediately upon the first availability of a gender-appropriate bed in the facility. [2013 c 23 § 186; 1997 c 392 § 205; 1994 c 214 § 12.]

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

**70.129.120 Restraints—Physical or chemical.** The resident has the right to be free from physical restraint or chemical restraint. This section does not require or prohibit facility staff from reviewing the judgment of the resident's physician in prescribing psychopharmacologic medications. [1994 c 214 § 13.]

**70.129.130 Abuse, punishment, seclusion—Background checks.** The resident has the right to be free from verbal, sexual, physical, and mental abuse, corporal punishment, and involuntary seclusion.

(1) The facility must not use verbal, mental, sexual, or physical abuse, including corporal punishment or involuntary seclusion.

(2) Subject to available resources, the department of social and health services shall provide background checks required by RCW 43.43.842 for employees of facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW without charge to the facility. [1994 c 214 § 14.]

**70.129.140 Quality of life—Rights.** (1) The facility must promote care for residents in a manner and in an environment that maintains or enhances each resident's dignity and respect in full recognition of his or her individuality.

(2) Within reasonable facility rules designed to protect the rights and quality of life of residents, the resident has the right to:

- (a) Choose activities, schedules, and health care consistent with his or her interests, assessments, and plans of care;

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(b) Interact with members of the community both inside and outside the facility;

(c) Make choices about aspects of his or her life in the facility that are significant to the resident;

(d) Wear his or her own clothing and determine his or her own dress, hair style, or other personal effects according to individual preference;

(e) Unless adjudged incompetent or otherwise found to be legally incapacitated, participate in planning care and treatment or changes in care and treatment;

(f) Unless adjudged incompetent or otherwise found to be legally incapacitated, to direct his or her own service plan and changes in the service plan, and to refuse any particular service so long as such refusal is documented in the record of the resident.

(3)(a) A resident has the right to organize and participate in resident groups in the facility.

(b) A resident's family has the right to meet in the facility with the families of other residents in the facility.

(c) The facility must provide a resident or family group, if one exists, with meeting space.

(d) Staff or visitors may attend meetings at the group's invitation.

(e) When a resident or family group exists, the facility must listen to the views and act upon the grievances and recommendations of residents and families concerning proposed policy and operational decisions affecting resident care and life in the facility.

(f) The resident has the right to refuse to perform services for the facility except as voluntarily agreed by the resident and the facility in the resident's service plan.

(4) A resident has the right to participate in social, religious, and community activities that do not interfere with the rights of other residents in the facility.

(5) A resident has the right to:

(a) Reside and receive services in the facility with reasonable accommodation of individual needs and preferences, except when the health or safety of the individual or other residents would be endangered; and

(b) Receive notice before the resident's room or roommate in the facility is changed.

(6) A resident has the right to share a double room with his or her spouse or domestic partner when residents who are married to each other or in a domestic partnership with each other live in the same facility and both spouses or both domestic partners consent to the arrangement. [2008 c 6 § 304; 1994 c 214 § 15.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**70.129.150 Disclosure of fees and notice requirements—Deposits.** (1) Prior to admission, all long-term care facilities or nursing facilities licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW that require payment of an admissions fee, deposit, or a minimum stay fee, by or on behalf of a person seeking admission to the long-term care facility or nursing facility, shall provide the resident, or his or her representative, full disclosure in writing in a language the resident or his or her representative understands, a statement of the amount of any admissions fees, deposits, prepaid charges, or minimum stay fees. The facility shall also disclose to the person, or his or

her representative, the facility's advance notice or transfer requirements, prior to admission. In addition, the long-term care facility or nursing facility shall also fully disclose in writing prior to admission what portion of the deposits, admissions fees, prepaid charges, or minimum stay fees will be refunded to the resident or his or her representative if the resident leaves the long-term care facility or nursing facility. Receipt of the disclosures required under this subsection must be acknowledged in writing. If the facility does not provide these disclosures, the deposits, admissions fees, prepaid charges, or minimum stay fees may not be kept by the facility. If a resident dies or is hospitalized or is transferred to another facility for more appropriate care and does not return to the original facility, the facility shall refund any deposit or charges already paid less the facility's per diem rate for the days the resident actually resided or reserved or retained a bed in the facility notwithstanding any minimum stay policy or discharge notice requirements, except that the facility may retain an additional amount to cover its reasonable, actual expenses incurred as a result of a private-pay resident's move, not to exceed five days' per diem charges, unless the resident has given advance notice in compliance with the admission agreement. All long-term care facilities or nursing facilities covered under this section are required to refund any and all refunds due the resident or his or her representative within thirty days from the resident's date of discharge from the facility. Nothing in this section applies to provisions in contracts negotiated between a nursing facility or long-term care facility and a certified health plan, health or disability insurer, health maintenance organization, managed care organization, or similar entities.

(2) Where a long-term care facility or nursing facility requires the execution of an admission contract by or on behalf of an individual seeking admission to the facility, the terms of the contract shall be consistent with the requirements of this section, and the terms of an admission contract by a long-term care facility shall be consistent with the requirements of this chapter. [1997 c 392 § 206; 1994 c 214 § 16.]

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

**70.129.160 Ombuds implementation duties.** The long-term care ombuds shall monitor implementation of this chapter and determine the degree to which veterans' homes, nursing facilities, adult family homes, and assisted living facilities ensure that residents are able to exercise their rights. The long-term care ombuds shall consult with the departments of health and social and health services, long-term care facility organizations, resident groups, senior citizen organizations, and organizations concerning individuals with disabilities. [2013 c 23 § 187; 2012 c 10 § 58; 1998 c 245 § 113; 1994 c 214 § 18.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**70.129.170 Nonjudicial remedies through regulatory authorities encouraged—Remedies cumulative.** The legislature intends that long-term care facility or nursing home residents, their family members or guardians, the long-term care ombuds, protection and advocacy personnel identified in

RCW 70.129.110(5) (e) and (f), and others who may seek to assist long-term care facility or nursing home residents, use the least formal means available to satisfactorily resolve disputes that may arise regarding the rights conferred by the provisions of this chapter and RCW 18.20.180, 18.51.009, 72.36.037, and 70.128.125. Wherever feasible, direct discussion with facility personnel or administrators should be employed. Failing that, and where feasible, recourse may be sought through state or federal long-term care or nursing home licensing or other regulatory authorities. However, the procedures suggested in this section are cumulative and shall not restrict an agency or person from seeking a remedy provided by law or from obtaining additional relief based on the same facts, including any remedy available to an individual at common law. Chapter 214, Laws of 1994 is not intended to, and shall not be construed to, create any right of action on the part of any individual beyond those in existence under any common law or statutory doctrine. Chapter 214, Laws of 1994 is not intended to, and shall not be construed to, operate in derogation of any right of action on the part of any individual in existence on June 9, 1994. [2013 c 23 § 188; 1994 c 214 § 19.]

**70.129.180 Facility's policy on accepting medicaid as a payment source—Disclosure.** (1) A long-term care facility must fully disclose to residents the facility's policy on accepting medicaid as a payment source. The policy shall clearly state the circumstances under which the facility provides care for medicaid eligible residents and for residents who may later become eligible for medicaid.

(2) The policy under this section must be provided to residents orally and in writing prior to admission, in a language that the resident or the resident's representative understands. The written policy must be in type font no smaller than fourteen point and written on a page that is separate from other documents. The policy must be signed and dated by the resident or the resident's representative, if the resident lacks capacity. The facility must retain a copy of the disclosure. Current residents must receive a copy of the policy consistent with this section by July 26, 2009. [2009 c 489 § 1.]

**70.129.901 Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 214.** If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [1994 c 214 § 27.]

## Chapter 70.132 RCW BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

### Sections

- 70.132.010 Legislative findings.
- 70.132.020 Definitions.
- 70.132.030 Sale of containers with detachable metal rings or tabs prohibited.
- 70.132.040 Enforcement—Rules.

70.132.050 Penalty.

70.132.900 Effective date—Implementation—1982 c 113.

**70.132.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that beverage containers designed to be opened through the use of detachable metal rings or tabs are hazardous to the health and welfare of the citizens of this state and detrimental to certain wildlife. The detachable parts are susceptible to ingestion by human beings and wildlife. The legislature intends to eliminate the danger posed by these unnecessary containers by prohibiting their retail sale in this state. [1982 c 113 § 1.]

**70.132.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter:

(1) "Beverage" means beer or other malt beverage or mineral water, soda water, or other drink in liquid form and intended for human consumption. The term does not include milk-based, soy-based, or similar products requiring heat and pressure in the canning process.

(2) "Beverage container" means a separate and sealed can containing a beverage.

(3) "Department" means the department of ecology created under chapter 43.21A RCW. [1983 c 257 § 1; 1982 c 113 § 2.]

**70.132.030 Sale of containers with detachable metal rings or tabs prohibited.** No person may sell or offer to sell at retail in this state any beverage container so designed and constructed that a metal part of the container is detachable in opening the container through use of a metal ring or tab. Nothing in this section prohibits the sale of a beverage container which container's only detachable part is a piece of pressure sensitive or metallic tape. [1982 c 113 § 3.]

**70.132.040 Enforcement—Rules.** The department shall administer and enforce this chapter. The department shall adopt rules interpreting and implementing this chapter. Any rule adopted under this section shall be adopted under the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. [1982 c 113 § 4.]

**70.132.050 Penalty.** Except as provided in RCW 43.05.060 through 43.05.080 and 43.05.150, any person who violates any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted under this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars for each violation. Each day of a continuing violation is a separate violation. [1995 c 403 § 632; 1982 c 113 § 5.]

**Findings—Short title—Intent—1995 c 403:** See note following RCW 34.05.328.

**70.132.900 Effective date—Implementation—1982 c 113.** This act shall take effect on July 1, 1983. The director of the department of ecology is authorized to take such steps prior to such date as are necessary to ensure that this act is implemented on its effective date. [1982 c 113 § 7.]

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## Chapter 70.136 RCW

### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

#### Sections

- 70.136.010 Legislative intent.
- 70.136.020 Definitions.
- 70.136.030 Incident command agencies—Designation by political subdivisions.
- 70.136.035 Incident command agencies—Assistance from state patrol.
- 70.136.040 Incident command agencies—Emergency assistance agreements.
- 70.136.050 Persons and agencies rendering emergency aid in hazardous materials incidents—Immunity from liability—Limitations.
- 70.136.060 Written emergency assistance agreements—Terms and conditions—Records.
- 70.136.070 Verbal emergency assistance agreements—Good Samaritan law—Notification—Form.

*Emergency management: Chapter 38.52 RCW.*

*Hazardous waste disposal: Chapter 70.105 RCW.*

*Radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response programs, state coordinator: RCW 38.52.030.*

*Transport of hazardous materials, state patrol authority over: Chapter 46.48 RCW.*

**70.136.010 Legislative intent.** It is the intent of the legislature to promote and encourage advance planning, cooperation, and mutual assistance between applicable political subdivisions of the state and persons with equipment, personnel, and expertise in the handling of hazardous materials incidents, by establishing limitations on liability for those persons responding in accordance with the provisions of RCW 70.136.020 through 70.136.070. [1982 c 172 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** Although 1982 c 172 directed that sections 1 through 7 of that enactment be added to chapter 4.24 RCW, codification of these sections as a new chapter in Title 70 RCW appears more appropriate.

**70.136.020 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout RCW 70.136.010 through 70.136.070.

(1) "Hazardous materials" means:

(a) Materials which, if not contained may cause unacceptable risks to human life within a specified area adjacent to the spill, seepage, fire, explosion, or other release, and will, consequently, require evacuation;

(b) Materials that, if spilled, could cause unusual risks to the general public and to emergency response personnel responding at the scene;

(c) Materials that, if involved in a fire will pose unusual risks to emergency response personnel;

(d) Materials requiring unusual storage or transportation conditions to assure safe containment; or

(e) Materials requiring unusual treatment, packaging, or vehicles during transportation to assure safe containment.

(2) "Applicable political subdivisions of the state" means cities, towns, counties, fire districts, and those port authorities with emergency response capabilities.

(3) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, or association.

(4) "Public agency" means any agency, political subdivision, or unit of local government of this state including, but not limited to, municipal corporations, quasi-municipal corporations, special purpose districts, and local service districts; any agency of the state government; any agency of the United States; any Indian tribe recognized as such by the fed-

eral government; and any political subdivision of another state.

(5) "Hazardous materials incident" means an incident creating a danger to persons, property, or the environment as a result of spillage, seepage, fire, explosion, or release of hazardous materials, or the possibility thereof.

(6) "Governing body" means the elected legislative council, board, or commission or the chief executive of the applicable political subdivision of the state with public safety responsibility.

(7) "Incident command agency" means the pre-designated or appointed agency charged with coordinating all activities and resources at the incident scene.

(8) "Representative" means an agent from the designated hazardous materials incident command agency with the authority to secure the services of persons with hazardous materials expertise or equipment.

(9) "Profit" means compensation for rendering care, assistance, or advice in excess of expenses actually incurred. [1987 c 238 § 1; 1982 c 172 § 2.]

**70.136.030 Incident command agencies—Designation by political subdivisions.** The governing body of each applicable political subdivision of this state shall designate a hazardous materials incident command agency within its respective boundaries, and file this designation with the \*director of community, trade, and economic development. In designating an incident command agency, the political subdivision shall consider the training, manpower, expertise, and equipment of various available agencies as well as the Uniform Fire Code and other existing codes and regulations. Along state and interstate highway corridors, the Washington state patrol shall be the designated incident command agency unless by mutual agreement that role has been assumed by another designated incident command agency. If a political subdivision has not designated an incident command agency within six months after July 26, 1987, the Washington state patrol shall then assume the role of incident command agency by action of the chief until a designation has been made. [1995 c 399 § 197; 1987 c 238 § 2; 1986 c 266 § 50; 1985 c 7 § 132; 1984 c 165 § 1; 1982 c 172 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: The "director of community, trade, and economic development" was changed to the "director of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.136.035 Incident command agencies—Assistance from state patrol.** In political subdivisions where an incident command agency has been designated, the Washington state patrol shall continue to respond with a supervisor to provide assistance to the incident command agency. [1987 c 238 § 3.]

**70.136.040 Incident command agencies—Emergency assistance agreements.** Hazardous materials incident command agencies, so designated by all applicable political subdivisions of the state, are authorized and encouraged, prior to a hazardous materials incident, to enter individually or jointly into written hazardous materials emergency assistance agreements with any person whose knowledge or expertise is deemed potentially useful. [1982 c 172 § 3.]

**70.136.050 Persons and agencies rendering emergency aid in hazardous materials incidents—Immunity from liability—Limitations.** An incident command agency in the good faith performance of its duties, is not liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the performance of its duties, other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or wilful or wanton misconduct.

Any person or public agency whose assistance has been requested by an incident command agency, who has entered into a written hazardous materials assistance agreement before or at the scene of the incident pursuant to RCW 70.136.060 and 70.136.070, and who, in good faith, renders emergency care, assistance, or advice with respect to a hazardous materials incident, is not liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the rendering of such care, assistance, or advice, other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or wilful or wanton misconduct. [1987 c 238 § 4; 1984 c 165 § 2; 1982 c 172 § 5.]

**70.136.060 Written emergency assistance agreements—Terms and conditions—Records.** Hazardous materials emergency assistance agreements which are executed prior to a hazardous materials incident shall include the following terms and conditions:

(1) The person or public agency requested to assist shall not be obligated to assist;

(2) The person or public agency requested to assist may act only under the direction of the incident command agency or its representative;

(3) The person or public agency requested to assist may withdraw its assistance if it deems the actions or directions of the incident command agency to be contrary to accepted hazardous materials response practices;

(4) The person or public agency requested to assist shall not profit from rendering the assistance;

(5) Any person responsible for causing the hazardous materials incident shall not be covered by the liability standard defined in RCW 70.136.050.

It is the responsibility of both parties to ensure that mutually agreeable procedures are established for identifying the incident command agency when assistance is requested, for recording the name of the person or public agency whose assistance is requested, and the time and date of the request, which records shall be retained for three years by the incident command agency. A copy of the official incident command agency designation shall be a part of the assistance agreement specified in this section. [1987 c 238 § 5; 1982 c 172 § 6.]

**70.136.070 Verbal emergency assistance agreements—Good Samaritan law—Notification—Form.** (1) Verbal hazardous materials emergency assistance agreements may be entered into at the scene of an incident where execution of a written agreement prior to the incident is not possible. A notification of the terms of this section shall be presented at the scene by the incident command agency or its representative to the person or public agency whose assistance is requested. The incident command agency and the person or public agency whose assistance is requested shall both sign the notification which appears in subsection (2) of this section, indicating the date and time of signature. If a requesting incident command agency deliberately misrep-

resents individual or agency status, that agency shall assume full liability for any damages resulting from the actions of the person or public agency whose assistance is requested, other than those damages resulting from gross negligence or wilful or wanton misconduct.

(2) The notification required by subsection (1) of this section shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTIFICATION OF "GOOD SAMARITAN" LAW

You have been requested to provide emergency assistance by a representative of a hazardous materials incident command agency. To encourage your assistance, the Washington state legislature has passed "Good Samaritan" legislation (RCW 70.136.050) to protect you from potential liability. The law reads, in part:

"Any person or public agency whose assistance has been requested by an incident command agency, who has entered into a written hazardous materials assistance agreement . . . at the scene of the incident pursuant to . . . RCW 70.136.070, and who, in good faith, renders emergency care, assistance, or advice with respect to a hazardous materials incident, is not liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the rendering of such care, assistance, or advice, other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or wilful or wanton misconduct."

The law requires that you be advised of certain conditions to ensure your protection:

- 1. You are not obligated to assist and you may withdraw your assistance at any time.
2. You cannot profit from assisting.
3. You must agree to act under the direction of the incident command agency.
4. You are not covered by this law if you caused the initial accident.

I have read and understand the above.
(Name)
Date Time

I am a representative of a designated hazardous materials incident command agency and I am authorized to make this request for assistance.
(Name)
(Agency)
Date Time

[1987 c 238 § 6; 1982 c 172 § 7.]

Chapter 70.138 RCW
INCINERATOR ASH RESIDUE

Sections

- 70.138.010 Legislative findings.
70.138.020 Definitions.
70.138.030 Review and approval of management plans—Disposal permits.
70.138.040 Civil penalties.
70.138.050 Violations—Orders.
70.138.060 Enforcement—Injunctive relief.
70.138.070 Criminal penalties.
70.138.900 Application of chapter to certain incinerators.
70.138.901 Short title.

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Environmental certification programs—Fees—Rules—Liability: RCW 43.21A.175.

70.138.010 Legislative findings. The legislature finds:

(1) Solid wastes generated in the state are to be managed in the following order of descending priority: (a) Waste reduction; (b) recycling; (c) treatment; (d) energy recovery or incineration; (e) solidification/stabilization; and (f) landfill.

(2) Special incinerator ash residues from the incineration of municipal solid waste that would otherwise be regulated as hazardous wastes need a separate regulatory scheme in order to (a) ease the permitting and reporting requirements of chapter 70.105 RCW, the state hazardous waste management act, and (b) supplement the environmental protection provisions of chapter 70.95 RCW, the state solid waste management act.

(3) Raw garbage poses significant environmental and public health risks. Municipal solid waste incineration constitutes a higher waste management priority than the land disposal of untreated municipal solid waste due to its reduction of waste volumes and environmental health risks.

It is therefore the purpose of this chapter to establish management requirements for special incinerator ash that otherwise would be regulated as hazardous waste under chapter 70.105 RCW, the hazardous waste management act. [1987 c 528 § 1.]

70.138.020 Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

- (1) "Department" means the department of ecology.
(2) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology or the director's designee.
(3) "Dispose" or "disposal" means the treatment, utilization, processing, or final deposit of special incineration ash.
(4) "Generate" means any act or process which produces special incinerator ash or which first causes special incinerator ash to become subject to regulation.
(5) "Management" means the handling, storage, collection, transportation, and disposal of special incinerator ash.
(6) "Person" means any person, firm, association, county, public or municipal or private corporation, agency, or other entity whatsoever.
(7) "Facility" means all structures, other appurtenances, improvements, and land used for recycling, storing, treating, or disposing of special incinerator ash.

(8) "Special incinerator ash" means ash residues resulting from the operation of incinerator or energy recovery facilities managing municipal solid waste, including solid waste from residential, commercial, and industrial establishments, if the ash residues (a) would otherwise be regulated as hazardous wastes under chapter 70.105 RCW; and (b) are not regulated as a hazardous waste under the federal resource conservation and recovery act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901 et seq. [1987 c 528 § 2.]

70.138.030 Review and approval of management plans—Disposal permits. (1) Prior to managing special incinerator ash, persons who generate special incinerator ash shall develop plans for managing the special incinerator ash. These plans shall:

(a) Identify procedures for all aspects relating to the management of the special incinerator ash that are necessary to protect employees, human health, and the environment;

(b) Identify alternatives for managing solid waste prior to incineration for the purpose of (i) reducing the toxicity of the special incinerator ash; and (ii) reducing the quantity of the special incinerator ash;

(c) Establish a process for submittal of an annual report to the department disclosing the results of a testing program to identify the toxic properties of the special incinerator ash as necessary to ensure that the procedures established in the plans submitted pursuant to this chapter are adequate to protect employees, human health, and the environment; and

(d) Comply with the rules established by the department in accordance with this section.

(2) Prior to managing any special incinerator ash, any person required to develop a plan pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall submit the plan to the department for review and approval. Prior to approving a plan, the department shall find that the plan complies with the provisions of this chapter, including any rules adopted under this chapter. Approval may be conditioned upon additional requirements necessary to protect employees, human health, and the environment, including special management requirements, waste segregation, or treatment techniques such as neutralization, detoxification, and solidification/stabilization.

(3) The department shall give notice of receipt of a proposed plan to interested persons and the public and shall accept public comment for a minimum of thirty days. The department shall approve, approve with conditions, or reject the plan submitted pursuant to this section within ninety days of submittal.

(4) Prior to accepting any special incinerator ash for disposal, persons owning or operating facilities for the disposal of the incinerator ash shall apply to the department for a permit. The department shall issue a permit if the disposal will provide adequate protection of human health and the environment. Prior to issuance of any permit, the department shall find that the facility meets the requirements of chapter 70.95 RCW and any rules adopted under this chapter. The department may place conditions on the permit to include additional requirements necessary to protect employees, human health, and the environment, including special management requirements, waste segregation, or treatment techniques such as neutralization, detoxification, and solidification/stabilization.

(5) The department shall give notice of its receipt of a permit application to interested persons and the public and shall accept public comment for a minimum of thirty days. The department shall issue, issue with conditions, or deny the permit within ninety days of submittal.

(6) The department shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this chapter. The rules shall (a) establish minimum requirements for the management of special incinerator ash as necessary to protect employees, human health, and the environment, (b) clearly define the elements of the plans required by this chapter, and (c) require special incinerator ash to be disposed at facilities that are operating in compliance with this chapter. [1987 c 528 § 3.]

**70.138.040 Civil penalties.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 43.05.060 through 43.05.080 and 43.05.150, any person who violates any provision of a department regulation or regulatory order relating to the management of special incinerator ash shall incur in addition to any other penalty provided by law, a penalty in an amount up to ten thousand dollars a day for every such violation. Each and every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense. In case of continuing violation, every day's continuance shall be a separate and distinct violation. Every person who, through an act of commission or omission, procures, aids, or abets in the violation shall be considered to have violated the provisions of this section and shall be subject to the penalty herein provided.

(2) The penalty provided for in this section shall be imposed by a notice in writing, either by certified mail with return receipt requested or by personal service, to the person incurring the same from the department, describing the violation with reasonable particularity. Within fifteen days after the notice is received, the person incurring the penalty may apply in writing to the department for the remission or mitigation of such penalty. Upon receipt of the application, the department may remit or mitigate the penalty upon whatever terms the department in its discretion deems proper, giving consideration to the degree of hazard associated with the violation, provided the department deems such remission or mitigation to be in the best interests of carrying out the purposes of this chapter. The department shall have authority to ascertain the facts regarding all such applications in such reasonable manner and under such rules as it may deem proper.

(3) Any penalty imposed by this section shall become due and payable thirty days after receipt of a notice imposing the same unless application for remission or mitigation is made or petition for review by the hearings board is filed. When such an application for remission or mitigation is made, any penalty incurred pursuant to this section shall become due and payable thirty days after receipt of notice setting forth the disposition of such application.

(4) If the amount of any penalty is not paid to the department within thirty days after it becomes due and payable, the attorney general, upon the request of the director, shall bring an action in the name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county, or any county in which such violator may do business, to recover such penalty. In all such actions, the procedure and rules of evidence shall be the same as an ordinary civil action except as otherwise provided in this chapter. [1995 c 403 § 633; 1987 c 528 § 4.]

**Findings—Short title—Intent—1995 c 403:** See note following RCW 34.05.328.

**70.138.050 Violations—Orders.** Whenever a person violates any provision of this chapter or any permit or regulation the department may issue an order appropriate under the circumstances to assure compliance with the chapter, permit, or regulation. Such an order must be served personally or by registered mail upon any person to whom it is directed. [1987 c 528 § 5.]

**70.138.060 Enforcement—Injunctive relief.** The department, with the assistance of the attorney general, may bring any appropriate action at law or in equity, including

action for injunctive relief as may be necessary to enforce the provisions of this chapter or any permit or regulation issued thereunder. [1987 c 528 § 6.]

**70.138.070 Criminal penalties.** Any person found guilty of wilfully violating, without sufficient cause, any of the provisions of this chapter, or permit or order issued pursuant to this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of up to ten thousand dollars and costs of prosecution, or by imprisonment for up to three hundred sixty-four days, or by both. Each day of violation may be deemed a separate violation. [2011 c 96 § 52; 1987 c 528 § 7.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

**70.138.900 Application of chapter to certain incinerators.** This chapter shall not apply to municipal solid waste incinerators that are in operation on May 19, 1987, until a special incinerator waste disposal permit is issued in the county where the municipal solid waste incinerator is located, or July 1, 1989, whichever is sooner. [1987 c 528 § 12.]

**70.138.901 Short title.** This chapter shall be known as the special incinerator ash disposal act. [1987 c 528 § 11.]

## Chapter 70.140 RCW

### AREA-WIDE SOIL CONTAMINATION

#### Sections

70.140.010	Findings.
70.140.020	Definitions.
70.140.030	Children in schools and child care facilities—Department duties—School and child care facility duties.
70.140.040	Department assistance—Best management practice guidelines—Grants—Interagency agreements authorized—Reports.
70.140.050	Department of health to provide assistance.
70.140.060	Department of social and health services to provide assistance.
70.140.070	Livestock, agricultural land exempt from chapter.
70.140.080	Existing authority of department not affected.

**70.140.010 Findings.** The legislature finds that state and local agencies are currently implementing actions to reduce children's exposure to soils that contain hazardous substances. The legislature further finds that it is in the public interest to enhance those efforts in western Washington in areas located within the central Puget Sound smelter plume. [2005 c 306 § 1.]

**70.140.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Area-wide soil contamination" means low to moderate arsenic and lead soil contamination dispersed over a large geographic area.

(2) "Child care facility" means a child day-care center or a family day-care provider as those terms are defined under \*RCW 74.15.020.

(3) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(4) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology.

(5) "Low to moderate soil contamination" means low level arsenic or lead concentrations where a child's exposure

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to soil contamination at a school or a child care facility may be reduced through best management practices.

(6) "School" means a public or private kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school. [2005 c 306 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 74.15.020 was amended by 2006 c 265 § 401, removing the definitions for "child day-care center" and "family day-care provider."

**70.140.030 Children in schools and child care facilities—Department duties—School and child care facility duties.** (1) The department, in cooperation with the department of social and health services, the department of health, the office of the superintendent of public instruction, and local health districts, shall assist schools and child care facilities west of the crest of the Cascade mountains to reduce the potential for children's exposure to area-wide soil contamination.

(2) The department shall:

(a) Identify schools and child care facilities that are located within the central Puget Sound smelter plume based on available information;

(b) Conduct qualitative evaluations to determine the potential for children's exposure to area-wide soil contamination;

(c) If the qualitative evaluation determines that children may be routinely exposed to area-wide soil contamination at a property, conduct soil samples at that property by December 31, 2009; and

(d) If soil sample results confirm the presence of area-wide soil contamination, notify schools and child care facilities regarding the test results and the steps necessary for implementing best management practices.

(3) If a school or a child care facility with area-wide soil contamination does not implement best management practices within six months of receiving written notification from the department, the superintendent or board of directors of a school or the owner or operator of a child care facility must notify parents and guardians in writing of the results of soil tests. The written notice shall be prepared by the department.

(4) The department shall recognize schools and child care facilities that successfully implement best management practices with a voluntary certification letter confirming that the facility has successfully implemented best management practices.

(5) Schools and child care facilities must work with the department to provide the department with site access for soil sampling at times that are the most convenient for all parties. [2005 c 306 § 3.]

**70.140.040 Department assistance—Best management practice guidelines—Grants—Interagency agreements authorized—Reports.** (1) The department shall assist schools and owners and operators of child care facilities located within the central Puget Sound smelter plume. Such assistance may include the following:

(a) Technical assistance in conducting qualitative evaluations to determine where area-wide soil contamination exposures could occur;

(b) Technical and financial assistance in testing soils where evaluations indicate potential for contamination; and

(c) Technical and financial assistance to implement best management practices.

(2) The department shall develop best management practice guidelines for schools and day care facilities with area-wide soil contamination. The guidelines shall recommend a range of methods for reducing exposure to contaminated soil, considering the concentration, extent, and location of contamination and the nature and frequency of child use of the area.

(3) The department shall develop a grant program to assist schools and child care facilities with implementing best management practices.

(4) The department, within available funds, may provide grants to schools and child care facilities for the purpose of implementing best management practices.

(5) The department, within available funds, may provide financial assistance to the department of health and the department of social and health services to implement this chapter.

(6) The department may, through an interagency agreement, authorize a local health jurisdiction to administer any activity in this chapter that is otherwise not assigned to a local health jurisdiction by this chapter.

(7) The department shall evaluate actions to reduce child exposure to contaminated soils and submit progress reports to the governor and to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 31, 2006, and December 31, 2008. [2005 c 306 § 4.]

**70.140.050 Department of health to provide assistance.** The department of health shall assist the department in implementing this chapter, including but not limited to developing best management practices and guidelines. [2005 c 306 § 5.]

**70.140.060 Department of social and health services to provide assistance.** The department of social and health services shall assist the department by providing information on the location of child care facilities and contacts for these facilities. [2005 c 306 § 6.]

**70.140.070 Livestock, agricultural land exempt from chapter.** This chapter does not apply to land devoted primarily to the commercial production of livestock or agricultural commodities. [2005 c 306 § 7.]

**70.140.080 Existing authority of department not affected.** Nothing in this chapter is intended to change ongoing actions or the authority of the department or other agencies to require actions to address soil contamination under existing laws. [2005 c 306 § 8.]

### Chapter 70.142 RCW CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS AND WATER QUALITY

#### Sections

- 70.142.010 Establishment of standards for chemical contaminants in drinking water by state board of health.
- 70.142.020 Establishment of monitoring requirements for chemical contaminants in public water supplies by state board of health.
- 70.142.030 Monitoring requirements—Considerations.

70.142.040 Establishment of water quality standards by local health department in large counties.

70.142.050 Noncomplying public water supply systems—Submission of corrective plan—Notification to system's customers.

**Reviser's note:** Powers and duties of the department of social and health services and the secretary of social and health services transferred to the department of health and the secretary of health. See RCW 43.70.060.

#### **70.142.010 Establishment of standards for chemical contaminants in drinking water by state board of health.**

(1) In order to protect public health from chemical contaminants in drinking water, the state board of health shall conduct public hearings and, where technical data allow, establish by rule standards for allowable concentrations. For purposes of this chapter, the words "chemical contaminants" are limited to synthetic organic chemical contaminants and to any other contaminants which in the opinion of the board constitute a threat to public health. If adequate data to support setting of a standard is available, the state board of health shall adopt by rule a maximum contaminant level for water provided to consumers' taps. Standards set for contaminants known to be toxic shall consider both short-term and chronic toxicity. Standards set for contaminants known to be carcinogenic shall be consistent with risk levels established by the state board of health.

(2) The board shall consider the best available scientific information in establishing the standards. The board may review and revise the standards. State and local standards for chemical contaminants may be more strict than the federal standards. [1984 c 187 § 1.]

#### **70.142.020 Establishment of monitoring requirements for chemical contaminants in public water supplies by state board of health.**

The state board of health shall conduct public hearings and establish by rule monitoring requirements for chemical contaminants in public water supplies. Results of tests conducted pursuant to such requirements shall be submitted to the department of health and to the local health department. The state board of health may review and revise monitoring requirements for chemical contaminants. [1991 c 3 § 374; 1984 c 187 § 2.]

#### **70.142.030 Monitoring requirements—Considerations.**

The state board of health in determining monitoring requirements for public water supply systems shall take into consideration economic impacts as well as public health risks. [1984 c 187 § 5.]

#### **70.142.040 Establishment of water quality standards by local health department in large counties.**

Each local health department serving a county with a population of one hundred twenty-five thousand or more may establish water quality standards for its jurisdiction more stringent than standards established by the state board of health. Each local health department establishing such standards shall base the standards on the best available scientific information. [1991 c 363 § 145; 1984 c 187 § 3.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**70.142.050 Noncomplying public water supply systems—Submission of corrective plan—Notification to system's customers.** Public water supply systems as defined

by RCW 70.119.020 that the state board of health or local health department determines do not comply with the water quality standards applicable to the system shall immediately initiate preparation of a corrective plan designed to meet or exceed the minimum standards for submission to the department of health. The owner of such system shall within one year take any action required to bring the water into full compliance with the standards. The department of health may require compliance as promptly as necessary to abate an immediate public health threat or may extend the period of compliance if substantial new construction is required: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the extension shall be granted only upon a determination by the department, after a public hearing, that the extension will not pose an imminent threat to public health. Each such system shall include a notice identifying the water quality standards exceeded, and the amount by which the water tested exceeded the standards, in all customer bills mailed after such determination. The notification shall continue until water quality tests conducted in accordance with this chapter establish that the system meets or exceeds the minimum standards. [1991 c 3 § 375; 1984 c 187 § 4.]

### Chapter 70.146 RCW WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES FINANCING

#### Sections

70.146.010	Purpose—Legislative intent.
70.146.020	Definitions.
70.146.030	Water pollution control facilities and activities—Grants or loans.
70.146.040	Level of grant or loan not precedent.
70.146.050	Compliance schedule for secondary treatment.
70.146.060	Use of funds—Limitations.
70.146.070	Grants or loans for water pollution control facilities—Considerations.
70.146.075	Extended grant payments.
70.146.090	Grants and loans to local governments—Statement of environmental benefits—Development of outcome-focused performance measures.
70.146.100	Water quality capital account—Expenditures.
70.146.110	Puget Sound partners.
70.146.120	Administering funds—Preference to an evergreen community.

**70.146.010 Purpose—Legislative intent.** The long-range health and environmental goals for the state of Washington require the protection of the state's surface and underground waters for the health, safety, use, enjoyment, and economic benefit of its people. It is the purpose of this chapter to provide financial assistance to the state and to local governments for the planning, design, acquisition, construction, and improvement of water pollution control facilities and related activities in the achievement of state and federal water pollution control requirements for the protection of the state's waters.

It is the intent of the legislature that distribution of moneys for water pollution control facilities under this chapter be made on an equitable basis taking into consideration legal mandates, local effort, ratepayer impacts, and past distributions of state and federal moneys for water pollution control facilities.

It is the intent of this chapter that the cost of any water pollution control facility attributable to increased or additional capacity that exceeds one hundred ten percent of exist-

ing needs at the time of application for assistance under this chapter shall be entirely a local or private responsibility. It is the intent of this chapter that industrial pretreatment be paid by industries and that state funds shall not be used for such purposes. [2009 c 479 § 51; 1986 c 3 § 1.]

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.146.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(2) "Eligible cost" means the cost of that portion of a water pollution control facility that can be financed under this chapter excluding any portion of a facility's cost attributable to capacity that is in excess of that reasonably required to address one hundred ten percent of the applicant's needs for water pollution control existing at the time application is submitted for assistance under this chapter.

(3) "Nonpoint source water pollution" means pollution that enters any waters of the state from any dispersed water-based or land-use activities, including, but not limited to, atmospheric deposition, surface water runoff from agricultural lands, urban areas, and forestlands, subsurface or underground sources, and discharges from boats or other marine vessels.

(4) "Public body" means the state of Washington or any agency, county, city or town, conservation district, other political subdivision, municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, and those Indian tribes now or hereafter recognized as such by the federal government.

(5) "Sole source aquifer" means the sole or principal source of public drinking water for an area designated by the administrator of the environmental protection agency pursuant to Public Law 93-523, Sec. 1424(b).

(6) "Water pollution" means such contamination, or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of any waters of the state, including change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor of the waters, or such discharge of any liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other substance into any waters of the state as will or is likely to create a nuisance or render such waters harmful, detrimental, or injurious to the public health, safety, or welfare, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate beneficial uses, or to livestock, wild animals, birds, fish, or other aquatic life.

(7) "Water pollution control activities" means actions taken by a public body for the following purposes: (a) To prevent or mitigate pollution of underground water; (b) to control nonpoint sources of water pollution; (c) to restore the water quality of freshwater lakes; and (d) to maintain or improve water quality through the use of water pollution control facilities or other means. During the 1995-1997 fiscal biennium, "water pollution control activities" includes activities by state agencies to protect public drinking water supplies and sources.

(8) "Water pollution control facility" or "facilities" means any facilities or systems for the control, collection, storage, treatment, disposal, or recycling of wastewater, including but not limited to sanitary sewage, storm water, residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural wastes,

which are causing water quality degradation due to concentrations of conventional, nonconventional, or toxic pollutants. Water pollution control facilities include all equipment, utilities, structures, real property, and interests in and improvements on real property necessary for or incidental to such purpose. Water pollution control facilities also include such facilities, equipment, and collection systems as are necessary to protect federally designated sole source aquifers. [2009 c 479 § 52; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 18 § 920; 1993 sp.s. c 24 § 923; 1987 c 436 § 5; 1986 c 3 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.146.030 Water pollution control facilities and activities—Grants or loans.** The department may make grants or loans to public bodies, including grants to public bodies as cost-sharing moneys in any case where federal, local, or other funds are made available on a cost-sharing basis, for water pollution control facilities and activities, or for purposes of assisting a public body to obtain an ownership interest in water pollution control facilities and/or to defray a part of the payments made by a public body to a service provider under a service agreement entered into pursuant to RCW 70.150.060, within the purposes of this chapter and for related administrative expenses. No more than three percent of the moneys may be used by the department to pay for the administration of the grant and loan program authorized by this chapter. [2009 c 479 § 53; 2007 c 522 § 955. Prior: 2005 c 518 § 940; 2005 c 514 § 1108; 2004 c 277 § 909; 2003 1st sp.s. c 25 § 934; 2002 c 371 § 921; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 922; 1996 c 37 § 2; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 18 § 921; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 61; prior: 1987 c 505 § 64; 1987 c 436 § 6; 1986 c 3 § 3.]

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 522:** See notes following RCW 15.64.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.146.040 Level of grant or loan not precedent.** No grant or loan made in this chapter for fiscal year 1987 shall be construed to establish a precedent for levels of grants or loans made under this chapter thereafter. [2009 c 479 § 54; 1986 c 3 § 6.]

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.146.050 Compliance schedule for secondary treatment.** The department of ecology may provide for a phased in compliance schedule for secondary treatment which addresses local factors that may impede compliance with secondary treatment requirements of the federal clean water act.

In determining the length of time to be granted for compliance, the department shall consider the criteria specified in the federal clean water act. [1986 c 3 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.146.060 Use of funds—Limitations.** Funds provided for facilities and activities under this chapter may be used for payments to a service provider under a service agreement pursuant to RCW 70.150.060. If funds are to be used for

such payments, the department may make periodic disbursements to a public body or may make a single lump sum disbursement. Disbursements of funds with respect to a facility owned or operated by a service provider shall be equivalent in value to disbursements that would otherwise be made if that facility were owned or operated by a public body. Payments under this chapter for waste disposal and management facilities made to public bodies entering into service agreements pursuant to RCW 70.150.060 shall not exceed amounts paid to public bodies not entering into service agreements. [2009 c 479 § 55. Prior: 1987 c 527 § 1; 1987 c 436 § 7; 1986 c 3 § 9.]

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.146.070 Grants or loans for water pollution control facilities—Considerations.** (1) When making grants or loans for water pollution control facilities, the department shall consider the following:

- (a) The protection of water quality and public health;
- (b) The cost to residential ratepayers if they had to finance water pollution control facilities without state assistance;
- (c) Actions required under federal and state permits and compliance orders;
- (d) The level of local fiscal effort by residential ratepayers since 1972 in financing water pollution control facilities;
- (e) Except as otherwise conditioned by RCW 70.146.110, whether the entity receiving assistance is a Puget Sound partner, as defined in RCW 90.71.010;
- (f) Whether the project is referenced in the action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310;
- (g) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 70.146.120, and effective one calendar year following the development and statewide availability of model evergreen community management plans and ordinances under RCW 35.105.050, whether the project is sponsored by an entity that has been recognized, and what gradation of recognition was received, in the evergreen community recognition program created in RCW 35.105.030;
- (h) The extent to which the applicant county or city, or if the applicant is another public body, the extent to which the county or city in which the applicant public body is located, has established programs to mitigate nonpoint pollution of the surface or subterranean water sought to be protected by the water pollution control facility named in the application for state assistance; and
- (i) The recommendations of the Puget Sound partnership, created in RCW 90.71.210, and any other board, council, commission, or group established by the legislature or a state agency to study water pollution control issues in the state.

(2) Except where necessary to address a public health need or substantial environmental degradation, a county, city, or town planning under RCW 36.70A.040 may not receive a grant or loan for water pollution control facilities unless it has adopted a comprehensive plan, including a capital facilities plan element, and development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.040. A county, city, or town that has adopted a comprehensive plan and development regulations as pro-

vided in RCW 36.70A.040 may request a grant or loan for water pollution control facilities. This subsection does not require any county, city, or town planning under RCW 36.70A.040 to adopt a comprehensive plan or development regulations before requesting a grant or loan under this chapter if such request is made before the expiration of the time periods specified in RCW 36.70A.040. A county, city, or town planning under RCW 36.70A.040 that has not adopted a comprehensive plan and development regulations within the time periods specified in RCW 36.70A.040 is not prohibited from receiving a grant or loan under this chapter if the comprehensive plan and development regulations are adopted as required by RCW 36.70A.040 before the department executes a contractual agreement for the grant or loan.

(3) Whenever the department is considering awarding grants or loans for public facilities to special districts requesting funding for a proposed facility located in a county, city, or town planning under RCW 36.70A.040, it shall consider whether the county, city, or town planning under RCW 36.70A.040 in whose planning jurisdiction the proposed facility is located has adopted a comprehensive plan and development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.040.

(4) After January 1, 2010, any project designed to address the effects of water pollution on Puget Sound may be funded under this chapter only if the project is not in conflict with the action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310. [2013 c 275 § 4; 2008 c 299 § 26. Prior: 2007 c 341 § 60; 2007 c 341 § 26; 1999 c 164 § 603; 1997 c 429 § 30; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 24; 1986 c 3 § 10.]

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

**Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.907.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Effective date—Severability—1999 c 164:** See notes following RCW 43.160.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.146.075 Extended grant payments.** (1) The department of ecology may enter into contracts with local jurisdictions which provide for extended grant payments under which eligible costs may be paid on an advanced or deferred basis.

(2) Extended grant payments shall be in equal annual payments, the total of which does not exceed, on a net present value basis, fifty percent of the total eligible cost of the project incurred at the time of design and construction. The duration of such extended grant payments shall be for a period not to exceed twenty years. The total of federal and state grant moneys received for the eligible costs of the project shall not exceed fifty percent of the eligible costs.

(3) Any moneys appropriated by the legislature for the purposes of this section shall be first used by the department of ecology to satisfy the conditions of the extended grant payment contracts. [2009 c 479 § 56; 1987 c 516 § 1.]

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**70.146.090 Grants and loans to local governments—Statement of environmental benefits—Development of outcome-focused performance measures.** In providing grants and loans to local governments, the department shall require recipients to incorporate the environmental benefits of the project into their applications, and the department shall

utilize the statement of environmental benefits in its grant and loan prioritization and selection process. The department shall also develop appropriate outcome-focused performance measures to be used both for management and performance assessment of the grant and loan program. To the extent possible, the department should coordinate its performance measure system with other natural resource-related agencies as defined in RCW 43.41.270. The department shall consult with affected interest groups in implementing this section. [2001 c 227 § 6.]

**Findings—Intent—2001 c 227:** See note following RCW 43.41.270.

**70.146.100 Water quality capital account—Expenditures.** (1) The water quality capital account is created in the state treasury. Moneys in the water quality capital account may be spent only after appropriation.

(2) Expenditures from the water quality capital account may only be used: (a) To make grants or loans to public bodies, including grants to public bodies as cost-sharing moneys in any case where federal, local, or other moneys are made available on a cost-sharing basis, for the capital component of water pollution control facilities and activities; (b) for purposes of assisting a public body to obtain an ownership interest in water pollution control facilities; or (c) to defray any part of the capital component of the payments made by a public body to a service provider under a service agreement entered into under RCW 70.150.060. During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the water quality capital account to the state general fund such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance of the account. [2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 948; 2007 c 233 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Effective date—2007 c 233:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2007." [2007 c 233 § 2.]

**70.146.110 Puget Sound partners.** When making grants or loans for water pollution control facilities under RCW 70.146.070, the department shall give preference only to Puget Sound partners, as defined in RCW 90.71.010, in comparison to other entities that are eligible to be included in the definition of Puget Sound partner. Entities that are not eligible to be a Puget Sound partner due to geographic location, composition, exclusion from the scope of the action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310, or for any other reason, shall not be given less preferential treatment than Puget Sound partners. [2007 c 341 § 27.]

**Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.907.

**70.146.120 Administering funds—Preference to an evergreen community.** When administering funds under this chapter, the department shall give preference only to an evergreen community recognized under RCW 35.105.030 in comparison to other entities that are eligible to receive evergreen community designation. Entities not eligible for designation as an evergreen community shall not be given less preferential treatment than an evergreen community. [2008 c 299 § 31.]

Short title—2008 c 299: See note following RCW 35.105.010.

### Chapter 70.148 RCW

#### UNDERGROUND PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS

##### Sections

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#### **70.148.005 Finding—Intent. (Expires July 1, 2030.)**

(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Final regulations adopted by the United States environmental protection agency (EPA) require owners and operators of underground petroleum storage tanks to demonstrate financial responsibility for accidental releases of petroleum as a precondition to continued ownership and operation of such tanks;

(b) Financial responsibility is demonstrated through the purchase of pollution liability insurance or an acceptable alternative such as coverage under a state financial responsibility program, in the amount of at least five hundred thousand dollars per occurrence and one million dollars annual aggregate depending upon the nature, use, and number of tanks owned or operated;

(c) Many owners and operators of underground petroleum storage tanks cannot purchase pollution liability insurance either because private insurance is unavailable at any price or because owners and operators cannot meet the rigid underwriting standards of existing insurers, nor can many owners and operators meet the strict regulatory standards imposed for alternatives to the purchase of insurance; and

(d) Without a state financial responsibility program for owners and operators of underground petroleum storage tanks, many tank owners and operators will be forced to discontinue the ownership and operation of these tanks.

(2) The purpose of this chapter is to create a state financial responsibility program meeting EPA standards for owners and operators of underground petroleum storage tanks in a manner that:

(a) Minimizes state involvement in pollution liability claims management and insurance administration;

(b) Protects the state of Washington from unwanted and unanticipated liability for accidental release claims;

(c) Creates incentives for private insurers to provide needed liability insurance; and

(d) Parallels generally accepted principles of insurance and risk management.

To that end, this chapter establishes a temporary program to provide pollution liability reinsurance at a price that will encourage a private insurance company or risk retention group to sell pollution liability insurance in accordance with

the requirements of this chapter to owners and operators of underground petroleum storage tanks, thereby allowing the owners and operators to comply with the financial responsibility regulations of the EPA.

(3) It is not the intent of this chapter to permit owners and operators of underground petroleum storage tanks to obtain pollution liability insurance without regard to the quality or condition of their storage tanks or without regard to the risk management practices of tank owners and operators, nor is it the intent of this chapter to provide coverage or funding for past or existing petroleum releases. Further, it is the intent of the legislature that the program follow generally accepted insurance underwriting and actuarial principles and to deviate from those principles only to the extent necessary and within the tax revenue limits provided, to make pollution liability insurance reasonably affordable and available to owners and operators who meet the requirements of this chapter, particularly to those owners and operators whose underground storage tanks meet a vital economic need within the affected community. [1990 c 64 § 1; 1989 c 383 § 1.]

**70.148.010 Definitions. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** Unless the context requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Accidental release" means any sudden or nonsudden release of petroleum arising from operating an underground storage tank that results in a need for corrective action, bodily injury, or property damage neither expected nor intended by the owner or operator.

(2) "Director" means the Washington pollution liability insurance program director.

(3) "Bodily injury" means bodily injury, sickness, or disease sustained by any person, including death at any time resulting from the injury, sickness, or disease.

(4) "Corrective action" means those actions reasonably required to be undertaken by the insured to remove, treat, neutralize, contain, or clean up an accidental release in order to comply with any statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, directive, order, or similar legal requirement of the United States, the state of Washington, or any political subdivision of the United States or the state of Washington in effect at the time of an accidental release. "Corrective action" includes, when agreed to in writing, in advance by the insurer, action to remove, treat, neutralize, contain, or clean up an accidental release to avert, reduce, or eliminate the liability of the insured for corrective action, bodily injury, or property damage. "Corrective action" also includes actions reasonably necessary to monitor, assess, and evaluate an accidental release. "Corrective action" does not include:

(a) Replacement or repair of storage tanks or other receptacles;

(b) Replacement or repair of piping, connections, and valves of storage tanks or other receptacles;

(c) Excavation or backfilling done in conjunction with (a) or (b) of this subsection; or

(d) Testing for a suspected accidental release if the results of the testing indicate that there has been no accidental release.

(5) "Defense costs" include the costs of legal representation, expert fees, and related costs and expenses incurred in defending against claims or actions brought by or on behalf of:

(a) The United States, the state of Washington, or any political subdivision of the United States or state of Washington to require corrective action or to recover costs of corrective action; or

(b) A third party for bodily injury or property damage caused by an accidental release.

(6) "Washington pollution liability insurance program" or "program" means the reinsurance program created by this chapter.

(7) "Insured" means the owner or operator who is provided insurance coverage in accordance with this chapter.

(8) "Insurer" means the insurance company or risk retention group licensed or qualified to do business in Washington and authorized by the director to provide insurance coverage in accordance with this chapter.

(9) "Loss reserve" means the amount traditionally set aside by commercial liability insurers for costs and expenses related to claims that have been made. "Loss reserve" does not include losses that have been incurred but not reported to the insurer.

(10) "Occurrence" means an accident, including continuous or repeated exposure to conditions, that results in a release from an underground storage tank.

(11) "Operator" means a person in control of, or having responsibility for, the daily operation of an underground storage tank.

(12) "Owner" means a person who owns an underground storage tank.

(13) "Person" means an individual, trust, firm, joint stock company, corporation (including government corporation), partnership, association, consortium, joint venture, commercial entity, state, municipality, commission, political subdivision of a state, interstate body, the federal government, or any department or agency of the federal government.

(14) "Petroleum" means crude oil or any fraction of crude oil that is liquid at standard conditions of temperature and pressure, which means at sixty degrees Fahrenheit and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute and includes gasoline, kerosene, heating oils, and diesel fuels.

(15) "Property damage" means:

(a) Physical injury to, destruction of, or contamination of tangible property, including the loss of use of the property resulting from the injury, destruction, or contamination; or

(b) Loss of use of tangible property that has not been physically injured, destroyed, or contaminated but has been evacuated, withdrawn from use, or rendered inaccessible because of an accidental release.

(16) "Release" means the emission, discharge, disposal, dispersal, seepage, or escape of petroleum from an underground storage tank into or upon land, groundwater, surface water, subsurface soils, or the atmosphere.

(17) "Surplus reserve" means the amount traditionally set aside by commercial property and casualty insurance companies to provide financial protection from unexpected losses and to serve, in part, as a measure of an insurance company's net worth.

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(18) "Tank" means a stationary device, designed to contain an accumulation of petroleum, that is constructed primarily of nonearthen materials such as wood, concrete, steel, or plastic that provides structural support.

(19) "Underground storage tank" means any one or a combination of tanks including underground pipes connected to the tank, that is used to contain an accumulation of petroleum and the volume of which (including the volume of the underground pipes connected to the tank) is ten percent or more beneath the surface of the ground. [1990 c 64 § 2; 1989 c 383 § 2.]

**70.148.020 Pollution liability insurance program trust account. (Expires July 1, 2030.)**

(1) The pollution liability insurance program trust account is established in the custody of the state treasurer. All funds appropriated for this chapter and all premiums collected for reinsurance shall be deposited in the account. Except as provided in chapter 70.340 RCW, expenditures from the account shall be used exclusively for the purposes of this chapter including payment of costs of administering the pollution liability insurance and underground storage tank community assistance programs. Expenditures for payment of administrative and operating costs of the agency are subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW and may be made only after appropriation by statute. No appropriation is required for other expenditures from the account.

(2) Each calendar quarter, the director shall report to the insurance commissioner the loss and surplus reserves required for the calendar quarter. The director shall notify the department of revenue of this amount by the fifteenth day of each calendar quarter.

(3) During the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the pollution liability insurance program trust account to the underground storage tank revolving account such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance of the account.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2030. [2016 1st sp.s. c 35 § 6013; 2016 c 161 § 15; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 993; 2012 1st sp.s. c 3 § 1; 2006 c 276 § 1; 2005 c 518 § 942; 1999 c 73 § 1; 1998 c 245 § 114; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 90; 1991 c 4 § 7; 1990 c 64 § 3; 1989 c 383 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) This section was amended by 2016 c 161 § 15 and by 2016 1st sp.s. c 35 § 6013, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

(2) Pursuant to RCW 43.135.041, chapter 3, Laws of 2012 1st special session was subject to an advisory vote of the people in the November 2012 general election on whether the tax increase in such session law should be maintained or repealed. The advisory vote was in favor of repeal.

**Effective date—2016 1st sp.s. c 35:** See note following RCW 28B.10.027.

**Effective dates—2013 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.148.025 Reinsurance for heating oil pollution liability protection program. (Expires July 1, 2030.)**

The director shall provide reinsurance through the pollution liability insurance program trust account to the heating oil pollution liability protection program under chapter 70.149 RCW. [1995 c 20 § 12.]

**70.148.030 Pollution liability insurance program—Generally—Ad hoc committees. (Expires July 1, 2030.)**

(1) The Washington pollution liability insurance program is created as an independent agency of the state. The administrative head and appointing authority of the program shall be the director who shall be appointed by the governor, with the consent of the senate, and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The salary for this office shall be set by the governor pursuant to RCW 43.03.040. The director shall appoint a deputy director. The director, deputy director, and up to three other employees are exempt from the civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW.

(2) The director shall employ such other staff as are necessary to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the director. The staff is subject to the civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW. In addition, the director may contract with third parties for services necessary to carry out its activities where this will promote economy, avoid duplication of effort, and make best use of available expertise. To the extent necessary to protect the state from unintended liability and ensure quality program and contract design, the director shall contract with an organization or organizations with demonstrated experience and ability in managing and designing pollution liability insurance and with an organization or organizations with demonstrated experience and ability in managing and designing pollution liability reinsurance. The director shall enter into such contracts after competitive bid but need not select the lowest bid. Any such contractor or consultant is prohibited from releasing, publishing, or otherwise using any information made available to it under its contractual responsibility without specific permission of the program director. The director may call upon other agencies of the state to provide technical support and available information as necessary to assist the director in meeting the director's responsibilities under this chapter. Agencies shall supply this support and information as promptly as circumstances permit.

(3) The director may appoint ad hoc technical advisory committees to obtain expertise necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 805; 1990 c 64 § 4; 1989 c 383 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.148.035 Program design—Cost coverage. (Expires July 1, 2030.)**

The director may design the program to cover the costs incurred in determining whether a proposed applicant for pollution insurance under the program meets the underwriting standards of the insurer. In covering such costs the director shall consider the financial resources of the applicant, shall take into consideration the economic impact of the discontinued use of the applicant's storage tank upon the affected community, shall provide coverage within the revenue limits provided under this chapter, and shall limit coverage of such costs to the extent that coverage would be detrimental to providing affordable insurance under the program. [1990 c 64 § 11.]

**70.148.040 Rules. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** The director may adopt rules consistent with this chapter to carry out the purposes of this chapter. All rules shall be adopted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. [1990 c 64 § 5; 1989 c 383 § 5.]

**70.148.050 Powers and duties of director. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** The director has the following powers and duties:

(1) To design and from time to time revise a reinsurance contract providing coverage to an insurer meeting the requirements of this chapter. Before initially entering into a reinsurance contract, the director shall prepare an actuarial report describing the various reinsurance methods considered by the director and describing each method's costs. In designing the reinsurance contract the director shall consider common insurance industry reinsurance contract provisions and shall design the contract in accordance with the following guidelines:

(a) The contract shall provide coverage to the insurer for the liability risks of owners and operators of underground storage tanks for third party bodily injury and property damage and corrective action that are underwritten by the insurer.

(b) In the event of an insolvency of the insurer, the reinsurance contract shall provide reinsurance payable directly to the insurer or to its liquidator, receiver, or successor on the basis of the liability of the insurer in accordance with the reinsurance contract. In no event may the program be liable for or provide coverage for that portion of any covered loss that is the responsibility of the insurer whether or not the insurer is able to fulfill the responsibility.

(c) The total limit of liability for reinsurance coverage shall not exceed one million dollars per occurrence and two million dollars annual aggregate for each policy underwritten by the insurer less the ultimate net loss retained by the insurer as defined and provided for in the reinsurance contract.

(d) Disputes between the insurer and the insurance program shall be settled through arbitration.

(2) To design and implement a structure of periodic premiums due the director from the insurer that takes full advantage of revenue collections and projected revenue collections to ensure affordable premiums to the insured consistent with sound actuarial principles.

(3) To periodically review premium rates for reinsurance to determine whether revenue appropriations supporting the program can be reduced without substantially increasing the insured's premium costs.

(4) To solicit bids from insurers and select an insurer to provide pollution liability insurance to owners and operators of underground storage tanks for third party bodily injury and property damage and corrective action.

(5) To monitor the activities of the insurer to ensure compliance with this chapter and protect the program from excessive loss exposure resulting from claims mismanagement by the insurer.

(6) To monitor the success of the program and periodically make such reports and recommendations to the legislature as the director deems appropriate, and to annually publish a financial report on the pollution liability insurance program trust account showing, among other things, administrative and other expenses paid from the fund.

(7) To annually report the financial and loss experience of the insurer as to policies issued under the program and the financial and loss experience of the program to the legislature.

(8) To enter into contracts with public and private agencies to assist the director in his or her duties to design, revise,

monitor, and evaluate the program and to provide technical or professional assistance to the director.

(9) To examine the affairs, transactions, accounts, records, documents, and assets of insurers as the director deems advisable. [2006 c 276 § 2; 1998 c 245 § 115; 1995 c 12 § 1; 1990 c 64 § 6; 1989 c 383 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.148.060 Disclosure of reports or information—Penalty. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** (1) All information except for proprietary reports or information obtained by the director and the director's staff in soliciting bids from insurers and in monitoring the insurer selected by the director shall be made public or otherwise disclosed to any person, firm, corporation, agency, association, governmental body, or other entity.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section notwithstanding, the director may furnish all or part of examination reports prepared by the director or by any person, firm, corporation, association, or other entity preparing the reports on behalf of the director to:

- (a) The Washington state insurance commissioner;
- (b) A person or organization officially connected with the insurer as officer, director, attorney, auditor, or independent attorney or independent auditor; and
- (c) The attorney general in his or her role as legal advisor to the director.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section notwithstanding, the director may furnish all or part of the examination or proprietary reports or information obtained by the director to:

- (a) The Washington state insurance commissioner; and
- (b) A person, firm, corporation, association, governmental body, or other entity with whom the director has contracted for services necessary to perform his or her official duties.

(4) Proprietary information obtained by the director and the director's staff is not subject to public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW.

(5) A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [2015 c 224 § 5; 2005 c 274 § 341; 1990 c 64 § 7; 1989 c 383 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.148.070 Insurer selection process and criteria. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** (1) In selecting an insurer to provide pollution liability insurance coverage to owners and operators of underground storage tanks, the director shall evaluate bids based upon criteria established by the director that shall include:

- (a) The insurer's ability to underwrite pollution liability insurance;
- (b) The insurer's ability to settle pollution liability claims quickly and efficiently;
- (c) The insurer's estimate of underwriting and claims adjustment expenses;
- (d) The insurer's estimate of premium rates for providing coverage;
- (e) The insurer's ability to manage and invest premiums; and
- (f) The insurer's ability to provide risk management guidance to insureds.

(2016 Ed.)

The director shall select the bidder most qualified to provide insurance consistent with this chapter and need not select the bidder submitting the least expensive bid. The director may consider bids by groups of insurers and management companies who propose to act in concert in providing coverage and who otherwise meet the requirements of this chapter.

(2) The successful bidder shall agree to provide liability insurance coverage to owners and operators of underground storage tanks for third party bodily injury and property damage and corrective action consistent with the following minimum standards:

- (a) The insurer shall provide coverage for defense costs.
- (b) The insurer shall collect a deductible from the insured for corrective action in an amount approved by the director.

(c) The insurer shall provide coverage for accidental releases in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars per occurrence and one million dollars annual aggregate but no more than one million dollars per occurrence and two million dollars annual aggregate exclusive of defense costs.

(d) The insurer shall require insurance applicants to meet at least the following underwriting standards before issuing coverage to the applicant:

(i) The applicant must be in compliance with statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, and orders governing the ownership and operation of underground storage tanks as identified by the director by rule; and

(ii) The applicant must exercise adequate underground storage tank risk management as specified by the director by rule.

(e) The insurer may exclude coverage for losses arising before the effective date of coverage, and the director may adopt rules establishing standards for determining whether a loss was incurred before the effective date of coverage.

(f) The insurer may exclude coverage for bodily injury, property damage, and corrective action as permitted by the director by rule.

(g) The insurer shall use a variable rate schedule approved by the director taking into account tank type, tank age, and other factors specified by the director.

(3) The director shall adopt all rules necessary to implement this section. In developing and adopting rules governing rates, deductibles, underwriting standards, and coverage conditions, limitations, and exclusions, the director shall balance the owner and operator's need for coverage with the need to maintain the actuarial integrity of the program, shall take into consideration the economic impact of the discontinued use of a storage tank upon the affected community, and shall consult with the \*standing technical advisory committee established under RCW 70.148.030(3). In developing and adopting rules governing coverage exclusions affecting corrective action, the director shall consult with the Washington state department of ecology.

(4) Notwithstanding the definitions contained in RCW 70.148.010, the director may permit an insurer to use different words or phrases describing the coverage provided under the program. In permitting such deviations from the definitions contained in RCW 70.148.010, the director shall consider the regulations adopted by the United States environmental protection agency requiring financial responsibility

by owners and operators of underground petroleum storage tanks.

(5) Owners and operators of underground storage tanks or sites containing underground storage tanks where a preexisting release has been identified or where the owner or operator knows of a preexisting release are eligible for coverage under the program subject to the following conditions:

(a) The owner or operator must have a plan for proceeding with corrective action; and

(b) If the owner or operator files a claim with the insurer, the owner or operator has the burden of proving that the claim is not related to a preexisting release until the owner or operator demonstrates to the satisfaction of the director that corrective action has been completed.

(6) When a reinsurance contract has been entered into by the agency and insurance companies, the director shall notify the department of ecology of the letting of the contract. Within thirty days of that notification, the department of ecology shall notify all known owners and operators of petroleum underground storage tanks that appropriate levels of financial responsibility must be established by October 26, 1990, in accordance with federal environmental protection agency requirements, and that insurance under the program is available. All owners and operators of petroleum underground storage tanks must also be notified that declaration of method of financial responsibility or intent to seek to be insured under the program must be made to the state by November 1, 1990. If the declaration of method of financial responsibility is not made by November 1, 1990, the department of ecology shall, pursuant to chapter 90.76 RCW, prohibit the owner or operator of an underground storage tank from obtaining a tank tag or receiving petroleum products until such time as financial responsibility has been established. [1990 c 64 § 8; 1989 c 383 § 8.]

\***Reviser's note:** The "standing technical advisory committee" was abolished by 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 805 and in its place the director was given authority to appoint ad hoc technical advisory committees.

**70.148.080 Cancellation or refusal by insurer—Appeal. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** If the insurer cancels or refuses to issue or renew a policy, the affected owner or operator may appeal the insurer's decision to the director. The director shall conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW. [1990 c 64 § 9; 1989 c 383 § 9.]

**70.148.090 Exemptions from Title 48 RCW—Exceptions. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** (1) The activities and operations of the program are exempt from the provisions and requirements of Title 48 RCW and to the extent of their participation in the program, the activities and operations of the insurer selected by the director to provide liability insurance coverage to owners and operators of underground storage tanks are exempt from the requirements of Title 48 RCW except for:

- (a) Chapter 48.03 RCW pertaining to examinations;
- (b) RCW 48.05.250 pertaining to annual reports;
- (c) Chapter 48.12 RCW pertaining to assets and liabilities;
- (d) Chapter 48.13 RCW pertaining to investments;
- (e) Chapter 48.30 RCW pertaining to deceptive, false, or fraudulent acts or practices; and

(f) Chapter 48.92 RCW pertaining to liability risk retention.

(2) To the extent of their participation in the program, the insurer selected by the director to provide liability insurance coverage to owners and operators of underground storage tanks shall not participate in the Washington insurance guaranty association nor shall the association be liable for coverage provided to owners and operators of underground storage tanks issued in connection with the program. [1990 c 64 § 10; 1989 c 383 § 10.]

**70.148.110 Reservation of legislative power. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** The legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal all or any part of this chapter at any time, and there is no vested right of any kind against such amendment or repeal. All the rights, privileges, or immunities conferred by this chapter or any acts done under it exist subject to the power of the legislature to amend or repeal this chapter at any time. [1989 c 383 § 12.]

**70.148.900 Expiration of chapter.** This chapter expires July 1, 2030. [2016 c 161 § 16; 2012 1st sp.s. c 3 § 2; 2006 c 276 § 3; 2000 c 16 § 1; 1995 c 12 § 2; 1989 c 383 § 13.]

**Reviser's note:** Pursuant to RCW 43.135.041, chapter 3, Laws of 2012 1st special session was subject to an advisory vote of the people in the November 2012 general election on whether the tax increase in such session law should be maintained or repealed. The advisory vote was in favor of repeal.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 70.149 RCW

### HEATING OIL POLLUTION LIABILITY PROTECTION ACT

#### Sections

- 70.149.010 Intent—Findings.
- 70.149.020 Short title.
- 70.149.030 Definitions.
- 70.149.040 Duties of director.
- 70.149.050 Selection of insurer to provide pollution liability insurance—Eligibility for coverage.
- 70.149.060 Exemptions from Title 48 RCW—Exceptions.
- 70.149.070 Heating oil pollution liability trust account.
- 70.149.080 Pollution liability insurance fee.
- 70.149.090 Confidentiality.
- 70.149.100 Application of RCW 19.86.020 through 19.86.060.
- 70.149.120 Heating oil tanks—Design criteria—Reimbursement.
- 70.149.900 Expiration of chapter.

**70.149.010 Intent—Findings. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** It is the intent of the legislature to establish a temporary regulatory program to assist owners and operators of heating oil tanks. The legislature finds that it is in the best interests of all citizens for heating oil tanks to be operated safely and for tank leaks or spills to be dealt with expeditiously. The legislature further finds that it is necessary to protect tank owners from the financial hardship related to damaged heating oil tanks. The problem is especially acute because owners and operators of heating oil tanks used for space heating have been unable to obtain pollution liability insurance or insurance has been unaffordable. [1995 c 20 § 1.]

**70.149.020 Short title. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** This chapter may be known and cited as the Washington state heating oil pollution liability protection act. [1995 c 20 § 2.]

**70.149.030 Definitions. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Accidental release" means a sudden or nonsudden release of heating oil, occurring after July 23, 1995, from operating a heating oil tank that results in bodily injury, property damage, or a need for corrective action, neither expected nor intended by the owner or operator.

(2) "Bodily injury" means bodily injury, sickness, or disease sustained by a person, including death at any time, resulting from the injury, sickness, or disease.

(3)(a) "Corrective action" means those actions reasonably required to be undertaken by the insured to remove, treat, neutralize, contain, or clean up an accidental release in order to comply with a statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, directive, order, or similar legal requirement, in effect at the time of an accidental release, of the United States, the state of Washington, or a political subdivision of the United States or the state of Washington. "Corrective action" includes, where agreed to in writing, in advance by the insurer, action to remove, treat, neutralize, contain, or clean up an accidental release to avert, reduce, or eliminate the liability of the insured for corrective action, bodily injury, or property damage. "Corrective action" also includes actions reasonably necessary to monitor, assess, and evaluate an accidental release.

(b) "Corrective action" does not include:

(i) Replacement or repair of heating oil tanks or other receptacles; or

(ii) Replacement or repair of piping, connections, and valves of tanks or other receptacles.

(4) "Defense costs" include the costs of legal representation, expert fees, and related costs and expenses incurred in defending against claims or actions brought by or on behalf of:

(a) The United States, the state of Washington, or a political subdivision of the United States or state of Washington to require corrective action or to recover costs of corrective action; or

(b) A third party for bodily injury or property damage caused by an accidental release.

(5) "Director" means the director of the Washington state pollution liability insurance agency or the director's appointed representative.

(6) "Heating oil" means any petroleum product used for space heating in oil-fired furnaces, heaters, and boilers, including stove oil, diesel fuel, or kerosene. "Heating oil" does not include petroleum products used as fuels in motor vehicles, marine vessels, trains, buses, aircraft, or any off-highway equipment not used for space heating, or for industrial processing or the generation of electrical energy.

(7) "Heating oil tank" means a tank and its connecting pipes, whether above or below ground, or in a basement, with pipes connected to the tank for space heating of human living or working space on the premises where the tank is located. "Heating oil tank" does not include a decommissioned or abandoned heating oil tank, or a tank used solely for indus-

trial process heating purposes or generation of electrical energy.

(8) "Occurrence" means an accident, including continuous or repeated exposure to conditions, that results in a release from a heating oil tank.

(9) "Owner or operator" means a person in control of, or having responsibility for, the daily operation of a heating oil tank.

(10) "Pollution liability insurance agency" means the Washington state pollution liability insurance agency.

(11) "Property damage" means:

(a) Physical injury to, destruction of, or contamination of tangible property, including the loss of use of the property resulting from the injury, destruction, or contamination; or

(b) Loss of use of tangible property that has not been physically injured, destroyed, or contaminated but has been evacuated, withdrawn from use, or rendered inaccessible because of an accidental release.

(12) "Release" means a spill, leak, emission, escape, or leaching into the environment.

(13) "Remedial action costs" means reasonable costs that are attributable to or associated with a remedial action.

(14) "Tank" means a stationary device, designed to contain an accumulation of heating oil, that is constructed primarily of nonearthen materials such as concrete, steel, fiberglass, or plastic that provides structural support.

(15) "Third-party liability" means the liability of a heating oil tank owner to another person due to property damage or personal injury that results from a leak or spill. [1995 c 20 § 3.]

**70.149.040 Duties of director. (Expires July 1, 2030.)**

The director shall:

(1) Design a program, consistent with RCW 70.149.120, for providing pollution liability insurance for heating oil tanks that provides up to sixty thousand dollars per occurrence coverage and aggregate limits, and protects the state of Washington from unwanted or unanticipated liability for accidental release claims;

(2) Administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of this chapter. To assist in administration of the program, the director is authorized to appoint up to two employees who are exempt from the civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW, and who shall serve at the pleasure of the director;

(3) Administer the heating oil pollution liability trust account, as established under RCW 70.149.070;

(4) Employ and discharge, at his or her discretion, agents, attorneys, consultants, companies, organizations, and employees as deemed necessary, and to prescribe their duties and powers, and fix their compensation;

(5) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW as necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

(6) Design and from time to time revise a reinsurance contract providing coverage to an insurer or insurers meeting the requirements of this chapter. The director is authorized to provide reinsurance through the pollution liability insurance program trust account;

(7) Solicit bids from insurers and select an insurer to provide pollution liability insurance for third-party bodily injury and property damage, and corrective action to owners and operators of heating oil tanks;

(8) Register, and design a means of accounting for, operating heating oil tanks;

(9) Implement a program to provide advice and technical assistance to owners and operators of active and abandoned heating oil tanks if contamination from an active or abandoned heating oil tank is suspected. Advice and assistance regarding administrative and technical requirements may include observation of testing or site assessment and review of the results of reports. If the director finds that contamination is not present or that the contamination is apparently minor and not a threat to human health or the environment, the director may provide written opinions and conclusions on the results of the investigation to owners and operators of active and abandoned heating oil tanks. The agency is authorized to collect, from persons requesting advice and assistance, the costs incurred by the agency in providing such advice and assistance. The costs may include travel costs and expenses associated with review of reports and preparation of written opinions and conclusions. Funds from cost reimbursement must be deposited in the heating oil pollution liability trust account. The state of Washington, the pollution liability insurance agency, and its officers and employees are immune from all liability, and no cause of action arises from any act or omission in providing, or failing to provide, such advice, opinion, conclusion, or assistance;

(10) Establish a public information program to provide information regarding liability, technical, and environmental requirements associated with active and abandoned heating oil tanks;

(11) Monitor agency expenditures and seek to minimize costs and maximize benefits to ensure responsible financial stewardship;

(12) Study if appropriate user fees to supplement program funding are necessary and develop recommendations for legislation to authorize such fees. [2009 c 560 § 11; 2007 c 240 § 1; 2004 c 203 § 1; 1997 c 8 § 1; 1995 c 20 § 4.]

**Intent—Effective date—Disposition of property and funds—Assignment/delegation of contractual rights or duties—2009 c 560:** See notes following RCW 18.06.080.

**Application—2007 c 240:** See note following RCW 70.149.120.

**70.149.050 Selection of insurer to provide pollution liability insurance—Eligibility for coverage. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** (1) In selecting an insurer to provide pollution liability insurance coverage to owners and operators of heating oil tanks used for space heating, the director shall evaluate bids based upon criteria established by the director that shall include:

(a) The insurer's ability to underwrite pollution liability insurance;

(b) The insurer's ability to settle pollution liability claims quickly and efficiently;

(c) The insurer's estimate of underwriting and claims adjustment expenses;

(d) The insurer's estimate of premium rates for providing coverage;

(e) The insurer's ability to manage and invest premiums; and

(f) The insurer's ability to provide risk management guidance to insureds.

(2) The director shall select the bidder most qualified to provide insurance consistent with this chapter and need not select the bidder submitting the least expensive bid. The director may consider bids by groups of insurers and management companies who propose to act in concert in providing coverage and who otherwise meet the requirements of this chapter.

(3) Owners and operators of heating oil tanks, or sites containing heating oil tanks where a preexisting release has been identified or where the owner or operator knows of a preexisting release are eligible for coverage under the program subject to the following conditions:

(a) The owner or operator must have a plan for proceeding with corrective action; and

(b) If the owner or operator files a claim with the insurer, the owner or operator has the burden of proving that the claim is not related to a preexisting release until the owner or operator demonstrates to the satisfaction of the director that corrective action has been completed. [1995 c 20 § 5.]

**70.149.060 Exemptions from Title 48 RCW—Exceptions. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** (1) The activities and operations of the program are exempt from the provisions and requirements of Title 48 RCW and to the extent of their participation in the program, the activities and operations of the insurer selected by the director to provide liability insurance coverage to owners and operators of heating oil tanks are exempt from the requirements of Title 48 RCW except for:

(a) Chapter 48.03 RCW pertaining to examinations;

(b) RCW 48.05.250 pertaining to annual reports;

(c) Chapter 48.12 RCW pertaining to assets and liabilities;

(d) Chapter 48.13 RCW pertaining to investments;

(e) Chapter 48.30 RCW pertaining to deceptive, false, or fraudulent acts or practices; and

(f) Chapter 48.92 RCW pertaining to liability risk retention.

(2) To the extent of their participation in the program, the insurer selected by the director to provide liability insurance coverage to owners and operators of heating oil tanks shall not participate in the Washington insurance guaranty association nor shall the association be liable for coverage provided to owners and operators of heating oil tanks issued in connection with the program. [1995 c 20 § 6.]

**70.149.070 Heating oil pollution liability trust account. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** (1) The heating oil pollution liability trust account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from the pollution liability insurance fee collected under RCW 70.149.080 and reinsurance premiums shall be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes set out under this chapter. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures. Any residue in the account in excess of funds needed to meet administrative costs for January of the following year shall be transferred at the end of the calendar year to the pollution liability insurance program trust account.

(2) Money in the account may be used by the director for the following purposes:

- (a) Corrective action costs;
- (b) Third-party liability claims;
- (c) Costs associated with claims administration;
- (d) Purchase of an insurance policy to cover all registered heating oil tanks, and reinsurance of the policy; and
- (e) Administrative expenses of the program, including personnel, equipment, supplies, and providing advice and technical assistance. [2004 c 203 § 2; 1997 c 8 § 2; 1995 c 20 § 7.]

**70.149.080 Pollution liability insurance fee. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** (1) A pollution liability insurance fee of one and two-tenths cents per gallon of heating oil purchased within the state shall be imposed on every special fuel dealer, as the term is defined in chapter 82.38 RCW, making sales of heating oil to a user or consumer.

(2) The pollution liability insurance fee shall be remitted by the special fuel dealer to the department of licensing.

(3) The fee proceeds shall be used for the specific regulatory purposes of this chapter.

(4) The fee imposed by this section shall not apply to heating oil exported or sold for export from the state. [2004 c 203 § 3; 1995 c 20 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.149.090 Confidentiality. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** The following shall be confidential and exempt under chapter 42.56 RCW, subject to the conditions set forth in this section:

(1) All examination and proprietary reports and information obtained by the director and the director's staff in soliciting bids from insurers and in monitoring the insurer selected by the director may not be made public or otherwise disclosed to any person, firm, corporation, agency, association, governmental body, or other entity.

(2) All information obtained by the director or the director's staff related to registration of heating oil tanks to be insured may not be made public or otherwise disclosed to any person, firm, corporation, agency, association, governmental body, or other entity.

(3) The director may furnish all or part of examination reports prepared by the director or by any person, firm, corporation, association, or other entity preparing the reports on behalf of the director to:

- (a) The Washington state insurance commissioner;
- (b) A person or organization officially connected with the insurer as officer, director, attorney, auditor, or independent attorney or independent auditor; and
- (c) The attorney general in his or her role as legal advisor to the director. [2005 c 274 § 342; 1995 c 20 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.149.100 Application of RCW 19.86.020 through 19.86.060. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** Nothing contained in this chapter shall authorize any commercial conduct which is prohibited by RCW 19.86.020 through 19.86.060, and no section of this chapter shall be deemed to be an implied repeal of any of those sections of the Revised Code of Washington. [1995 c 20 § 10.]

(2016 Ed.)

**70.149.120 Heating oil tanks—Design criteria—Reimbursement. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** (1) The pollution liability insurance agency shall identify design criteria for heating oil tanks that provide superior protection against future leaks as compared to standard steel tank designs. Any tank designs identified under this section must either be constructed with fiberglass or offer at least an equivalent level of protection against leaks as a standard fiberglass design.

(2) The pollution liability insurance agency shall reimburse any owner or operator, who is participating in the program created in this chapter and who has experienced an occurrence or remedial action, for the difference in price between a standard steel heating tank and a new heating oil tank that satisfies the design standards identified under subsection (1) of this section, if the owner or operator chooses or is required to replace his or her tank at the time of the occurrence or remedial action.

(3) Any new heating oil tank reimbursement provided under this section must be funded within the amount of per occurrence coverage provided to the owner or operator under RCW 70.149.040. [2007 c 240 § 2.]

**Application—2007 c 240:** "This act applies prospectively and only to individuals who file a claim with the pollution liability insurance agency on or after July 22, 2007." [2007 c 240 § 3.]

**70.149.900 Expiration of chapter.** This chapter expires July 1, 2030. [2016 c 161 § 17; 2012 1st sp.s. c 3 § 3; 2006 c 276 § 4; 2000 c 16 § 2; 1995 c 20 § 14.]

**Reviser's note:** Pursuant to RCW 43.135.041, chapter 3, Laws of 2012 1st special session was subject to an advisory vote of the people in the November 2012 general election on whether the tax increase in such session law should be maintained or repealed. The advisory vote was in favor of repeal.

## Chapter 70.150 RCW

### WATER QUALITY JOINT DEVELOPMENT ACT

#### Sections

70.150.010	Purpose—Legislative intent.
70.150.020	Definitions.
70.150.030	Agreements with service providers—Contents—Sources of funds for periodic payments under agreements.
70.150.040	Service agreements and related agreements—Procedural requirements.
70.150.050	Sale, lease, or assignment of public property to service provider—Use for services to public body.
70.150.060	Public body eligible for grants or loans—Use of grants or loans.
70.150.070	RCW 70.150.030 through 70.150.060 to be additional method of providing services.
70.150.080	Application of other chapters to service agreements under this chapter—Prevailing wages.
70.150.900	Short title.

**70.150.010 Purpose—Legislative intent.** The long-range health and economic and environmental goals for the state of Washington require the protection of the state's surface and underground waters for the health, safety, use, and enjoyment of its people. It is the purpose of this chapter to provide public bodies an additional means by which to provide for financing, development, and operation of water pollution control facilities needed for achievement of state and federal water pollution control requirements for the protection of the state's waters.

It is the intent of the legislature that public bodies be authorized to provide service from water pollution control

facilities by means of service agreements with public or private parties as provided in this chapter. [1986 c 244 § 1.]

**70.150.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Water pollution control facilities" or "facilities" means any facilities, systems, or subsystems owned or operated by a public body, or owned or operated by any person or entity for the purpose of providing service to a public body, for the control, collection, storage, treatment, disposal, or recycling of wastewater, including but not limited to sanitary sewage, storm water, residential wastes, commercial wastes, industrial wastes, and agricultural wastes, that are causing or threatening the degradation of subterranean or surface bodies of water due to concentrations of conventional, nonconventional, or toxic pollutants. Water pollution control facilities do not include dams or water supply systems.

(2) "Public body" means the state of Washington or any agency, county, city or town, political subdivision, municipal corporation, or quasi-municipal corporation.

(3) "Water pollution" means such contamination, or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of any surface or subterranean waters of the state, including change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor of the waters, or such discharge of any liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other substance into any waters of the state as will or is likely to create a nuisance or render such waters harmful, detrimental, or injurious to the public health, safety, or welfare, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate beneficial uses, or to livestock, wild animals, birds, fish, or other aquatic life.

(4) "Agreement" means any agreement to which a public body and a service provider are parties by which the service provider agrees to deliver service to such public body in connection with its design, financing, construction, ownership, operation, or maintenance of water pollution control facilities in accordance with this chapter.

(5) "Service provider" means any privately owned or publicly owned profit or nonprofit corporation, partnership, joint venture, association, or other person or entity that is legally capable of contracting for and providing service with respect to the design, financing, ownership, construction, operation, or maintenance of water pollution control facilities in accordance with this chapter. [1986 c 244 § 2.]

**70.150.030 Agreements with service providers—Contents—Sources of funds for periodic payments under agreements.**

(1) Public bodies may enter into agreements with service providers for the furnishing of service in connection with water pollution control facilities pursuant to the process set forth in RCW 70.150.040. The agreements may provide that a public body pay a minimum periodic fee in consideration of the service actually available without regard to the amount of service actually used during all or any part of the contractual period. Agreements may be for a term not to exceed forty years or the life of the facility, whichever is longer, and may be renewable.

(2) The source of funds to meet periodic payment obligations assumed by a public body pursuant to an agreement permitted under this section may be paid from taxes, or solely

from user fees, charges, or other revenues pledged to the payment of the periodic obligations, or any of these sources. [1986 c 244 § 3.]

**70.150.040 Service agreements and related agreements—Procedural requirements.** The legislative authority of a public body may secure services by means of an agreement with a service provider. Such an agreement may obligate a service provider to perform one or more of the following services: Design, finance, construct, own, operate, or maintain water pollution control facilities by which services are provided to the public body. Service agreements and related agreements under this chapter shall be entered into in accordance with the following procedure:

(1) The legislative authority of the public body shall publish notice that it is seeking to secure certain specified services by means of entering into an agreement with a service provider. The notice shall be published in the official newspaper of the public body, or if there is no official newspaper then in a newspaper in general circulation within the boundaries of the public body, at least once each week for two consecutive weeks. The final notice shall appear not less than thirty days before the date for submission of proposals. The notice shall state (a) the nature of the services needed, (b) the location in the public body's offices where the requirements and standards for construction, operation, or maintenance of projects needed as part of the services are available for inspection, and (c) the final date for the submission of proposals. The legislative authority may undertake a prequalification process by the same procedure set forth in this subsection.

(2) The request for proposals shall (a) indicate the time and place responses are due, (b) include evaluation criteria to be considered in selecting a service provider, (c) specify minimum requirements or other limitations applying to selection, (d) insofar as practicable, set forth terms and provisions to be included in the service agreement, and (e) require the service provider to demonstrate in its proposal to the public body's satisfaction that it is in the public interest to enter into the service agreement and that the service agreement is financially sound and advantageous to the public body from the standpoint of annual costs, quality of services, experience of the provider, reduction of risk, and other factors.

(3) The criteria set forth in the request for proposals shall be those determined to be relevant by the legislative authority of the public body, which may include but shall not be limited to: The respondent's prior experience, including design, construction, or operation of other similar facilities; respondent's management capability, schedule availability, and financial resources; cost of the service; nature of facility design proposed by respondents; system reliability; performance standards required for the facilities; compatibility with existing service facilities operated by the public body or other providers of service to the public body; project performance warranties; penalty and other enforcement provisions; environmental protection measures to be used; and allocation of project risks. The legislative authority may designate persons or entities within or outside the public body (a) to assist it in issuing the request for proposals to ensure that proposals will be responsive to its needs, and (b) to assist it in evaluating the proposals received.

(4) After proposals under subsections (1) through (3) of this section have been received, the legislative authority or its designee shall determine, on the basis of its review of the proposals, whether one or more proposals have been received from respondents which are (a) determined to be qualified to provide the requested services, and (b) responsive to the notice and evaluation criteria, which shall include, but not be limited to, cost of services. These chosen respondents may, at the discretion of the public body, be aggregated into a short list of qualified respondents, who shall be referred to as the selected respondents in this section. The legislative authority or its designee shall conduct a bidder's conference to include all these selected respondents to assure a full understanding of the proposals. The bidder's conference shall make these selected respondents aware of any changes in the request for proposal. Any information related to revisions in the request for proposal shall be made available to all these selected respondents. Any selected respondent shall be accorded a reasonable opportunity for revision of its proposal prior to commencement of the negotiation provided in subsection (5) of this section, for the purpose of obtaining best and final proposals.

(5) After such conference is held, the legislative authority or its designee may negotiate with the selected respondent whose proposal it determines to be the most advantageous to the public body, considering the criteria set forth in the request for proposals. If negotiations are conducted by the designee, the legislative authority shall continue to oversee the negotiations and provide direction to its designee. If the negotiation is unsuccessful, the legislative authority may commence negotiations with any other selected respondent. On completion of this process, and after the department of ecology review and comments as provided for in subsection (9) of this section, and after public hearing as provided for in subsection (10) of this section, the legislative authority may approve a contract with its chosen respondent.

(6) Any person aggrieved by the legislative authority's approval of a contract may appeal the determination to an appeals board selected by the public body, which shall consist of not less than three persons determined by the legislative authority to be qualified for such purposes. Such board shall promptly hear and determine whether the public body entered into the agreement in accordance with this chapter and other applicable law. The board shall have the power only to affirm or void the agreement.

(7) Notwithstanding the foregoing, where contracting for design services by the public body is done separately from contracting for other services permitted under this chapter, the contracting for design services shall be done in accordance with chapter 39.80 RCW.

(8) If a public body elects to enter into an agreement whereby the service provider will own all or a portion of the water pollution control facilities it constructs, the service agreement shall include provision for an option by which a public body may acquire at fair market value facilities dedicated to such service.

(9) Before any service agreement is entered into by the public body, it shall be reviewed by the department of ecology to ensure consistency with the purposes of chapters 90.46 and 90.48 RCW.

(2016 Ed.)

The department of ecology has thirty days from receipt of the proposed service agreement to complete its review and provide the public body with comments. A review under this section is not intended to replace any additional permitting or regulatory reviews and approvals that may be required under other applicable laws.

(10) Prior to entering into any service agreement under this chapter, the public body must have made written findings, after holding a public hearing on the proposal, that it is in the public interest to enter into the service agreement and that the service agreement is financially sound and advantageous compared to other methods.

(11) Each service agreement shall include project performance bonds or other security by the service provider which in the judgment of the public body is sufficient to secure adequate performance by the service provider. [2005 c 469 § 1; 1989 c 175 § 136; 1986 c 244 § 4.]

*Competitive bids—Inapplicability to certain agreements: RCW 35.22.625 and 36.32.265.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.150.050 Sale, lease, or assignment of public property to service provider—Use for services to public body.** A public body may sell, lease, or assign public property for fair market value to any service provider as part of a service agreement entered into under the authority of this chapter. The property sold or leased shall be used by the provider, directly or indirectly, in providing services to the public body. Such use may include demolition, modification, or other use of the property as may be necessary to execute the purposes of the service agreement. [1986 c 244 § 5.]

**70.150.060 Public body eligible for grants or loans—Use of grants or loans.** A public body that enters into a service agreement pursuant to this chapter, under which a facility is owned wholly or partly by a service provider, shall be eligible for grants or loans to the extent permitted by law or regulation as if the entire portion of the facility dedicated to service to such public body were publicly owned. The grants or loans shall be made to and shall inure to the benefit of the public body and not the service provider. Such grants or loans shall be used by the public body for all or part of its ownership interest in the facility, and/or to defray a part of the payments it makes to the service provider under a service agreement if such uses are permitted under the grant or loan program. [1986 c 244 § 6.]

**70.150.070 RCW 70.150.030 through 70.150.060 to be additional method of providing services.** RCW 70.150.030 through 70.150.060 shall be deemed to provide an additional method for the provision of services from and in connection with facilities and shall be regarded as supplemental and additional to powers conferred by other state laws and by federal laws. [2007 c 494 § 505; 2005 c 469 § 2; 1986 c 244 § 7.]

*Part headings and captions not law—Effective dates—Severability—2007 c 494: See RCW 39.10.903 through 39.10.905.*

**70.150.080 Application of other chapters to service agreements under this chapter—Prevailing wages.** (1) The provisions of chapters 39.12, 39.19, and \*39.25 RCW

shall apply to a service agreement entered into under this chapter to the same extent as if the facilities dedicated to such service were owned by a public body.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not be construed to apply to agreements or actions by persons or entities which are not undertaken pursuant to this chapter.

(3) Except for RCW 39.04.175, this chapter shall not be construed as a limitation or restriction on the application of Title 39 RCW to public bodies.

(4) Prevailing wages shall be established as the prevailing wage in the largest city of the county in which facilities are built. [1986 c 244 § 8.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 39.25 RCW was repealed by 1994 c 138 § 2.

**70.150.900 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the water quality joint development act. [1986 c 244 § 9.]

### Chapter 70.155 RCW TOBACCO—ACCESS TO MINORS

#### Sections

70.155.005	Finding.
70.155.010	Definitions.
70.155.020	Cigarette wholesaler or retailer licensee duties—Prohibition sign to be posted.
70.155.030	Cigarette machine location.
70.155.040	Cigarettes must be sold in original package—Exception.
70.155.050	Sampling prohibited—Penalty.
70.155.070	Coupons.
70.155.080	Purchasing, possessing by persons under eighteen—Civil infraction—Jurisdiction.
70.155.090	Age identification requirement.
70.155.100	Penalties, sanctions, and actions against licensees.
70.155.110	Liquor control board authority.
70.155.120	Youth tobacco and vapor products prevention account—Source and use of funds.
70.155.130	Preemption of political subdivisions.
70.155.140	Shipping or transporting tobacco products ordered or purchased by mail or through the internet prohibited—Penalty.
70.155.150	Licensee compliance with certain other laws.

**70.155.005 Finding.** The legislature finds that while present state law prohibits the sale and distribution of tobacco to minors, youth obtain tobacco products with ease. Availability and lack of enforcement put tobacco products in the hands of youth.

Federal law requires states to enforce laws prohibiting sale and distribution of tobacco products to minors in a manner that can reasonably be expected to reduce the extent to which the products are available to minors. It is imperative to effectively reduce the sale, distribution, and availability of tobacco products to minors. [1993 c 507 § 1.]

*Minors and tobacco: RCW 26.28.080.*

*Taxation: Chapters 82.24 and 82.26 RCW.*

*Tobacco on school grounds: RCW 28A.210.310.*

**70.155.010 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in RCW 82.24.010 shall apply to this chapter. In addition, for the purposes of this chapter, unless otherwise required by the context:

(1) "Board" means the Washington \*state liquor control board.

(2) "Internet" means any computer network, telephonic network, or other electronic network.

(3) "Minor" refers to an individual who is less than eighteen years old.

(4) "Sample" means a tobacco product distributed to members of the general public at no cost or at nominal cost for product promotion purposes.

(5) "Sampling" means the distribution of samples to members of the public.

(6) "Tobacco product" means a product that contains tobacco and is intended for human use, including any product defined in RCW 82.24.010(2) or \*\*82.26.010(1), except that for the purposes of RCW 70.155.140 only, "tobacco product" does not include cigars defined in RCW 82.26.010 as to which one thousand units weigh more than three pounds. [2009 c 278 § 1; 2006 c 14 § 2; 2003 c 113 § 1; 1993 c 507 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The "state liquor control board" was renamed the "state liquor and cannabis board" by 2015 c 70 § 3.

\*\* (2) RCW 82.26.010 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (1) to subsection (21).

(3) In an order on motion for reconsideration and request for stay pending appeal dated September 25, 2006, the United States District Court for the Western District ruled that chapter 14, Laws of 2006 is preempted by the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1334(b) only in application of the law to cigarette sampling. (Case No. C06-5223, W.D. Wash. 2006.)

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 14:** See note following RCW 70.155.050.

**70.155.020 Cigarette wholesaler or retailer licensee duties—Prohibition sign to be posted.** A person who holds a license issued under RCW 82.24.520 or 82.24.530 shall:

(1) Display the license or a copy in a prominent location at the outlet for which the license is issued; and

(2) Display a sign concerning the prohibition of tobacco sales to minors.

Such sign shall:

(a) Be posted so that it is clearly visible to anyone purchasing tobacco products from the licensee;

(b) Be designed and produced by the department of health to read: "THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO PERSONS UNDER AGE 18 IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW. IF YOU ARE UNDER 18, YOU COULD BE PENALIZED FOR PURCHASING A TOBACCO PRODUCT; PHOTO ID REQUIRED"; and

(c) Be provided free of charge by the \*liquor control board. [1993 c 507 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "state liquor control board" was renamed the "state liquor and cannabis board" by 2015 c 70 § 3.

**70.155.030 Cigarette machine location.** No person shall sell or permit to be sold any tobacco product through any device that mechanically dispenses tobacco products unless the device is located fully within premises from which minors are prohibited or in industrial worksites where minors are not employed and not less than ten feet from all entrance or exit ways to and from each premise. The board shall adopt rules that allow an exception to the requirement that a device be located not less than ten feet from all entrance or exit ways to and from a premise if it is architecturally impractical for the device to be located not less than ten feet from all entrance and exit ways. [1994 c 202 § 1; 1993 c 507 § 4.]

**70.155.040 Cigarettes must be sold in original package—Exception.** No person shall sell or permit to be sold cigarettes not in the original unopened package or container to which the stamps required by RCW 82.24.060 have been affixed.

This section does not apply to the sale of loose leaf tobacco by a retail business that generates a minimum of sixty percent of annual gross sales from the sale of tobacco products. [1993 c 507 § 5.]

**70.155.050 Sampling prohibited—Penalty.** (1) No person may engage in the business of sampling tobacco products.

(2) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor. [2006 c 14 § 3; 1993 c 507 § 6.]

**Reviser's note:** In an order on motion for reconsideration and request for stay pending appeal dated September 25, 2006, the United States District Court for the Western District ruled that chapter 14, Laws of 2006 is preempted by the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1334(b) only in application of the law to cigarette sampling. (Case No. C06-5223, W.D. Wash. 2006.)

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 14:** "The legislature recognizes that tobacco use among children is a serious and preventable health problem. Every day sixty-five more children in Washington state become smokers, and every year more than eight thousand two hundred state residents die from tobacco-related illnesses. The legislature further finds that tobacco samples contribute to children's access to tobacco products by providing a no-cost initiation that encourages minors to experiment with nicotine at early ages. Sampling activity often occurs in venues frequented by minors, and tobacco samples are distributed along with other promotional items that contain tobacco brand logos, thus increasing the appeal of the tobacco products as well as the chances that children will obtain them. Sampling events in this state have increased twenty-fold over the past nine years, and nationwide, tobacco industry spending on samples has increased significantly. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to protect minors from the influence of tobacco sampling by eliminating the distribution of samples in this state." [2006 c 14 § 1.]

**70.155.070 Coupons.** No person shall give or distribute cigarettes or other tobacco products to a person by a coupon if such coupon is redeemed in any manner that does not require an in-person transaction in a retail store. [1993 c 507 § 8.]

**70.155.080 Purchasing, possessing by persons under eighteen—Civil infraction—Jurisdiction.** (1) A person under the age of eighteen who purchases or attempts to purchase, possesses, or obtains or attempts to obtain cigarettes or tobacco products commits a class 3 civil infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW and is subject to a fine as set out in chapter 7.80 RCW or participation in up to four hours of community restitution, or both. The court may also require participation in a smoking cessation program. This provision does not apply if a person under the age of eighteen, with parental authorization, is participating in a controlled purchase as part of a \*liquor control board, law enforcement, or local health department activity.

(2) Municipal and district courts within the state have jurisdiction for enforcement of this section. [2002 c 175 § 47; 1998 c 133 § 2; 1993 c 507 § 9.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "state liquor control board" was renamed the "state liquor and cannabis board" by 2015 c 70 § 3.

**Finding—Intent—1998 c 133:** "The legislature finds that the protection of adolescents' health requires a strong set of comprehensive health and law enforcement interventions. We know that youth are deterred from using alcohol in public because of existing laws making possession illegal. However, while the purchase of tobacco by youth is clearly prohibited, the pos-

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session of tobacco is not. It is the legislature's intent that youth hear consistent messages from public entities, including law enforcement, about public opposition to their illegal use of tobacco products." [1998 c 133 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.155.090 Age identification requirement.** (1) Where there may be a question of a person's right to purchase or obtain tobacco products by reason of age, the retailer or agent thereof, shall require the purchaser to present any one of the following officially issued identification that shows the purchaser's age and bears his or her signature and photograph: (a) Liquor control authority card of identification of a state or province of Canada; (b) driver's license, instruction permit, or identification card of a state or province of Canada; (c) "identocard" issued by the Washington state department of licensing under chapter 46.20 RCW; (d) United States military identification; (e) passport; (f) enrollment card, issued by the governing authority of a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Washington, that incorporates security features comparable to those implemented by the department of licensing for Washington drivers' licenses. At least ninety days prior to implementation of an enrollment card under this subsection, the appropriate tribal authority shall give notice to the board. The board shall publish and communicate to licensees regarding the implementation of each new enrollment card; or (g) merchant marine identification card issued by the United States coast guard.

(2) It is a defense to a prosecution under RCW 26.28.080 that the person making a sale reasonably relied on any of the officially issued identification as defined in subsection (1) of this section. The \*liquor control board shall waive the suspension or revocation of a license if the licensee clearly establishes that he or she acted in good faith to prevent violations and a violation occurred despite the licensee's exercise of due diligence. [2006 c 14 § 4; 2005 c 206 § 2; 1993 c 507 § 10.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The "state liquor control board" was renamed the "state liquor and cannabis board" by 2015 c 70 § 3.

(2) In an order on motion for reconsideration and request for stay pending appeal dated September 25, 2006, the United States District Court for the Western District ruled that chapter 14, Laws of 2006 is preempted by the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1334(b) only in application of the law to cigarette sampling. (Case No. C06-5223, W.D. Wash. 2006.)

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 14:** See note following RCW 70.155.050.

**70.155.100 Penalties, sanctions, and actions against licensees.** (1) The liquor and cannabis board may suspend or revoke a retailer's license issued under RCW 82.24.510(1)(b) or 82.26.150(1)(b) held by a business at any location, or may impose a monetary penalty as set forth in subsection (3) of this section, if the liquor and cannabis board finds that the licensee has violated RCW 26.28.080, 70.155.020, 70.155.030, 70.155.040, 70.155.050, 70.155.070, or 70.155.090.

(2) Any retailer's licenses issued under RCW 70.345.020 to a person whose license or licenses under chapter 82.24 or 82.26 RCW have been suspended or revoked for violating RCW 26.28.080 must also be suspended or revoked during the period of suspension or revocation under this section.

(3) The sanctions that the liquor and cannabis board may impose against a person licensed under RCW 82.24.530 or

82.26.170 based upon one or more findings under subsection (1) of this section may not exceed the following:

(a) For violations of RCW 26.28.080, 70.155.020, or 21 C.F.R. Sec. 1140.14, and for violations of RCW 70.155.040 occurring on the licensed premises:

(i) A monetary penalty of two hundred dollars for the first violation within any three-year period;

(ii) A monetary penalty of six hundred dollars for the second violation within any three-year period;

(iii) A monetary penalty of two thousand dollars and suspension of the license for a period of six months for the third violation within any three-year period;

(iv) A monetary penalty of three thousand dollars and suspension of the license for a period of twelve months for the fourth violation within any three-year period;

(v) Revocation of the license with no possibility of reinstatement for a period of five years for the fifth or more violation within any three-year period;

(b) If the board finds that a person licensed under chapter 82.24 or 82.26 RCW and RCW 70.345.020 has violated RCW 26.28.080, each subsequent violation of either of the person's licenses counts as an additional violation within that three-year period.

(c) For violations of RCW 70.155.030, a monetary penalty in the amount of one hundred dollars for each day upon which such violation occurred;

(d) For violations of RCW 70.155.050, a monetary penalty in the amount of six hundred dollars for each violation;

(e) For violations of RCW 70.155.070, a monetary penalty in the amount of two thousand dollars for each violation.

(4) The liquor and cannabis board may impose a monetary penalty upon any person other than a licensed cigarette or tobacco product retailer if the liquor and cannabis board finds that the person has violated RCW 26.28.080, 70.155.020, 70.155.030, 70.155.040, 70.155.050, 70.155.070, or 70.155.090.

(5) The monetary penalty that the liquor and cannabis board may impose based upon one or more findings under subsection (4) of this section may not exceed the following:

(a) For violation of RCW 26.28.080 or 70.155.020, one hundred dollars for the first violation and two hundred dollars for each subsequent violation;

(b) For violations of RCW 70.155.030, two hundred dollars for each day upon which such violation occurred;

(c) For violations of RCW 70.155.040, two hundred dollars for each violation;

(d) For violations of RCW 70.155.050, six hundred dollars for each violation;

(e) For violations of RCW 70.155.070, two thousand dollars for each violation.

(6) The liquor and cannabis board may develop and offer a class for retail clerks and use this class in lieu of a monetary penalty for the clerk's first violation.

(7) The liquor and cannabis board may issue a cease and desist order to any person who is found by the liquor and cannabis board to have violated or intending to violate the provisions of this chapter, RCW 26.28.080, 82.24.500, or 82.26.190 requiring such person to cease specified conduct that is in violation. The issuance of a cease and desist order does not preclude the imposition of other sanctions authorized by this statute or any other provision of law.

(8) The liquor and cannabis board may seek injunctive relief to enforce the provisions of RCW 26.28.080, 82.24.500, 82.26.190 or this chapter. The liquor and cannabis board may initiate legal action to collect civil penalties imposed under this chapter if the same have not been paid within thirty days after imposition of such penalties. In any action filed by the liquor and cannabis board under this chapter, the court may, in addition to any other relief, award the liquor and cannabis board reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

(9) All proceedings under subsections (1) through (7) of this section shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

(10) The liquor and cannabis board may reduce or waive either the penalties or the suspension or revocation of a license, or both, as set forth in this chapter where the elements of proof are inadequate or where there are mitigating circumstances. Mitigating circumstances may include, but are not limited to, an exercise of due diligence by a retailer. Further, the board may exceed penalties set forth in this chapter based on aggravating circumstances. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 23; 2006 c 14 § 5; 1998 c 133 § 3; 1993 c 507 § 11.]

**Reviser's note:** In an order on motion for reconsideration and request for stay pending appeal dated September 25, 2006, the United States District Court for the Western District ruled that chapter 14, Laws of 2006 is preempted by the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1334(b) only in application of the law to cigarette sampling. (Case No. C06-5223, W.D. Wash. 2006.)

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 14:** See note following RCW 70.155.050.

**Finding—Intent—1998 c 133:** See note following RCW 70.155.080.

**70.155.110 Liquor control board authority.** (1) The \*liquor control board shall, in addition to the board's other powers and authorities, have the authority to enforce the provisions of this chapter and RCW \*\*26.28.080(4) and 82.24.500. The \*liquor control board shall have full power to revoke or suspend the license of any retailer or wholesaler in accordance with the provisions of RCW 70.155.100.

(2) The \*liquor control board and the board's authorized agents or employees shall have full power and authority to enter any place of business where tobacco products are sold for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter.

(3) For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter and RCW \*\*26.28.080(4) and 82.24.500, a peace officer or enforcement officer of the \*liquor control board who has reasonable grounds to believe a person observed by the officer purchasing, attempting to purchase, or in possession of tobacco products is under the age of eighteen years of age, may detain such person for a reasonable period of time and in such a reasonable manner as is necessary to determine the person's true identity and date of birth. Further, tobacco products possessed by persons under the age of eighteen years of age are considered contraband and may be seized by a peace officer or enforcement officer of the \*liquor control board.

(4) The \*liquor control board may work with local county health departments or districts and local law enforcement agencies to conduct random, unannounced, inspections to assure compliance. [1993 c 507 § 12.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The "state liquor control board" was renamed the "state liquor and cannabis board" by 2015 c 70 § 3.

\*\* (2) RCW 26.28.080 was amended by 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 437, and no longer has numbered subsections.

**70.155.120 Youth tobacco and vapor products prevention account—Source and use of funds.** (1) The youth tobacco and vapor products prevention account is created in the state treasury. All fees collected pursuant to RCW 82.24.520, 82.24.530, 82.26.160, and 82.26.170 and funds collected by the liquor and cannabis board from the imposition of monetary penalties shall be deposited into this account, except that ten percent of all such fees and penalties shall be deposited in the state general fund.

(2) Moneys appropriated from the youth tobacco and vapor products prevention account to the department of health shall be used by the department of health for implementation of this chapter, including collection and reporting of data regarding enforcement and the extent to which access to tobacco products and vapor products by youth has been reduced.

(3) The department of health shall enter into interagency agreements with the liquor and cannabis board to pay the costs incurred, up to thirty percent of available funds, in carrying out its enforcement responsibilities under this chapter. Such agreements shall set forth standards of enforcement, consistent with the funding available, so as to reduce the extent to which tobacco products and vapor products are available to individuals under the age of eighteen. The agreements shall also set forth requirements for data reporting by the liquor and cannabis board regarding its enforcement activities.

(4) The department of health, the liquor and cannabis board, and the department of revenue shall enter into an interagency agreement for payment of the cost of administering the tobacco retailer licensing system and for the provision of quarterly documentation of tobacco wholesaler, retailer, and vending machine names and locations.

(5) The department of health shall, within up to seventy percent of available funds, provide grants to local health departments or other local community agencies to develop and implement coordinated tobacco and vapor product intervention strategies to prevent and reduce tobacco and vapor product use by youth. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 2; 1993 c 507 § 13.]

**70.155.130 Preemption of political subdivisions.** This chapter preempts political subdivisions from adopting or enforcing requirements for the licensure and regulation of tobacco product promotions and sales within retail stores, except that political subdivisions that have adopted ordinances prohibiting sampling by January 1, 1993, may continue to enforce these ordinances. No political subdivision may: (1) Impose fees or license requirements on retail businesses for possessing or selling cigarettes or tobacco products, other than general business taxes or license fees not primarily levied on tobacco products; or (2) regulate or prohibit activities covered by RCW 70.155.020 through 70.155.080. This chapter does not otherwise preempt political subdivisions from adopting ordinances regulating the sale, purchase, use, or promotion of tobacco products not inconsistent with chapter 507, Laws of 1993. [1993 c 507 § 14.]

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**70.155.140 Shipping or transporting tobacco products ordered or purchased by mail or through the internet prohibited—Penalty.** (1) A person may not:

(a) Ship or transport, or cause to be shipped or transported, any tobacco product ordered or purchased by mail or through the internet to anyone in this state other than a licensed wholesaler or retailer; or

(b) With knowledge or reason to know of the violation, provide substantial assistance to a person who is in violation of this section.

(2)(a) A person who knowingly violates subsection (1) of this section is guilty of a class C felony, except that the maximum fine that may be imposed is five thousand dollars.

(b) In addition to or in lieu of any other civil or criminal remedy provided by law, a person who has violated subsection (1) of this section is subject to a civil penalty of up to five thousand dollars for each violation. The attorney general, acting in the name of the state, may seek recovery of the penalty in a civil action in superior court. For purposes of this subsection, each shipment or transport of tobacco products constitutes a separate violation.

(3) The attorney general may seek an injunction in superior court to restrain a threatened or actual violation of subsection (1) of this section and to compel compliance with subsection (1) of this section.

(4) Any violation of subsection (1) of this section is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business and is an unfair and deceptive act or practice and an unfair method of competition in the conduct of trade or commerce in violation of RCW 19.86.020. Standing to bring an action to enforce RCW 19.86.020 for violation of subsection (1) of this section lies solely with the attorney general. Remedies provided by chapter 19.86 RCW are cumulative and not exclusive.

(5)(a) In any action brought under this section, the state is entitled to recover, in addition to other relief, the costs of investigation, expert witness fees, costs of the action, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

(b) If a court determines that a person has violated subsection (1) of this section, the court shall order any profits, gain, gross receipts, or other benefit from the violation to be disgorged and paid to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund.

(6) Unless otherwise expressly provided, the penalties or remedies, or both, under this section are in addition to any other penalties and remedies available under any other law of this state. [2009 c 278 § 2.]

**70.155.150 Licensee compliance with certain other laws.** (1) A person who holds a license issued under chapter 82.24 or 82.26 RCW or RCW 70.345.020 must conduct the business and maintain the premises in compliance with Titles 9 and 9A RCW and chapter 69.50 RCW.

(2) The board may revoke or suspend a license issued under chapter 82.24 or 82.26 RCW or RCW 70.345.020 upon sufficient cause showing a violation of this section. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 30.]

## Chapter 70.157 RCW

NATIONAL UNIFORM TOBACCO SETTLEMENT—  
NONPARTICIPATING TOBACCO PRODUCT  
MANUFACTURERS

## Sections

70.157.005	Findings and purpose.
70.157.010	Definitions.
70.157.020	Requirements.
70.157.030	Contingent expiration date—Court action.

**70.157.005 Findings and purpose.** (a) Cigarette smoking presents serious public health concerns to the State and to the citizens of the State. The Surgeon General has determined that smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease and other serious diseases, and that there are hundreds of thousands of tobacco-related deaths in the United States each year. These diseases most often do not appear until many years after the person in question begins smoking.

(b) Cigarette smoking also presents serious financial concerns for the State. Under certain health-care programs, the State may have a legal obligation to provide medical assistance to eligible persons for health conditions associated with cigarette smoking, and those persons may have a legal entitlement to receive such medical assistance.

(c) Under these programs, the State pays millions of dollars each year to provide medical assistance for these persons for health conditions associated with cigarette smoking.

(d) It is the policy of the State that financial burdens imposed on the State by cigarette smoking be borne by tobacco product manufacturers rather than by the State to the extent that such manufacturers either determine to enter into a settlement with the State or are found culpable by the courts.

(e) On November 23, 1998, leading United States tobacco product manufacturers entered into a settlement agreement, entitled the "Master Settlement Agreement," with the State. The Master Settlement Agreement obligates these manufacturers, in return for a release of past, present and certain future claims against them as described therein, to pay substantial sums to the State (tied in part to their volume of sales); to fund a national foundation devoted to the interests of public health; and to make substantial changes in their advertising and marketing practices and corporate culture, with the intention of reducing underage smoking.

(f) It would be contrary to the policy of the State if tobacco product manufacturers who determine not to enter into such a settlement could use a resulting cost advantage to derive large, short-term profits in the years before liability may arise without ensuring that the State will have an eventual source of recovery from them if they are proven to have acted culpably. It is thus in the interest of the State to require that such manufacturers establish a reserve fund to guarantee a source of compensation and to prevent such manufacturers from deriving large, short-term profits and then becoming judgment-proof before liability may arise. [1999 c 393 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.157.010 Definitions.** (a) "Adjusted for inflation" means increased in accordance with the formula for inflation adjustment set forth in Exhibit C to the Master Settlement Agreement.

(b) "Affiliate" means a person who directly or indirectly owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person. Solely for purposes of this definition, the terms "owns," "is owned" and "ownership" mean ownership of an equity interest, or the equivalent thereof, of ten percent or more, and the term "person" means an individual, partnership, committee, association, corporation or any other organization or group of persons.

(c) "Allocable share" means Allocable Share as that term is defined in the Master Settlement Agreement.

(d) "Cigarette" means any product that contains nicotine, is intended to be burned or heated under ordinary conditions of use, and consists of or contains (1) any roll of tobacco wrapped in paper or in any substance not containing tobacco; or (2) tobacco, in any form, that is functional in the product, which, because of its appearance, the type of tobacco used in the filler, or its packaging and labeling, is likely to be offered to, or purchased by, consumers as a cigarette; or (3) any roll of tobacco wrapped in any substance containing tobacco which, because of its appearance, the type of tobacco used in the filler, or its packaging and labeling, is likely to be offered to, or purchased by, consumers as a cigarette described in clause (1) of this definition. The term "cigarette" includes "roll-your-own" (i.e., any tobacco which, because of its appearance, type, packaging, or labeling is suitable for use and likely to be offered to, or purchased by, consumers as tobacco for making cigarettes). For purposes of this definition of "cigarette," 0.09 ounces of "roll-your-own" tobacco shall constitute one individual "cigarette".

(e) "Master Settlement Agreement" means the settlement agreement (and related documents) entered into on November 23, 1998 by the State and leading United States tobacco product manufacturers.

(f) "Qualified escrow fund" means an escrow arrangement with a federally or State chartered financial institution having no affiliation with any tobacco product manufacturer and having assets of at least \$1,000,000,000 where such arrangement requires that such financial institution hold the escrowed funds' principal for the benefit of releasing parties and prohibits the tobacco product manufacturer placing the funds into escrow from using, accessing or directing the use of the funds' principal except as consistent with RCW 70.157.020(b).

(g) "Released claims" means Released Claims as that term is defined in the Master Settlement Agreement.

(h) "Releasing parties" means Releasing Parties as that term is defined in the Master Settlement Agreement.

(i) "Tobacco Product Manufacturer" means an entity that after the date of enactment of this Act directly (and not exclusively through any affiliate):

(1) manufactures cigarettes anywhere that such manufacturer intends to be sold in the United States, including cigarettes intended to be sold in the United States through an importer (except where such importer is an original participating manufacturer (as that term is defined in the Master Settlement Agreement) that will be responsible for the payments under the Master Settlement Agreement with respect to such cigarettes as a result of the provisions of subsections II(mm) of the Master Settlement Agreement and that pays the taxes specified in subsection II(z) of the Master Settlement

Agreement, and provided that the manufacturer of such cigarettes does not market or advertise such cigarettes in the United States);

(2) is the first purchaser anywhere for resale in the United States of cigarettes manufactured anywhere that the manufacturer does not intend to be sold in the United States; or

(3) becomes a successor of an entity described in paragraph (1) or (2).

The term "Tobacco Product Manufacturer" shall not include an affiliate of a tobacco product manufacturer unless such affiliate itself falls within any of (1)-(3) above.

(j) "Units sold" means the number of individual cigarettes sold in the State by the applicable tobacco product manufacturer (whether directly or through a distributor, retailer or similar intermediary or intermediaries) during the year in question, as measured by excise taxes collected by the State on packs bearing the excise tax stamp of the State or "roll-your-own" tobacco containers. The department of revenue shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to ascertain the amount of State excise tax paid on the cigarettes of such tobacco product manufacturer for each year. [1999 c 393 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.157.020 Requirements. (Contingent expiration date.)** Any tobacco product manufacturer selling cigarettes to consumers within the State (whether directly or through a distributor, retailer or similar intermediary or intermediaries) after May 18, 1999, shall do one of the following:

(a) become a participating manufacturer (as that term is defined in section II(jj) of the Master Settlement Agreement) and generally perform its financial obligations under the Master Settlement Agreement; or

(b)(1) place into a qualified escrow fund by April 15 of the year following the year in question the following amounts (as such amounts are adjusted for inflation)—

1999: \$.0094241 per unit sold after May 18, 1999;  
2000: \$.0104712 per unit sold;  
for each of 2001 and 2002: \$.0136125 per unit sold;  
for each of 2003 through 2006: \$.0167539 per unit sold;  
for each of 2007 and each year thereafter: \$.0188482 per unit sold.

(2) A tobacco product manufacturer that places funds into escrow pursuant to paragraph (1) shall receive the interest or other appreciation on such funds as earned. Such funds themselves shall be released from escrow only under the following circumstances—

(A) to pay a judgment or settlement on any released claim brought against such tobacco product manufacturer by the State or any releasing party located or residing in the State. Funds shall be released from escrow under this subparagraph (i) in the order in which they were placed into escrow and (ii) only to the extent and at the time necessary to make payments required under such judgment or settlement;

(B) to the extent that a tobacco product manufacturer establishes that the amount it was required to place into escrow on account of units sold in the state in a particular year was greater than the Master Settlement Agreement payments, as determined pursuant to section IX(i) of that Agreement including after final determination of all adjustments,

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that such manufacturer would have been required to make on account of such units sold, had it been a Participating Manufacturer, the excess shall be released from escrow and revert back to such tobacco product manufacturer; or

(C) to the extent not released from escrow under subparagraphs (A) or (B), funds shall be released from escrow and revert back to such tobacco product manufacturer twenty-five years after the date on which they were placed into escrow.

(3) Each tobacco product manufacturer that elects to place funds into escrow pursuant to this subsection shall annually certify to the Attorney General that it is in compliance with this subsection. The Attorney General may bring a civil action on behalf of the State against any tobacco product manufacturer that fails to place into escrow the funds required under this section. Any tobacco product manufacturer that fails in any year to place into escrow the funds required under this section shall—

(A) be required within 15 days to place such funds into escrow as shall bring it into compliance with this section. The court, upon a finding of a violation of this subsection, may impose a civil penalty to be paid to the general fund of the state in an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the amount improperly withheld from escrow per day of the violation and in a total amount not to exceed 100 percent of the original amount improperly withheld from escrow;

(B) in the case of a knowing violation, be required within 15 days to place such funds into escrow as shall bring it into compliance with this section. The court, upon a finding of a knowing violation of this subsection, may impose a civil penalty to be paid to the general fund of the state in an amount not to exceed 15 percent of the amount improperly withheld from escrow per day of the violation and in a total amount not to exceed 300 percent of the original amount improperly withheld from escrow; and

(C) in the case of a second knowing violation, be prohibited from selling cigarettes to consumers within the State (whether directly or through a distributor, retailer or similar intermediary) for a period not to exceed 2 years.

Each failure to make an annual deposit required under this section shall constitute a separate violation. The violator shall also pay the State's costs and attorney's fees incurred during a successful prosecution under this paragraph (3). [2003 c 342 § 1; 1999 c 393 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.157.020 Requirements. (Contingent effective date.)** Any tobacco product manufacturer selling cigarettes to consumers within the State (whether directly or through a distributor, retailer or similar intermediary or intermediaries) after May 18, 1999, shall do one of the following:

(a) become a participating manufacturer (as that term is defined in section II(jj) of the Master Settlement Agreement) and generally perform its financial obligations under the Master Settlement Agreement; or

(b)(1) place into a qualified escrow fund by April 15 of the year following the year in question the following amounts (as such amounts are adjusted for inflation)—

1999: \$.0094241 per unit sold after May 18, 1999;  
2000: \$.0104712 per unit sold;  
for each of 2001 and 2002: \$.0136125 per unit sold;

for each of 2003 through 2006: \$.0167539 per unit sold;  
for each of 2007 and each year thereafter: \$.0188482 per unit sold.

(2) A tobacco product manufacturer that places funds into escrow pursuant to paragraph (1) shall receive the interest or other appreciation on such funds as earned. Such funds themselves shall be released from escrow only under the following circumstances—

(A) to pay a judgment or settlement on any released claim brought against such tobacco product manufacturer by the State or any releasing party located or residing in the State. Funds shall be released from escrow under this subparagraph (i) in the order in which they were placed into escrow and (ii) only to the extent and at the time necessary to make payments required under such judgment or settlement;

(B) to the extent that a tobacco product manufacturer establishes that the amount it was required to place into escrow in a particular year was greater than the State's allocable share of the total payments that such manufacturer would have been required to make in that year under the Master Settlement Agreement (as determined pursuant to section IX(i)(2) of the Master Settlement Agreement, and before any of the adjustments or offsets described in section IX(i)(3) of that Agreement other than the Inflation Adjustment) had it been a participating manufacturer, the excess shall be released from escrow and revert back to such tobacco product manufacturer; or

(C) to the extent not released from escrow under subparagraphs (A) or (B), funds shall be released from escrow and revert back to such tobacco product manufacturer twenty-five years after the date on which they were placed into escrow.

(3) Each tobacco product manufacturer that elects to place funds into escrow pursuant to this subsection shall annually certify to the Attorney General that it is in compliance with this subsection. The Attorney General may bring a civil action on behalf of the State against any tobacco product manufacturer that fails to place into escrow the funds required under this section. Any tobacco product manufacturer that fails in any year to place into escrow the funds required under this section shall—

(A) be required within 15 days to place such funds into escrow as shall bring it into compliance with this section. The court, upon a finding of a violation of this subsection, may impose a civil penalty to be paid to the general fund of the state in an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the amount improperly withheld from escrow per day of the violation and in a total amount not to exceed 100 percent of the original amount improperly withheld from escrow;

(B) in the case of a knowing violation, be required within 15 days to place such funds into escrow as shall bring it into compliance with this section. The court, upon a finding of a knowing violation of this subsection, may impose a civil penalty to be paid to the general fund of the state in an amount not to exceed 15 percent of the amount improperly withheld from escrow per day of the violation and in a total amount not to exceed 300 percent of the original amount improperly withheld from escrow; and

(C) in the case of a second knowing violation, be prohibited from selling cigarettes to consumers within the State

(whether directly or through a distributor, retailer or similar intermediary) for a period not to exceed 2 years.

Each failure to make an annual deposit required under this section shall constitute a separate violation. The violator shall also pay the State's costs and attorney's fees incurred during a successful prosecution under this paragraph (3). [1999 c 393 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.157.030 Contingent expiration date—Court action.** If chapter 342, Laws of 2003 is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, then RCW 70.157.020(b)(2)(B) shall be repealed in its entirety. If RCW 70.157.020(b)(2) shall thereafter be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, then chapter 342, Laws of 2003 shall be repealed, and RCW 70.157.020(b)(2)(B) be restored as if no amendments had been made. Neither any holding of unconstitutionality nor the repeal of RCW 70.157.020(b)(2)(B) shall affect, impair, or invalidate any other portion of RCW 70.157.020 or the application of that section to any other person or circumstance, and the remaining portions of RCW 70.157.020 shall at all times continue in full force and effect. [2003 c 342 § 2.]

## Chapter 70.158 RCW

### TOBACCO PRODUCT MANUFACTURERS

#### Sections

70.158.010	Findings.
70.158.020	Definitions.
70.158.030	Tobacco product manufacturers—Certification—Attorney general to publish directory—Violations.
70.158.040	Nonresident, nonparticipating manufacturers—Agent for service of process.
70.158.050	Reports, records—Confidentiality, disclosures, voluntary waivers—Escrow payments.
70.158.060	Penalties—Application of consumer protection act.
70.158.070	Attorney general's directory decision to be final agency action—Due dates for reports, certifications, directory—Rules—Costs—Penalties.
70.158.900	Conflict of law—Severability—2003 c 25.
70.158.901	Effective date—2003 c 25.

**70.158.010 Findings.** The legislature finds that violations of RCW 70.157.020 threaten the integrity of the tobacco master settlement agreement, the fiscal soundness of the state, and the public health. The legislature finds the enacting procedural enhancements will help prevent violations and aid the enforcement of RCW 70.157.020 and thereby safeguard the master settlement agreement, the fiscal soundness of the state, and the public health. The provisions of chapter 25, Laws of 2003 are not intended to and shall not be interpreted to amend chapter 70.157 RCW. [2003 c 25 § 1.]

**70.158.020 Definitions.** The following definitions apply to this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Brand family" means all styles of cigarettes sold under the same trademark and differentiated from one another by means of additional modifiers or descriptors, including, but not limited to, "menthol," "lights," "kings," and "100s," and includes any brand name alone or in conjunction with any other word, trademark, logo, symbol, motto,

selling message, recognizable pattern of colors, or any other indicia of product identification identical or similar to, or identifiable with, a previously known brand of cigarettes.

(2) "Board" means the \*liquor control board.

(3) "Cigarette" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.157.010(d).

(4) "Director" means the director of the department of revenue except as otherwise noted.

(5) "Directory" means the directory to be created and published on a web site by the attorney general pursuant to RCW 70.158.030(2).

(6) "Distributor" has the same meaning as in \*\*RCW 82.26.010(3), except that for purposes of this chapter, no person is a distributor if that person does not deal with cigarettes as defined in this section.

(7) "Master settlement agreement" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.157.010(e).

(8) "Nonparticipating manufacturer" means any tobacco product manufacturer that is not a participating manufacturer.

(9) "Participating manufacturer" has the meaning given that term in section II(jj) of the master settlement agreement.

(10) "Qualified escrow fund" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.157.010(f).

(11) "Stamp" means "stamp" as defined in \*\*\*RCW 82.24.010(7) or as referred to in RCW 43.06.455(4).

(12) "Tobacco product manufacturer" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.157.010(i).

(13) "Units sold" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.157.010(j).

(14) "Wholesaler" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.24.010. [2003 c 25 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The "state liquor control board" was renamed the "state liquor and cannabis board" by 2015 c 70 § 3.

\*\* (2) RCW 82.26.010 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (3) to subsection (8).

\*\*\* (3) RCW 82.24.010 was amended by 2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 1, changing subsection (7) to subsection (11).

### **70.158.030 Tobacco product manufacturers—Certification—Attorney general to publish directory—Violations.**

(1) Every tobacco product manufacturer whose cigarettes are sold in this state, whether directly or through a wholesaler, distributor, retailer, or similar intermediary or intermediaries, shall execute and deliver on a form prescribed by the attorney general a certification to the attorney general, no later than the thirtieth day of April each year, certifying under penalty of perjury that, as of the date of such certification, the tobacco product manufacturer is either a participating manufacturer; or is in full compliance with RCW 70.157.020(b)(1), including all payments required by that section or chapter 25, Laws of 2003.

(a) A participating manufacturer shall include in its certification a list of its brand families. The participating manufacturer shall update the list thirty calendar days prior to any addition to or modification of its brand families by executing and delivering a supplemental certification to the attorney general.

(b) A nonparticipating manufacturer shall include in its certification: (i) A list of all of its brand families and the number of units sold for each brand family that were sold in the state during the preceding calendar year; (ii) a list of all of its brand families that have been sold in the state at anytime

during the current calendar year; (iii) indicating, by an asterisk, any brand family sold in the state during the preceding calendar year that is no longer being sold in the state as of the date of such certification; and (iv) identifying by name and address any other manufacturer of brand families in the preceding or current calendar year. The nonparticipating manufacturer shall update the list thirty calendar days prior to any addition to or modification of its brand families by executing and delivering a supplemental certification to the attorney general.

(c) In the case of a nonparticipating manufacturer, the certification shall further certify:

(i) That the nonparticipating manufacturer is registered to do business in the state or has appointed a resident agent for service of process and provided notice as required by RCW 70.158.040;

(ii) That the nonparticipating manufacturer: (A) Has established and continues to maintain a qualified escrow fund; and (B) has executed a qualified escrow agreement that has been reviewed and approved by the attorney general and that governs the qualified escrow fund;

(iii) That the nonparticipating manufacturer is in full compliance with RCW 70.157.020(b)(1) and this chapter, and any rules adopted pursuant thereto; and

(iv)(A) The name, address, and telephone number of the financial institution where the nonparticipating manufacturer has established a qualified escrow fund required pursuant to RCW 70.157.020(b)(1) and all rules adopted thereunder; (B) the account number of the qualified escrow fund and any sub-account number for the state of Washington; (C) the amount the nonparticipating manufacturer placed in the fund for cigarettes sold in the state during the preceding calendar year, the date and amount of each deposit, and evidence or verification as may be deemed necessary by the attorney general to confirm the foregoing; and (D) the amount and date of any withdrawal or transfer of funds the nonparticipating manufacturer made at any time from the fund or from any other qualified escrow fund into which it ever made escrow payments pursuant to RCW 70.157.020(b)(1) and all rules adopted thereunder.

(d) A tobacco product manufacturer may not include a brand family in its certification unless: (i) In the case of a participating manufacturer, the participating manufacturer affirms that the brand family is to be deemed to be its cigarettes for purposes of calculating its payments under the master settlement agreement for the relevant year, in the volume and shares determined pursuant to the master settlement agreement; and (ii) in the case of a nonparticipating manufacturer, the nonparticipating manufacturer affirms that the brand family is to be deemed to be its cigarettes for purposes of RCW 70.157.020(b)(1). Nothing in this section limits or otherwise affects the state's right to maintain that a brand family constitutes cigarettes of a different tobacco product manufacturer for purposes of calculating payments under the master settlement agreement or for purposes of RCW 70.157.020.

(e) A tobacco product manufacturer shall maintain all invoices and documentation of sales and other information relied upon for such certification for a period of five years, unless otherwise required by law to maintain them for a greater period of time.

(2) Not later than November 1, 2003, the attorney general shall develop and publish on its web site a directory listing all tobacco product manufacturers that have provided current and accurate certifications conforming to the requirements of this section and all brand families that are listed in these certifications, except as noted below:

(a) The attorney general shall not include or retain in the directory the name or brand families of any nonparticipating manufacturer that has failed to provide the required certification or whose certification the attorney general determines is not in compliance with subsection (1)(b) and (c) of this section, unless the attorney general has determined that the violation has been cured to the satisfaction of the attorney general.

(b) Neither a tobacco product manufacturer nor brand family shall be included or retained in the directory if the attorney general concludes, in the case of a nonparticipating manufacturer, that: (i) Any escrow payment required pursuant to RCW 70.157.020(b)(1) for any period for any brand family, whether or not listed by the nonparticipating manufacturer, has not been fully paid into a qualified escrow fund governed by a qualified escrow agreement that has been approved by the attorney general; or (ii) any outstanding final judgment, including interest, for a violation of RCW 70.157.020(b)(1) that has not been fully satisfied for the brand family or manufacturer.

(c) The attorney general shall update the directory as necessary in order to correct mistakes and to add or remove a tobacco product manufacturer or brand family to keep the directory in conformity with the requirements of this chapter. The attorney general shall transmit, by email or other practicable means to each wholesaler or distributor, notice of any addition to or removal from the directory of any tobacco product manufacturer or brand family. Unless otherwise provided by agreement between the wholesaler or distributor and a tobacco product manufacturer, the wholesaler or distributor shall be entitled to a refund from a tobacco product manufacturer for any money paid by the wholesaler or distributor to the tobacco product manufacturer for any cigarettes of the tobacco product manufacturer still held by the wholesaler or distributor on the date of notice by the attorney general of the removal from the directory of that tobacco product manufacturer or the brand family of the cigarettes. The attorney general shall not restore to the directory the tobacco product manufacturer or the brand family until the tobacco product manufacturer has paid the wholesaler or distributor any refund due.

(d) Every wholesaler and distributor shall provide and update as necessary an electronic mail address to the attorney general for the purpose of receiving any notifications as may be required by this chapter.

(e) A tobacco product manufacturer included in the directory may request that a new brand family be certified and added to the directory. Within forty-five business days of receiving the request, the attorney general will respond by either: (i) Certifying the new brand family; or (ii) denying the request. However, in cases where the attorney general determines that it needs clarification as to whether the requestor is actually the tobacco product manufacturer, the attorney general may take more time as needed to clarify the request, to locate and assemble information or documents needed to pro-

cess the request, and to notify persons or agencies affected by the request.

(f) The web site will state that chapter 25, Laws of 2003 applies only to cigarettes including, pursuant to the definition of "cigarettes" in chapter 25, Laws of 2003, roll-your-own tobacco.

(3) It is unlawful for any person (a) to affix a stamp to a package or other container of cigarettes of a tobacco product manufacturer or brand family not included in the directory, or to pay or cause to be paid the tobacco products tax on any package or container; or (b) to sell, offer, or possess for sale in this state or import for sale in this state, any cigarettes of a tobacco product manufacturer or brand family not included in the directory. [2003 c 25 § 3.]

**70.158.040 Nonresident, nonparticipating manufacturers—Agent for service of process.** (1) Any nonresident or foreign nonparticipating manufacturer that has not registered to do business in the state as a foreign corporation or business entity shall, as a condition precedent to having its brand families included or retained in the directory, appoint and continually engage without interruption the services of an agent in this state to act as agent for the service of process on whom all process, and any action or proceeding against it concerning or arising out of the enforcement of this chapter and RCW 70.157.020(b)(1), may be served in any manner authorized by law. The service shall constitute legal and valid service of process on the nonparticipating manufacturer. The nonparticipating manufacturer shall provide the name, address, phone number, and proof of the appointment and availability of the agent to the satisfaction of the attorney general.

(2) The nonparticipating manufacturer shall provide notice to the attorney general thirty calendar days prior to termination of the authority of an agent and shall further provide proof to the satisfaction of the attorney general of the appointment of a new agent no less than five calendar days prior to the termination of an existing agent appointment. In the event an agent terminates an agency appointment, the nonparticipating manufacturer shall notify the attorney general of the termination within five calendar days and include proof to the satisfaction of the attorney general of the appointment of a new agent.

(3) Any nonparticipating manufacturer whose cigarettes are sold in this state, who has not appointed and engaged an agent as required in this section, shall be deemed to have appointed the secretary of state as the agent and may be proceeded against in courts of this state by service of process upon the secretary of state. However, the appointment of the secretary of state as agent shall not satisfy the condition precedent for having the brand families of the nonparticipating manufacturer included or retained in the directory. [2003 c 25 § 4.]

**70.158.050 Reports, records—Confidentiality, disclosures, voluntary waivers—Escrow payments.** (1) In addition to the reporting requirements under \*RCW 70.157.010(j) and the rules adopted thereunder, not later than twenty-five calendar days after the end of each calendar month, and more frequently if directed by the director, each wholesaler and distributor shall submit information the direc-

tor requires to facilitate compliance with this chapter, including, but not limited to, a list by brand family of the total number of cigarettes, or, in the case of roll-your-own, the equivalent stick count for which the wholesaler or distributor affixed stamps during the previous calendar month or otherwise paid the tax due for the cigarettes. Each wholesaler and distributor shall maintain and make available to the director, all invoices and documentation of sales of all nonparticipating manufacturer cigarettes and any other information relied upon in reporting to the attorney general or the director for a period of five years.

(2) Information or records required to be furnished to the department, the board, or the attorney general are confidential and shall not be disclosed. However, the director and the board are authorized to disclose to the attorney general any information received under this chapter and requested by the attorney general for purposes of determining compliance with and enforcing the provisions of this chapter. The director, the board, and the attorney general may share with each other the information received under this chapter, and may share information with other federal, state, or local agencies, including without limitation the board, only for purposes of enforcement of this chapter, RCW 70.157.020, or corresponding laws of other states. If a tobacco product manufacturer that is required to establish a qualified escrow fund under RCW 70.157.020 disputes the attorney general's determination of what that manufacturer needs to place into escrow, and the attorney general determines that the dispute can likely be resolved by disclosing reports from the relevant distributors and wholesalers indicating the sales or purchases of the tobacco manufacturer's products, then the attorney general shall request voluntary waivers of confidentiality so that the reports may be disclosed to the tobacco product manufacturer to help resolve the dispute. If the waivers are provided, then the director and the attorney general are authorized to disclose the waived confidential information collected on the sales or purchases of cigarettes to the tobacco product manufacturer. However, before the attorney general or the director discloses the waived confidential information, the tobacco product manufacturer must provide to the attorney general all records relating to its sales or purchases of cigarettes in dispute. The information provided to a tobacco product manufacturer pursuant to this subsection (2) shall be limited to brands or products of that manufacturer only, may be used only for the limited purpose of determining the appropriate escrow deposit, and may not be disclosed by the tobacco product manufacturer.

(3) The attorney general may require at any time from the nonparticipating manufacturer proof, from the financial institution in which the manufacturer has established a qualified escrow fund for the purpose of compliance with RCW 70.157.020(b)(1), of the amount of money in the fund, exclusive of interest, the amount and date of each deposit to the fund, and the amount and date of each withdrawal from the fund.

(4) In addition to the information required to be submitted pursuant to RCW 70.158.030, this section, and chapters 82.24 and 82.26 RCW, the director, the board, or the attorney general may require a wholesaler, distributor, or tobacco product manufacturer to submit any additional information including, but not limited to, samples of the packaging or

labeling of each brand family, as is necessary to enable the attorney general to determine whether a tobacco product manufacturer is in compliance with this chapter. If the director, the board, or the attorney general makes a request for information pursuant to this subsection (4), the tobacco product manufacturer, distributor, or wholesaler shall comply promptly.

(5) A nonparticipating manufacturer that either: (a) Has not previously made escrow payments to the state of Washington pursuant to RCW 70.157.020; or (b) has not actually made any escrow payments for more than one year, shall make the required escrow deposits in quarterly installments during the first year in which the sales covered by the deposits are made or in the first year in which the payments are made. The director or the attorney general may require production of information sufficient to enable the attorney general to determine the adequacy of the amount of the installment deposit. [2003 c 25 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For rules and reporting requirements adopted pursuant to RCW 70.157.010, see WAC 458-20-264.

**70.158.060 Penalties—Application of consumer protection act.** (1) In addition to or in lieu of any other civil or criminal remedy provided by law, upon a determination that a wholesaler has violated RCW 70.158.030(3) or any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter, the director or the board may revoke or suspend the license of the wholesaler in the manner provided by chapter 82.24 or 82.32 RCW. Each stamp affixed and each sale or offer to sell cigarettes in violation of RCW 70.158.030(3) shall constitute a separate violation. For each violation of this chapter, the director or the board may also impose a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed the greater of five hundred percent of the retail value of the cigarettes or five thousand dollars upon a determination of violation of RCW 70.158.030(3) or any rules adopted pursuant thereto. The penalty shall be imposed in the manner provided by chapter 82.24 RCW.

(2) The attorney general may seek an injunction in superior court to restrain a threatened or actual violation of RCW 70.158.030(3) or 70.158.050 (1) or (4) by a person and to compel the person to comply with these sections. In any action brought pursuant to this section, the state shall be entitled to recover the costs of investigation, costs of the action, and reasonable attorney fees.

(3) It is unlawful for a person to: (a) Sell or distribute cigarettes or (b) acquire, hold, own, possess, transport, import, or cause to be imported cigarettes, that the person knows or should know are intended for distribution or sale in the state in violation of RCW 70.158.030(3). A violation of this subsection (3) is a gross misdemeanor.

(4) Any violation of this chapter is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business and is an unfair and deceptive act or practice and an unfair method of competition in the conduct of trade or commerce in violation of RCW 19.86.020. Standing to bring an action to enforce RCW 19.86.020 for violation of this chapter shall lie solely with the attorney general. Remedies provided by chapter 19.86 RCW are cumulative and not exclusive. [2003 c 25 § 6.]

**70.158.070 Attorney general's directory decision to be final agency action—Due dates for reports, certifications, directory—Rules—Costs—Penalties.** (1) A determination of the attorney general not to include or to remove from the directory a brand family or tobacco product manufacturer shall be final agency action for purposes of review under RCW 34.05.570(4).

(2) No person shall be issued a license or granted a renewal of a license to act as a wholesaler unless the person has certified in writing under penalty of perjury, that the person will comply fully with this section.

(3) The first reports of wholesalers and distributors are due August 25, 2003. The certifications by a tobacco product manufacturer described in RCW 70.158.030(1) are due September 15, 2003. The directory described in RCW 70.158.030(2) shall be published or made available by November 1, 2003.

(4) The attorney general, the board, and the director may adopt rules as necessary to effect the administration of this chapter.

(5) In any action brought by the state to enforce this chapter, the state is entitled to recover the costs of investigation, expert witness fees, costs of the action, and reasonable attorney fees.

(6) If a court determines that a person has violated this chapter, the court shall order any profits, gain, gross receipts, or other benefit from the violation to be disgorged and paid to the general fund. Unless otherwise expressly provided, the remedies or penalties provided by this chapter are cumulative to each other and to the remedies or penalties available under all other laws of this state. [2003 c 25 § 7.]

**70.158.900 Conflict of law—Severability—2003 c 25.** If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the provisions of chapter 25, Laws of 2003 and chapter 70.157 RCW conflict and cannot be harmonized, then the provisions of chapter 70.157 RCW shall control. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of chapter 25, Laws of 2003 causes chapter 70.157 RCW no longer to constitute a qualifying or model statute, as those terms are defined in the master settlement agreement, then that portion of chapter 25, Laws of 2003 shall not be valid. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of chapter 25, Laws of 2003 is for any reason held to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, the decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of chapter 25, Laws of 2003 or any part thereof. [2003 c 25 § 8.]

**70.158.901 Effective date—2003 c 25.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2003. [2003 c 25 § 13.]

**Chapter 70.160 RCW**  
**SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES**  
(Formerly: Washington clean indoor air act)

Sections

- 70.160.011 Findings—Intent—2006 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 901).  
70.160.020 Definitions.  
70.160.030 Smoking prohibited in public places or places of employment.

- 70.160.050 Owners, lessees to post signs prohibiting smoking.  
70.160.060 Intent of chapter as applied to certain private workplaces.  
70.160.070 Intentional violation of chapter—Removing, defacing, or destroying required sign—Fine—Notice of infraction—Exceptions—Violations of RCW 70.160.050—Fine—Enforcement.  
70.160.075 Smoking prohibited within twenty-five feet of public places or places of employment—Application to modify presumptively reasonable minimum distance.  
70.160.080 Local regulations authorized.  
70.160.100 Penalty assessed under this chapter paid to jurisdiction bringing action.

*Smoking in municipal transit vehicle, unlawful conduct: RCW 9.91.025.*

**70.160.011 Findings—Intent—2006 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 901).** The people of the state of Washington recognize that exposure to secondhand smoke is known to cause cancer in humans. Secondhand smoke is a known cause of other diseases including pneumonia, asthma, bronchitis, and heart disease. Citizens are often exposed to secondhand smoke in the workplace, and are likely to develop chronic, potentially fatal diseases as a result of such exposure. In order to protect the health and welfare of all citizens, including workers in their places of employment, it is necessary to prohibit smoking in public places and workplaces. [2006 c 2 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 901, approved November 8, 2005).]

**Captions not law—2006 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 901):** "Captions used in this act are not any part of the law." [2006 c 2 § 8 (Initiative Measure No. 901, approved November 8, 2005).]

**70.160.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) "Smoke" or "smoking" means the carrying or smoking of any kind of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, or any other lighted smoking equipment.

(2) "Public place" means that portion of any building or vehicle used by and open to the public, regardless of whether the building or vehicle is owned in whole or in part by private persons or entities, the state of Washington, or other public entity, and regardless of whether a fee is charged for admission, and includes a presumptively reasonable minimum distance, as set forth in RCW 70.160.075, of twenty-five feet from entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited. A public place does not include a private residence unless the private residence is used to provide licensed child care, foster care, adult care, or other similar social service care on the premises.

Public places include, but are not limited to: Schools, elevators, public conveyances or transportation facilities, museums, concert halls, theaters, auditoriums, exhibition halls, indoor sports arenas, hospitals, nursing homes, health care facilities or clinics, enclosed shopping centers, retail stores, retail service establishments, financial institutions, educational facilities, ticket areas, public hearing facilities, state legislative chambers and immediately adjacent hallways, public restrooms, libraries, restaurants, waiting areas, lobbies, bars, taverns, bowling alleys, skating rinks, casinos, reception areas, and no less than seventy-five percent of the sleeping quarters within a hotel or motel that are rented to guests. A public place does not include a private residence. This chapter is not intended to restrict smoking in private

facilities which are occasionally open to the public except upon the occasions when the facility is open to the public.

(3) "Place of employment" means any area under the control of a public or private employer which employees are required to pass through during the course of employment, including, but not limited to: Entrances and exits to the places of employment, and including a presumptively reasonable minimum distance, as set forth in RCW 70.160.075, of twenty-five feet from entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited; work areas; restrooms; conference and classrooms; break rooms and cafeterias; and other common areas. A private residence or home-based business, unless used to provide licensed child care, foster care, adult care, or other similar social service care on the premises, is not a place of employment. [2006 c 2 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 901, approved November 8, 2005); 1985 c 236 § 2.]

**Captions not law—2006 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 901):** See note following RCW 70.160.011.

**70.160.030 Smoking prohibited in public places or places of employment.** No person may smoke in a public place or in any place of employment. [2006 c 2 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 901, approved November 8, 2005); 1985 c 236 § 3.]

**Captions not law—2006 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 901):** See note following RCW 70.160.011.

**70.160.050 Owners, lessees to post signs prohibiting smoking.** Owners, or in the case of a leased or rented space the lessee or other person in charge, of a place regulated under this chapter shall prohibit smoking in public places and places of employment and shall post signs prohibiting smoking as appropriate under this chapter. Signs shall be posted conspicuously at each building entrance. In the case of retail stores and retail service establishments, signs shall be posted conspicuously at each entrance and in prominent locations throughout the place. [2006 c 2 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 901, approved November 8, 2005); 1985 c 236 § 5.]

**Captions not law—2006 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 901):** See note following RCW 70.160.011.

**70.160.060 Intent of chapter as applied to certain private workplaces.** This chapter is not intended to regulate smoking in a private enclosed workplace, within a public place, even though such workplace may be visited by non-smokers, excepting places in which smoking is prohibited by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, or by other law, ordinance, or regulation. [1995 c 369 § 60; 1986 c 266 § 121; 1985 c 236 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.160.070 Intentional violation of chapter—Removing, defacing, or destroying required sign—Fine—Notice of infraction—Exceptions—Violations of RCW 70.160.050—Fine—Enforcement.** (1) Any person intentionally violating this chapter by smoking in a public place or place of employment, or any person removing, defacing, or destroying a sign required by this chapter, is subject to a civil fine of up to one hundred dollars. Any person passing by or through a public place while on a public sidewalk or public

right-of-way has not intentionally violated this chapter. Local law enforcement agencies shall enforce this section by issuing a notice of infraction to be assessed in the same manner as traffic infractions. The provisions contained in chapter 46.63 RCW for the disposition of traffic infractions apply to the disposition of infractions for violation of this subsection except as follows:

(a) The provisions in chapter 46.63 RCW relating to the provision of records to the department of licensing in accordance with RCW 46.20.270 are not applicable to this chapter; and

(b) The provisions in chapter 46.63 RCW relating to the imposition of sanctions against a person's driver's license or vehicle license are not applicable to this chapter.

The form for the notice of infraction for a violation of this subsection shall be prescribed by rule of the supreme court.

(2) When violations of RCW 70.160.050 occur, a warning shall first be given to the owner or other person in charge. Any subsequent violation is subject to a civil fine of up to one hundred dollars. Each day upon which a violation occurs or is permitted to continue constitutes a separate violation.

(3) Local health departments shall enforce RCW 70.160.050 regarding the duties of owners or persons in control of public places and places of employment by either of the following actions:

(a) Serving notice requiring the correction of any violation; or

(b) Calling upon the city or town attorney or county prosecutor or local health department attorney to maintain an action for an injunction to enforce RCW 70.160.050, to correct a violation, and to assess and recover a civil penalty for the violation. [2006 c 2 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 901, approved November 8, 2005); 1985 c 236 § 7.]

**Captions not law—2006 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 901):** See note following RCW 70.160.011.

**70.160.075 Smoking prohibited within twenty-five feet of public places or places of employment—Application to modify presumptively reasonable minimum distance.** Smoking is prohibited within a presumptively reasonable minimum distance of twenty-five feet from entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited so as to ensure that tobacco smoke does not enter the area through entrances, exits, open windows, or other means. Owners, operators, managers, employers, or other persons who own or control a public place or place of employment may seek to rebut the presumption that twenty-five feet is a reasonable minimum distance by making application to the director of the local health department or district in which the public place or place of employment is located. The presumption will be rebutted if the applicant can show by clear and convincing evidence that, given the unique circumstances presented by the location of entrances, exits, windows that open, ventilation intakes, or other factors, smoke will not infiltrate or reach the entrances, exits, open windows, or ventilation intakes or enter into such public place or place of employment and, therefore, the public health and safety will be adequately protected by a lesser distance. [2006 c 2 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 901, approved November 8, 2005).]

**Captions not law—2006 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 901):** See note following RCW 70.160.011.

**70.160.080 Local regulations authorized.** Local fire departments or fire districts and local health departments may adopt regulations as required to implement this chapter. [1985 c 236 § 9.]

**70.160.100 Penalty assessed under this chapter paid to jurisdiction bringing action.** Any penalty assessed and recovered in an action brought under this chapter shall be paid to the city or county bringing the action. [1985 c 236 § 8.]

### Chapter 70.162 RCW

#### INDOOR AIR QUALITY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

##### Sections

70.162.005	Finding—Intent.
70.162.010	Definitions.
70.162.020	Department duties.
70.162.030	State building code council duties.
70.162.040	Public agencies—Directive.
70.162.050	Superintendent of public instruction—Model program.

**70.162.005 Finding—Intent.** The legislature finds that many Washington residents spend a significant amount of their time working indoors and that exposure to indoor air pollutants may occur in public buildings, schools, workplaces, and other indoor environments. Scientific studies indicate that pollutants common in the indoor air may include radon, asbestos, volatile organic chemicals including formaldehyde and benzene, combustion by-products including carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and carbon dioxide, metals and gases including lead, chlorine, and ozone, respirable particles, tobacco smoke, biological contaminants, micro-organisms, and other contaminants. In some circumstances, exposure to these substances may cause adverse health effects, including respiratory illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivities, skin and eye irritations, headaches, and other related symptoms. There is inadequate information about indoor air quality within the state of Washington, including the sources and nature of indoor air pollution.

The intent of the legislature is to develop a control strategy that will improve indoor air quality, provide for the evaluation of indoor air quality in public buildings, and encourage voluntary measures to improve indoor air quality. [1989 c 315 § 1.]

**70.162.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

(2) "Public agency" means a state office, commission, committee, bureau, or department.

(3) "Industry standard" means the 62-1981R standard established by the American society of heating, refrigerating, and air conditioning engineers as codified in M-1602 of the building officials and code administrators international manual as of January 1, 1990. [1989 c 315 § 2.]

**70.162.020 Department duties.** The department shall, in coordination with other appropriate state agencies:

(1) Recommend a policy for evaluation and prioritization of state-owned or leased buildings with respect to indoor air quality;

(2) Recommend stronger workplace regulation of indoor air quality under the Washington industrial safety and health act;

(3) Review indoor air quality programs in public schools administered by the superintendent of public instruction and the department of social and health services;

(4) Provide educational and informational pamphlets or brochures to state agencies on indoor air quality standards; and

(5) Recommend to the legislature measures to implement the recommendations, if any, for the improvement of indoor air quality in public buildings within a reasonable period of time. [1989 c 315 § 3.]

**70.162.030 State building code council duties.** The state building code council is directed to:

(1) Review the state building code to determine the adequacy of current mechanical ventilation and filtration standards prescribed by the state compared to the industry standard; and

(2) Make appropriate changes in the building code to bring the state prescribed standards into conformity with the industry standard. [1989 c 315 § 4.]

**70.162.040 Public agencies—Directive.** Public agencies are encouraged to:

(1) Evaluate the adequacy of mechanical ventilation and filtration systems in light of the recommendations of the American society of heating, refrigerating, and air conditioning engineers and the building officials and code administrators international; and

(2) Maintain and operate any mechanical ventilation and filtration systems in a manner that allows for maximum operating efficiency consistent with the recommendations of the American society of heating, refrigerating, and air conditioning engineers and the building officials and code administrators international. [1989 c 315 § 5.]

**70.162.050 Superintendent of public instruction—Model program.** (1) The superintendent of public instruction may implement a model indoor air quality program in a school district selected by the superintendent.

(2) The superintendent shall ensure that the model program includes:

(a) An initial evaluation by an indoor air quality expert of the current indoor air quality in the school district. The evaluation shall be completed within ninety days after the beginning of the school year;

(b) Establishment of procedures to ensure the maintenance and operation of any ventilation and filtration system used. These procedures shall be implemented within thirty days of the initial evaluation;

(c) A reevaluation by an indoor air quality expert, to be conducted approximately two hundred seventy days after the initial evaluation; and

(d) The implementation of other procedures or plans that the superintendent deems necessary to implement the model program. [1998 c 245 § 116; 1989 c 315 § 6.]

**Chapter 70.164 RCW**

**LOW-INCOME RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM**

Sections

70.164.010	Legislative findings.
70.164.020	Definitions.
70.164.030	Low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account.
70.164.040	Proposals for low-income weatherization programs—Matching funds.
70.164.050	Program compliance with laws and rules—Energy audit required.
70.164.060	Weatherization of leased or rented residences—Limitations.
70.164.070	Payments to low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account.

**70.164.010 Legislative findings.** (1) The legislature finds and declares that weatherization of the residences of low-income households will help conserve energy resources in this state and can reduce the need to obtain energy from more costly conventional energy resources. The legislature also finds that while many efforts have been made by the federal government and by the state, including its cities, counties, and utilities, to increase both the habitability and the energy efficiency of residential structures within the state, stronger coordination of these efforts will result in even greater energy efficiencies, increased cost savings to the state's residents in the form of lower utility bills, improvements in health and safety, lower greenhouse gas emissions and associated climate impacts, as well as increased employment for the state's workforce. The legislature further finds that there is emerging scientific evidence linking residents' health outcomes such as asthma, lead poisoning, and unintentional injuries to substandard housing.

(2) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that state funds be dedicated to weatherization and energy efficiency activities as well as the moderate to significant repair and rehabilitation of residential structures that are required as a necessary antecedent to those activities. It is also the intent of the legislature that the department prioritize weatherization, energy efficiency activities, and structural repair of residential structures to facilitate the expeditious allocation of funds from federal energy efficiency programs including, but not limited to, the weatherization assistance program, the weatherization plus health initiative, the energy efficiency and conservation block grant program, residential energy efficiency components of the state energy program, and the retrofit ramp-up program for energy efficiency projects. The legislature further intends to allocate future distributions of energy-related federal jobs stimulus funding to strengthen these programs, and to coordinate energy retrofit and rehabilitation improvements as authorized by chapter 287, Laws of 2010 to increase the number of structures qualifying for assistance under these multiple state and federal energy efficiency programs.

(3) The program implementing the policy of this chapter is necessary to support the poor and infirm and also to benefit

the health, safety, and general welfare of all citizens of the state. [2015 c 50 § 1; 2010 c 287 § 1; 1987 c 36 § 1.]

**70.164.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of commerce.

(2) "Direct outreach" means:

(a) The use of door-to-door contact, community events, and other methods of direct interaction with customers to inform them of energy efficiency and weatherization opportunities; and

(b) The performance of energy audits.

(3) "Energy audit" means an analysis of a dwelling unit to determine the need for cost-effective energy conservation measures as determined by the department.

(4) "Healthy housing improvements" means increasing the health and safety of a home by integrating energy efficiency activities and indoor environmental quality measures, consistent with the weatherization plus health initiative of the federal department of energy and the healthy housing principles adopted by the federal department of housing and urban development.

(5) "Household" means an individual or group of individuals living in a dwelling unit as defined by the department.

(6) "Low income" means household income as defined by the department, provided that the definition may not exceed eighty percent of median household income, adjusted for household size, for the county in which the dwelling unit to be weatherized is located.

(7) "Nonutility sponsor" means any sponsor other than a public service company, municipality, public utility district, mutual or cooperative, furnishing gas or electricity used to heat low-income residences.

(8) "Residence" means a dwelling unit as defined by the department.

(9) "Sponsor" means any entity that submits a proposal under RCW 70.164.040, including but not limited to any local community action agency, tribal nation, community service agency, or any other participating agency or any public service company, municipality, public utility district, mutual or cooperative, or any combination of such entities that jointly submits a proposal.

(10) "Sponsor match" means the share of the cost of weatherization to be paid by the sponsor.

(11) "Sustainable residential weatherization" or "weatherization" means activities that use funds administered by the department for one or more of the following: (a) Energy and resource conservation; (b) energy efficiency improvements; (c) repairs, indoor air quality improvements, and health and safety improvements; and (d) client education. Funds administered by the department for activities authorized under this subsection may only be used for the preservation of a dwelling unit occupied by a low-income household and must, to the extent feasible, be used to support and advance sustainable technologies.

(12) "Weatherizing agency" means any approved department grantee, tribal nation, or any public service company, municipality, public utility district, mutual or cooperative, or other entity that bears the responsibility for ensuring the performance of weatherization of residences under this chapter

and has been approved by the department. [2015 c 50 § 2; 2010 c 287 § 2. Prior: 2009 c 565 § 51; 2009 c 379 § 201; 1995 c 399 § 199; 1987 c 36 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2009 c 379:** See notes following RCW 70.260.010.

**70.164.030 Low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account.** (1) The low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account is created in the state treasury. All moneys from the money distributed to the state pursuant to *Exxon v. United States*, 561 F.Supp. 816 (1983), affirmed 773 F.2d 1240 (1985), or any other oil overcharge settlements or judgments distributed by the federal government, that are allocated to the low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account shall be deposited in the account. The department may accept such gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private sources as may be made from time to time, in trust or otherwise, and shall deposit such funds in the account. Any moneys received from sponsor match payments shall be deposited in the account. The legislature may also appropriate moneys to the account. Moneys in the account shall be spent pursuant to appropriation and only for the purposes and in the manner provided in RCW 70.164.040. Any moneys appropriated that are not spent by the department shall return to the account.

(2) The purposes of the low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account are to:

(a) Maximize the number of energy efficient residential structures in the state;

(b) Achieve the greatest possible expected monetary and energy savings by low-income households and other energy consumers over the longest period of time;

(c) Identify and correct, to the extent practicable, health and safety problems for residents of low-income households, including asbestos, lead, and mold hazards;

(d) Leverage the many available state and federal programs aimed at increasing the quality and energy efficiency of low-income residences in the state;

(e) Create family-wage jobs that may lead to careers in the construction trades or in the energy efficiency sectors; and

(f) Leverage, to the extent feasible, sustainable technologies, practices, and designs, including renewable energy systems. [2010 c 287 § 3; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 62; 1987 c 36 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.164.040 Proposals for low-income weatherization programs—Matching funds.** (1) The department shall solicit proposals for low-income weatherization programs from potential sponsors. A proposal shall state the amount of the sponsor match, the amount requested, the name of the weatherizing agency, and any other information required by the department.

(2)(a) A sponsor may use its own moneys, including corporate or ratepayer moneys, or moneys provided by landlords, charitable groups, government programs, the Bonneville power administration, or other sources to pay the sponsor match.

(b) Moneys provided by a sponsor pursuant to requirements in this section shall be in addition to and shall not sup-

plant any funding for low-income weatherization that would otherwise have been provided by the sponsor or any other entity enumerated in (a) of this subsection.

(c) No proposal may require any contribution as a condition of weatherization from any household whose residence is weatherized under the proposal.

(d) Proposals shall provide that full levels of all cost-effective, structurally feasible, sustainable residential weatherization materials, measures, and practices, as determined by the department, shall be installed when a low-income residence is weatherized.

(3) Sponsors may propose to utilize grant awards and matching funds to make healthy housing improvements to homes undergoing weatherization.

(4)(a) The department may in its discretion accept, accept in part, or reject proposals submitted.

(b) The department shall prioritize allocating funds from the low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account to projects that maximize energy efficiency, extend the usable life of an affordable home, and improve the health and safety of its residents by: (i) Installing energy efficiency measures; and (ii) providing structural rehabilitation and repairs, so that funding from federal energy efficiency programs such as the weatherization assistance program, the weatherization plus health initiative, the energy efficiency and conservation block grant program, residential energy efficiency components of the state energy program, and the retrofit ramp-up program is distributed expeditiously.

(c) When allocating funds from the low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account, the department shall, to the extent feasible, consider local and state benefits including pledged sponsor match, available energy efficiency, repair, and rehabilitation funds from other sources, the preservation of affordable housing, and balance of participation in proportion to population among low-income households for: (i) Geographic regions in the state; (ii) types of fuel used for heating, except that the department shall encourage the use of energy efficient sustainable technologies; (iii) owner-occupied and rental residences; and (iv) single-family and multifamily dwellings.

(d) The department shall then allocate funds appropriated from the low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account for energy efficiency and repair activities among proposals accepted or accepted in part.

(e) The department shall develop policies to ensure prudent, cost-effective investments are made in homes and buildings requiring energy efficiency, repair, and rehabilitation improvements that will maximize energy savings, extend the life of a home, and improve the health and safety of its residents.

(f) The department shall give priority to the structural rehabilitation and weatherization of dwelling units occupied by low-income households with incomes at or below one hundred twenty-five percent of the federally established poverty level.

(g) The department may allocate funds to a nonutility sponsor without requiring a sponsor match if the department determines that such an allocation is necessary to provide the greatest benefits to low-income residents of the state.

(h) The department shall require weatherizing agencies to employ individuals trained from workforce training and

apprentice programs established under chapter 536, Laws of 2009 if these workers are available, pay prevailing wages under chapter 39.12 RCW, hire from the community in which the program is located, and create employment opportunities for veterans, members of the national guard, and low-income and disadvantaged populations.

(5)(a) A sponsor may elect to: (i) Pay a sponsor match as a lump sum at the time of structural rehabilitation or weatherization; or (ii) make yearly payments to the low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account over a period not to exceed ten years. If a sponsor elects to make yearly payments, the value of the payments shall not be less than the value of the lump sum payment that would have been made under (a)(i) of this subsection.

(b) The department may permit a sponsor to meet its match requirement in whole or in part through providing labor, materials, or other in-kind expenditures.

(6) Service providers receiving funding under this section must report to the department at least quarterly, or in alignment with federal reporting, whichever is the greater frequency, the project costs, and the number of dwelling units repaired, rehabilitated, and weatherized, the number of jobs created or maintained, and the number of individuals trained through workforce training and apprentice programs. The director of the department shall review the accuracy of these reports.

(7) The department shall adopt rules to carry out this section. [2015 c 50 § 3; 2010 c 287 § 4; 2009 c 379 § 202; 1987 c 36 § 4.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2009 c 379:** See notes following RCW 70.260.010.

**70.164.050 Program compliance with laws and rules—Energy audit required.** (1) The department is responsible for ensuring that sponsors and weatherizing agencies comply with the state laws, the department's rules, and the sponsor's proposal in carrying out proposals.

(2) Before a residence is weatherized, the department shall require that an energy audit be conducted.

(3) To the greatest extent practicable and allowable under federal rules and regulations, the department shall maximize available federal low-income home energy assistance program funding for weatherization projects. [2009 c 379 § 203; 1987 c 36 § 5.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2009 c 379:** See notes following RCW 70.260.010.

**70.164.060 Weatherization of leased or rented residences—Limitations.** Before a leased or rented residence is weatherized, written permission shall be obtained from the owner of the residence for the weatherization. The department shall adopt rules to ensure that: (1) The benefits of weatherization assistance, including utility bill reduction and preservation of affordable housing stock, accrue primarily to low-income tenants occupying a leased or rented residence; (2) as a result of weatherization provided under this chapter, the rent on the residence is not increased and the tenant is not evicted; and (3) as a result of weatherization provided under this chapter, no undue or excessive enhancement occurs in the value of the residence. This section is in the public interest and any violation by a landlord of the rules adopted under

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this section shall be an act in trade or commerce violating chapter 19.86 RCW, the consumer protection act. [2009 c 379 § 204; 1987 c 36 § 6.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2009 c 379:** See notes following RCW 70.260.010.

**70.164.070 Payments to low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account.** Payments to the low-income weatherization and structural rehabilitation assistance account shall be treated, for purposes of state law, as payments for energy conservation and shall be eligible for any tax credits or deductions, equity returns, or other benefits for which conservation investments are eligible. [2010 c 287 § 5; 1987 c 36 § 7.]

## Chapter 70.168 RCW

### STATEWIDE TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM

#### Sections

70.168.010	Legislative finding.
70.168.015	Definitions.
70.168.020	Steering committee—Composition—Appointment.
70.168.030	Analysis of state's trauma system—Plan.
70.168.040	Emergency medical services and trauma care system trust account.
70.168.050	Emergency medical services and trauma care system—Department to establish—Rule making—Gifts.
70.168.060	Department duties—Timelines.
70.168.070	Provision of trauma care service—Designation.
70.168.080	Prehospital trauma care service—Verification—Compliance—Variance.
70.168.090	Statewide data registry—Quality assurance program—Confidentiality.
70.168.100	Regional emergency medical services and trauma care councils.
70.168.110	Planning and service regions.
70.168.120	Local and regional emergency medical services and trauma care councils—Power and duties.
70.168.130	Disbursement of funds to regional emergency medical services and trauma care councils—Grants to nonprofit agencies—Purposes.
70.168.135	Grant program for designated trauma care services—Rules.
70.168.140	Prehospital provider liability.
70.168.150	Emergency cardiac and stroke care system—Voluntary hospital participation.
70.168.160	Report to the legislature.
70.168.170	Ambulance services—Work group—Patient transportation—Mental health or chemical dependency services.
70.168.900	Short title.

**70.168.010 Legislative finding.** The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) Trauma is a severe health problem in the state of Washington and a major cause of death;

(2) Presently, trauma care is very limited in many parts of the state, and health care in rural areas is in transition with the danger that some communities will be without emergency medical care;

(3) It is in the best interest of the citizens of Washington state to establish an efficient and well-coordinated statewide emergency medical services and trauma care system to reduce costs and incidence of inappropriate and inadequate trauma care and emergency medical service and minimize the human suffering and costs associated with preventable mortality and morbidity;

(4) The goals and objectives of an emergency medical services and trauma care system are to: (a) Pursue trauma prevention activities to decrease the incidence of trauma; (b) provide optimal care for the trauma victim; (c) prevent

unnecessary death and disability from trauma and emergency illness; and (d) contain costs of trauma care and trauma system implementation; and

(5) In other parts of the United States where trauma care systems have failed and trauma care centers have closed, there is a direct relationship between such failures and closures and a lack of commitment to fair and equitable reimbursement for trauma care participating providers and system overhead costs. [1990 c 269 § 1; 1988 c 183 § 1.]

**70.168.015 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Cardiac" means acute coronary syndrome, an umbrella term used to cover any group of clinical symptoms compatible with acute myocardial ischemia, which is chest discomfort or other symptoms due to insufficient blood supply to the heart muscle resulting from coronary artery disease. "Cardiac" also includes out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, which is the cessation of mechanical heart activity as assessed by emergency medical services personnel, or other acute heart conditions.

(2) "Communications system" means a radio and land-line network which provides rapid public access, coordinated central dispatching of services, and coordination of personnel, equipment, and facilities in an emergency medical services and trauma care system.

(3) "Department" means the department of health.

(4) "Designated trauma care service" means a level I, II, III, IV, or V trauma care service or level I, II, or III pediatric trauma care service or level I, I-pediatric, II, or III trauma-related rehabilitative service.

(5) "Designation" means a formal determination by the department that hospitals or health care facilities are capable of providing designated trauma care services as authorized in RCW 70.168.070.

(6) "Emergency medical service" means medical treatment and care that may be rendered at the scene of any medical emergency or while transporting any patient in an ambulance to an appropriate medical facility, including ambulance transportation between medical facilities.

(7) "Emergency medical services and trauma care planning and service regions" means geographic areas established by the department under this chapter.

(8) "Emergency medical services and trauma care system plan" means a statewide plan that identifies statewide emergency medical services and trauma care objectives and priorities and identifies equipment, facility, personnel, training, and other needs required to create and maintain a statewide emergency medical services and trauma care system. The plan also includes a plan of implementation that identifies the state, regional, and local activities that will create, operate, maintain, and enhance the system. The plan is formulated by incorporating the regional emergency medical services and trauma care plans required under this chapter. The plan shall be updated every two years and shall be made available to the state board of health in sufficient time to be considered in preparation of the biennial state health report required in \*RCW 43.20.050.

(9) "Emergency medical services medical program director" means a person who is an approved program director as defined by RCW 18.71.205(4).

(10) "Facility patient care protocols" means the written procedures adopted by the medical staff that direct the care of the patient. These procedures shall be based upon the assessment of the patients' medical needs. The procedures shall follow minimum statewide standards for trauma care services.

(11) "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, or comparable health care facility operated by the federal government or located and licensed in another state.

(12) "Level I-pediatric rehabilitative services" means rehabilitative services as established in RCW 70.168.060. Facilities providing level I-pediatric rehabilitative services provide the same services as facilities authorized to provide level I rehabilitative services except these services are exclusively for children under the age of fifteen years.

(13) "Level I pediatric trauma care services" means pediatric trauma care services as established in RCW 70.168.060. Hospitals providing level I services shall provide definitive, comprehensive, specialized care for pediatric trauma patients and shall also provide ongoing research and health care professional education in pediatric trauma care.

(14) "Level I rehabilitative services" means rehabilitative services as established in RCW 70.168.060. Facilities providing level I rehabilitative services provide rehabilitative treatment to patients with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, complicated amputations, and other diagnoses resulting in functional impairment, with moderate to severe impairment or complexity. These facilities serve as referral facilities for facilities authorized to provide level II and III rehabilitative services.

(15) "Level I trauma care services" means trauma care services as established in RCW 70.168.060. Hospitals providing level I services shall have specialized trauma care teams and provide ongoing research and health care professional education in trauma care.

(16) "Level II pediatric trauma care services" means pediatric trauma care services as established in RCW 70.168.060. Hospitals providing level II services shall provide initial stabilization and evaluation of pediatric trauma patients and provide comprehensive general medicine and surgical care to pediatric patients who can be maintained in a stable or improving condition without the specialized care available in the level I hospital. Complex surgeries and research and health care professional education in pediatric trauma care activities are not required.

(17) "Level II rehabilitative services" means rehabilitative services as established in RCW 70.168.060. Facilities providing level II rehabilitative services treat individuals with musculoskeletal trauma, peripheral nerve lesions, lower extremity amputations, and other diagnoses resulting in functional impairment in more than one functional area, with moderate to severe impairment or complexity.

(18) "Level II trauma care services" means trauma care services as established in RCW 70.168.060. Hospitals providing level II services shall be similar to those provided by level I hospitals, although complex surgeries and research and health care professional education activities are not required to be provided.

(19) "Level III pediatric trauma care services" means pediatric trauma care services as established in RCW 70.168.060. Hospitals providing level III services shall provide initial evaluation and stabilization of patients. The range of pediatric trauma care services provided in level III hospitals are not as comprehensive as level I and II hospitals.

(20) "Level III rehabilitative services" means rehabilitative services as established in RCW 70.168.060. Facilities providing level III rehabilitative services provide treatment to individuals with musculoskeletal injuries, peripheral nerve injuries, uncomplicated lower extremity amputations, and other diagnoses resulting in functional impairment in more than one functional area but with minimal to moderate impairment or complexity.

(21) "Level III trauma care services" means trauma care services as established in RCW 70.168.060. The range of trauma care services provided by level III hospitals are not as comprehensive as level I and II hospitals.

(22) "Level IV trauma care services" means trauma care services as established in RCW 70.168.060.

(23) "Level V trauma care services" means trauma care services as established in RCW 70.168.060. Facilities providing level V services shall provide stabilization and transfer of all patients with potentially life-threatening injuries.

(24) "Patient care procedures" means written operating guidelines adopted by the regional emergency medical services and trauma care council, in consultation with local emergency medical services and trauma care councils, emergency communication centers, and the emergency medical services medical program director, in accordance with minimum statewide standards. The patient care procedures shall identify the level of medical care personnel to be dispatched to an emergency scene, procedures for triage of patients, the level of trauma care facility, mental health facility, or chemical dependency program to first receive the patient, and the name and location of other trauma care facilities, mental health facilities, or chemical dependency programs to receive the patient should an interfacility transfer be necessary. Procedures on interfacility transfer of patients shall be consistent with the transfer procedures required in chapter 70.170 RCW.

(25) "Pediatric trauma patient" means trauma patients known or estimated to be less than fifteen years of age.

(26) "Prehospital" means emergency medical care or transportation rendered to patients prior to hospital admission or during interfacility transfer by licensed ambulance or aid service under chapter 18.73 RCW, by personnel certified to provide emergency medical care under chapters 18.71 and 18.73 RCW, or by facilities providing level V trauma care services as provided for in this chapter.

(27) "Prehospital patient care protocols" means the written procedures adopted by the emergency medical services medical program director that direct the out-of-hospital emergency care of the emergency patient which includes the trauma patient. These procedures shall be based upon the assessment of the patients' medical needs and the treatment to be provided for serious conditions. The procedures shall meet or exceed statewide minimum standards for trauma and other prehospital care services.

(28) "Rehabilitative services" means a formal program of multidisciplinary, coordinated, and integrated services for

evaluation, treatment, education, and training to help individuals with disabling impairments achieve and maintain optimal functional independence in physical, psychosocial, social, vocational, and avocational realms. Rehabilitation is indicated for the trauma patient who has sustained neurologic or musculoskeletal injury and who needs physical or cognitive intervention to return to home, work, or society.

(29) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

(30) "Trauma" means a major single or multisystem injury requiring immediate medical or surgical intervention or treatment to prevent death or permanent disability.

(31) "Trauma care system" means an organized approach to providing care to trauma patients that provides personnel, facilities, and equipment for effective and coordinated trauma care. The trauma care system shall: Identify facilities with specific capabilities to provide care, triage trauma victims at the scene, and require that all trauma victims be sent to an appropriate trauma facility. The trauma care system includes prevention, prehospital care, hospital care, and rehabilitation.

(32) "Triage" means the sorting of patients in terms of disposition, destination, or priority. Triage of prehospital trauma victims requires identifying injury severity so that the appropriate care level can be readily assessed according to patient care guidelines.

(33) "Verification" means the identification of prehospital providers who are capable of providing verified trauma care services and shall be a part of the licensure process required in chapter 18.73 RCW.

(34) "Verified trauma care service" means prehospital service as provided for in RCW 70.168.080, and identified in the regional emergency medical services and trauma care plan as required by RCW 70.168.100. [2015 c 157 § 2. Prior: 2010 c 52 § 2; 1990 c 269 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 43.20.050 was amended by 2011 c 27 § 1, eliminating the "state health report."

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 52:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) In 2006, the governor's emergency medical services and trauma care steering committee charged the emergency cardiac and stroke work group with assessing the burden of acute coronary syndrome, otherwise known as heart attack, cardiac arrest, and stroke and the care that people receive for these acute cardiovascular events in Washington.

(b) The work group's report found that:

(i) Despite falling death rates, heart disease and stroke were still the second and third leading causes of death in 2005. All cardiovascular diseases accounted for thirty-four percent of deaths, surpassing all other causes of death.

(ii) Cardiovascular diseases have a substantial social and economic impact on individuals and families, as well as the state's health and long-term care systems. Although many people who survive acute cardiac and stroke events have significant physical and cognitive disability, early evidence-based treatments can help more people return to their productive lives.

(iii) Heart disease and stroke are among the most costly medical conditions at nearly four billion dollars per year for hospitalization and long-term care alone.

(iv) The age group at highest risk for heart disease or stroke, people sixty-five and older, is projected to double by 2030, potentially doubling the social and economic impact of heart disease and stroke in Washington. Early recognition is important, as Washington demographics indicate a significant occurrence of acute coronary syndromes by the age of fifty-five.

(c) The assessment of emergency cardiac and stroke care found:

(i) Many cardiac and stroke patients are not receiving evidence-based treatments;

(ii) Access to diagnostic and treatment resources varies greatly, especially for rural parts of the state;

(iii) Training, protocols, procedures, and resources in dispatch services, emergency medical services, and hospitals vary significantly;

(iv) Cardiac mortality rates vary widely depending on hospital and regional resources; and

(v) Advances in technology and streamlined approaches to care can significantly improve emergency cardiac and stroke care, but many people do not get the benefit of these treatments.

(d) Time is critical throughout the chain of survival, from dispatch of emergency medical services, to transport, to the emergency room, for emergency cardiac and stroke patients. The minutes after the onset of heart attack, cardiac arrest, and stroke are as important as the "golden hour" in trauma. When treatment is delayed, more brain or heart tissue dies. Timely treatment can mean the difference between returning to work or becoming permanently disabled, living at home, or living in a nursing home. It can be the difference between life and death. Ensuring most patients will get lifesaving care in time requires preplanning and an organized system of care.

(e) Many other states have improved systems of care to respond to and treat acute cardiac and stroke events, similar to improvements in trauma care in Washington.

(f) Some areas of Washington have deployed local systems to respond to and treat acute cardiac and stroke events.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to support efforts to improve emergency cardiac and stroke care in Washington through an evidence-based coordinated system of care." [2010 c 52 § 1.]

**70.168.020 Steering committee—Composition—Appointment.** (1) There is hereby created an emergency medical services and trauma care steering committee composed of representatives of individuals knowledgeable in emergency medical services and trauma care, including emergency medical providers such as physicians, nurses, hospital personnel, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, ambulance services, a member of the emergency medical services licensing and certification advisory committee, local government officials, state officials, consumers, and persons affiliated professionally with health science schools. The secretary shall appoint members of the steering committee. Members shall be appointed for a period of three years. The department shall provide administrative support to the committee. All appointive members of the committee, in the performance of their duties, may be entitled to receive travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. The secretary may remove members from the committee who have three unexcused absences from committee meetings. The secretary shall fill any vacancies of the committee in a timely manner. The terms of those members representing the same field shall not expire at the same time.

The committee shall elect a chair and a vice chair whose terms of office shall be for one year each. The chair shall be ineligible for reelection after serving four consecutive terms.

The committee shall meet on call by the secretary or the chair.

(2) The emergency medical services and trauma care steering committee shall:

(a) Advise the department regarding emergency medical services and trauma care needs throughout the state.

(b) Review the regional emergency medical services and trauma care plans and recommend changes to the department before the department adopts the plans.

(c) Review proposed departmental rules for emergency medical services and trauma care.

(d) Recommend modifications in rules regarding emergency medical services and trauma care. [2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 28; 2000 c 93 § 20; 1990 c 269 § 5; 1988 c 183 § 2.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 72.23.025.

**70.168.030 Analysis of state's trauma system—Plan.**

(1) Upon the recommendation of the steering committee, the director of the office of financial management shall contract with an independent party for an analysis of the state's trauma system.

(2) The analysis shall contain at a minimum, the following:

(a) The identification of components of a functional statewide trauma care system, including standards; and

(b) An assessment of the current trauma care program compared with the functional statewide model identified in subsection (a) of this section, including an analysis of deficiencies and reasons for the deficiencies.

(3) The analysis shall provide a design for a statewide trauma care system based on the findings of the committee under subsection (2) of this section, with a plan for phased-in implementation. The plan shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(a) Responsibility for implementation;

(b) Administrative authority at the state, regional, and local levels;

(c) Facility, equipment, and personnel standards;

(d) Triage and care criteria;

(e) Data collection and use;

(f) Cost containment strategies;

(g) System evaluation; and

(h) Projected costs. [1998 c 245 § 117; 1988 c 183 § 3.]

**70.168.040 Emergency medical services and trauma care system trust account.** The emergency medical services and trauma care system trust account is hereby created in the state treasury. Moneys shall be transferred to the emergency medical services and trauma care system trust account from the public safety education account or other sources as appropriated, and as collected under RCW 46.63.110(7) and 46.68.440. Disbursements shall be made by the department subject to legislative appropriation. Expenditures may be made only for the purposes of the state trauma care system under this chapter, including emergency medical services, trauma care services, rehabilitative services, and the planning and development of related services under this chapter and for reimbursement by the health care authority for trauma care services provided by designated trauma centers. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 86; 2010 c 161 § 1158; 2002 c 371 § 922; 1997 c 331 § 2; 1990 c 269 § 17; 1988 c 183 § 4.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.168.050 Emergency medical services and trauma care system—Department to establish—Rule making—Gifts.** (1) The department, in consultation with, and having solicited the advice of, the emergency medical services and trauma care steering committee, shall establish the Washington state emergency medical services and trauma care system.

(2) The department shall adopt rules consistent with this chapter to carry out the purpose of this chapter. All rules shall

be adopted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. All rules and procedures adopted by the department shall minimize paperwork and compliance requirements for facilities and other participants. The department shall assure an opportunity for consultation, review, and comment by the public and providers of emergency medical services and trauma care before adoption of rules. When developing rules to implement this chapter the department shall consider the report of the Washington state trauma project established under chapter 183, Laws of 1988. Nothing in this chapter requires the department to follow any specific recommendation in that report except as it may also be included in this chapter.

(3) The department may apply for, receive, and accept gifts and other payments, including property and service, from any governmental or other public or private entity or person, and may make arrangements as to the use of these receipts, including any activities related to the design, maintenance, or enhancements of the emergency medical services and trauma care system in the state. The department shall make available upon request to the appropriate legislative committees information concerning the source, amount, and use of such gifts or payments. [1990 c 269 § 3.]

**70.168.060 Department duties—Timelines.** The department, in consultation with and having solicited the advice of the emergency medical services and trauma care steering committee, shall:

- (1) Establish the following on a statewide basis:
  - (a) By September 1990, minimum standards for facility, equipment, and personnel for level I, II, III, IV, and V trauma care services;
  - (b) By September 1990, minimum standards for facility, equipment, and personnel for level I, I-pediatric, II, and III trauma-related rehabilitative services;
  - (c) By September 1990, minimum standards for facility, equipment, and personnel for level I, II, and III pediatric trauma care services;
  - (d) By September 1990, minimum standards required for verified prehospital trauma care services, including equipment and personnel;
  - (e) Personnel training requirements and programs for providers of trauma care. The department shall design programs which are accessible to rural providers including on-site training;
  - (f) Statewide emergency medical services and trauma care system objectives and priorities;
  - (g) Minimum standards for the development of facility patient care protocols and prehospital patient care protocols and patient care procedures;
  - (h) By July 1991, minimum standards for an effective emergency medical communication system;
  - (i) Minimum standards for an effective emergency medical services transportation system; and
  - (j) By July 1991, establish a program for emergency medical services and trauma care research and development;
- (2) Establish statewide standards, personnel training requirements and programs, system objectives and priorities, protocols and guidelines as required in subsection (1) of this section, by utilizing those standards adopted in the report of the Washington trauma advisory committee as authorized by chapter 183, Laws of 1988. In establishing standards for level

IV or V trauma care services the department may adopt similar standards adopted for services provided in rural health care facilities authorized in chapter 70.175 RCW. The department may modify standards, personnel training requirements and programs, system objectives and priorities, and guidelines in rule if the department determines that such modifications are necessary to meet federal and other state requirements or are essential to allow the department and others to establish the system or should it determine that public health considerations or efficiencies in the delivery of emergency medical services and trauma care warrant such modifications;

(3) Designate emergency medical services and trauma care planning and service regions as provided for in this chapter;

(4) By July 1, 1992, establish the minimum and maximum number of hospitals and health care facilities in the state and within each emergency medical services and trauma care planning and service region that may provide designated trauma care services based upon approved regional emergency medical services and trauma care plans;

(5) By July 1, 1991, establish the minimum and maximum number of prehospital providers in the state and within each emergency medical services and trauma care planning and service region that may provide verified trauma care services based upon approved regional emergency medical services and trauma care plans;

(6) By July 1993, begin the designation of hospitals and health care facilities to provide designated trauma care services in accordance with needs identified in the statewide emergency medical services and trauma care plan;

(7) By July 1990, adopt a format for submission of the regional plans to the department;

(8) By July 1991, begin the review and approval of regional emergency medical services and trauma care plans;

(9) By July 1992, prepare regional plans for those regions that do not submit a regional plan to the department that meets the requirements of this chapter;

(10) By October 1992, prepare and implement the statewide emergency medical services and trauma care system plan incorporating the regional plans;

(11) Coordinate the statewide emergency medical services and trauma care system to assure integration and smooth operation between the regions;

(12) Facilitate coordination between the emergency medical services and trauma care steering committee and the emergency medical services licensing and certification advisory committee;

(13) Monitor the statewide emergency medical services and trauma care system;

(14) Conduct a study of all costs, charges, expenses, and levels of reimbursement associated with providers of trauma care services, and provide its findings and any recommendations regarding adequate and equitable reimbursement to trauma care providers to the legislature by July 1, 1991;

(15) Monitor the level of public and private payments made on behalf of trauma care patients to determine whether health care providers have been adequately reimbursed for the costs of care rendered such persons;

(16) By July 1991, design and establish the statewide trauma care registry as authorized in RCW 70.168.090 to (a) assess the effectiveness of emergency medical services and

trauma care delivery, and (b) modify standards and other system requirements to improve the provision of emergency medical services and trauma care;

(17) By July 1991, develop patient outcome measures to assess the effectiveness of emergency medical services and trauma care in the system;

(18) By July 1993, develop standards for regional emergency medical services and trauma care quality assurance programs required in RCW 70.168.090;

(19) Administer funding allocated to the department for the purpose of creating, maintaining, or enhancing the statewide emergency medical services and trauma care system; and

(20) By October 1990, begin coordination and development of trauma prevention and education programs. [1990 c 269 § 8.]

**70.168.070 Provision of trauma care service—Designation.** Any hospital or health care facility that desires to be authorized to provide a designated trauma care service shall request designation from the department. Designation involves a contractual relationship between the state and a hospital or health care facility whereby each agrees to maintain a level of commitment and resources sufficient to meet responsibilities and standards required by the statewide emergency medical services and trauma care system plan. By January 1992, the department shall determine by rule the manner and form of such requests. Upon receiving a request, the department shall review the request to determine whether the hospital or health care facility is in compliance with standards for the trauma care service or services for which designation is desired. If requests are received from more than one hospital or health care facility within the same emergency medical planning and trauma care planning and service region, the department shall select the most qualified applicant or applicants to be selected through a competitive process. Any applicant not designated may request a hearing to review the decision.

Designations are valid for a period of three years and are renewable upon receipt of a request for renewal prior to expiration from the hospital or health care facility. When an authorization for designation is due for renewal other hospitals and health care facilities in the area may also apply and compete for designation. Regional emergency medical and trauma care councils shall be notified promptly of designated hospitals and health care facilities in their region so they may incorporate them into the regional plan as required by this chapter. The department may revoke or suspend the designation should it determine that the hospital or health care facility is substantially out of compliance with the standards and has refused or been unable to comply after a reasonable period of time has elapsed. The department shall promptly notify the regional emergency medical and trauma care planning and service region of suspensions or revocations. Any facility whose designation has been revoked or suspended may request a hearing to review the action by the department as provided for in chapter 34.05 RCW.

As a part of the process to designate and renew the designation of hospitals authorized to provide level I, II, or III trauma care services or level I, II, and III pediatric trauma care services, the department shall contract for on-site

reviews of such hospitals to determine compliance with required standards. The department may contract for on-site reviews of hospitals and health care facilities authorized to provide level IV or V trauma care services or level I, I-pediatric, II, or III trauma-related rehabilitative services to determine compliance with required standards. Members of on-site review teams and staff included in site visits are exempt from chapter 42.56 RCW. They may not divulge and cannot be subpoenaed to divulge information obtained or reports written pursuant to this section in any civil action, except, after in camera review, pursuant to a court order which provides for the protection of sensitive information of interested parties including the department: (1) In actions arising out of the department's designation of a hospital or health care facility pursuant to this section; (2) in actions arising out of the department's revocation or suspension of designation status of a hospital or health care facility under this section; or (3) in actions arising out of the restriction or revocation of the clinical or staff privileges of a health care provider as defined in RCW 7.70.020 (1) and (2), subject to any further restrictions on disclosure in RCW 4.24.250 that may apply. Information that identifies individual patients shall not be publicly disclosed without the patient's consent. When a facility requests designation for more than one service, the department may coordinate the joint consideration of such requests.

The department may establish fees to help defray the costs of this section, though such fees shall not be assessed to health care facilities authorized to provide level IV and V trauma care services.

This section shall not restrict the authority of a hospital or a health care provider licensed under Title 18 RCW to provide services which it has been authorized to provide by state law. [2005 c 274 § 343; 1990 c 269 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.168.080 Prehospital trauma care service—Verification—Compliance—Variance.** (1) Any provider desiring to provide a verified prehospital trauma care service shall indicate on the licensing application how they meet the standards required for verification as a provider of this service. The department shall notify the regional emergency medical services and trauma care councils of the providers of verified trauma care services in their regions. The department may conduct on-site reviews of prehospital providers to assess compliance with the applicable standards.

(2) Should the department determine that a prehospital provider is substantially out of compliance with the standards, the department shall notify the regional emergency medical services and trauma care council. If the failure of a prehospital provider to comply with the applicable standards results in the region being out of compliance with its regional plan, the council shall take such steps necessary to assure the region is brought into compliance within a reasonable period of time. The council may seek assistance and funding from the department and others to provide training or grants necessary to bring a prehospital provider into compliance. The council may appeal to the department for modification of the regional plan if it is unable to assure continued compliance with the regional plan. The department may authorize modification of the plan if such modifications meet the requirements of this chapter. The department may suspend or revoke

the authorization of a prehospital provider to provide a verified prehospital service if the provider has refused or been unable to comply after a reasonable period of time has elapsed. The council shall be notified promptly of any revocations or suspensions. Any prehospital provider whose verification has been suspended or revoked may request a hearing to review the action by the department as provided for in chapter 34.05 RCW.

(3) The department may grant a variance from provisions of this section if the department determines: (a) That no detriment to public health and safety will result from the variance, and (b) compliance with provisions of this section will cause a reduction or loss of existing prehospital services. Variances may be granted for a period not to exceed one year. A variance may be renewed by the department. If a renewal is granted, a plan of compliance shall be prepared specifying steps necessary to bring a provider or region into compliance and expected date of compliance.

(4) This section shall not restrict the authority of a provider licensed under Title 18 RCW to provide services which it has been authorized to provide by state law. [1990 c 269 § 10.]

**70.168.090 Statewide data registry—Quality assurance program—Confidentiality.** (1) By July 1991, the department shall establish a statewide data registry to collect and analyze data on the incidence, severity, and causes of trauma, including traumatic brain injury. The department shall collect additional data on traumatic brain injury should additional data requirements be enacted by the legislature. The registry shall be used to improve the availability and delivery of prehospital and hospital trauma care services. Specific data elements of the registry shall be defined by rule by the department. To the extent possible, the department shall coordinate data collection from hospitals for the trauma registry with the health care data system authorized in chapter 70.170 RCW. Every hospital, facility, or health care provider authorized to provide level I, II, III, IV, or V trauma care services, level I, II, or III pediatric trauma care services, level I, level I-pediatric, II, or III trauma-related rehabilitative services, and prehospital trauma-related services in the state shall furnish data to the registry. All other hospitals and prehospital providers shall furnish trauma data as required by the department by rule.

The department may respond to requests for data and other information from the registry for special studies and analysis consistent with requirements for confidentiality of patient and quality assurance records. The department may require requestors to pay any or all of the reasonable costs associated with such requests that might be approved.

(2) In each emergency medical services and trauma care planning and service region, a regional emergency medical services and trauma care systems quality assurance program shall be established by those facilities authorized to provide levels I, II, and III trauma care services. The systems quality assurance program shall evaluate trauma care delivery, patient care outcomes, and compliance with the requirements of this chapter. The systems quality assurance program may also evaluate emergency cardiac and stroke care delivery. The emergency medical services medical program director and all other health care providers and facilities who provide

trauma and emergency cardiac and stroke care services within the region shall be invited to participate in the regional emergency medical services and trauma care quality assurance program.

(3) Data elements related to the identification of individual patient's, provider's and facility's care outcomes shall be confidential, shall be exempt from RCW 42.56.030 through 42.56.570 and \*42.17.350 through 42.17.450, and shall not be subject to discovery by subpoena or admissible as evidence.

(4) Patient care quality assurance proceedings, records, and reports developed pursuant to this section are confidential, exempt from chapter 42.56 RCW, and are not subject to discovery by subpoena or admissible as evidence. In any civil action, except, after in camera review, pursuant to a court order which provides for the protection of sensitive information of interested parties including the department: (a) In actions arising out of the department's designation of a hospital or health care facility pursuant to RCW 70.168.070; (b) in actions arising out of the department's revocation or suspension of designation status of a hospital or health care facility under RCW 70.168.070; or (c) in actions arising out of the restriction or revocation of the clinical or staff privileges of a health care provider as defined in RCW 7.70.020 (1) and (2), subject to any further restrictions on disclosure in RCW 4.24.250 that may apply. Information that identifies individual patients shall not be publicly disclosed without the patient's consent. [2010 c 52 § 5; 2005 c 274 § 344; 1990 c 269 § 11.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 42.17.350 through 42.17.450 were recodified and repealed by chapter 204, Laws of 2010.

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 52:** See note following RCW 70.168.015.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.168.100 Regional emergency medical services and trauma care councils.** Regional emergency medical services and trauma care councils are established. The councils:

(1) By June 1990, shall begin the development of regional emergency medical services and trauma care plans to:

(a) Assess and analyze regional emergency medical services and trauma care needs;

(b) Identify personnel, agencies, facilities, equipment, training, and education to meet regional and local needs;

(c) Identify specific activities necessary to meet statewide standards and patient care outcomes and develop a plan of implementation for regional compliance;

(d) Establish and review agreements with regional providers necessary to meet state standards;

(e) Establish agreements with providers outside the region to facilitate patient transfer;

(f) Include a regional budget;

(g) Establish the number and level of facilities to be designated which are consistent with state standards and based upon availability of resources and the distribution of trauma within the region;

(h) Identify the need for and recommend distribution and level of care of prehospital services to assure adequate availability and avoid inefficient duplication and lack of coordination of prehospital services within the region;

(i) Identify procedures to allow for the appropriate transport of patients to mental health facilities or chemical dependency programs, as informed by the alternative facility guidelines adopted under RCW 70.168.170; and

(j) Include other specific elements defined by the department;

(2) By June 1991, shall begin the submission of the regional emergency medical services and trauma care plan to the department;

(3) Shall advise the department on matters relating to the delivery of emergency medical services and trauma care within the region;

(4) Shall provide data required by the department to assess the effectiveness of the emergency medical services and trauma care system;

(5) May apply for, receive, and accept gifts and other payments, including property and service, from any governmental or other public or private entity or person, and may make arrangements as to the use of these receipts, including any activities related to the design, maintenance, or enhancements of the emergency medical services and trauma care system in the region. The councils shall report in the regional budget the amount, source, and purpose of all gifts and payments. [2015 c 157 § 3; 1990 c 269 § 13.]

**70.168.110 Planning and service regions.** The department shall designate at least eight emergency medical services and trauma care planning and service regions so that all parts of the state are within such an area. These regional designations are to be made on the basis of efficiency of delivery of needed emergency medical services and trauma care. [1990 c 269 § 14; 1987 c 214 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 208 § 6. Formerly RCW 18.73.060.]

**70.168.120 Local and regional emergency medical services and trauma care councils—Power and duties.** (1) A county or group of counties may create a local emergency medical services and trauma care council composed of representatives of hospital and prehospital trauma care and emergency medical services providers, local elected officials, consumers, local law enforcement officials, and local government agencies involved in the delivery of emergency medical services and trauma care.

(2) The department shall establish regional emergency medical services and trauma care councils and shall appoint members to be comprised of a balance of hospital and prehospital trauma care and emergency medical services providers, local elected officials, consumers, local law enforcement representatives, and local government agencies involved in the delivery of trauma care and emergency medical services recommended by the local emergency medical services and trauma care councils within the region.

(3) Local emergency medical services and trauma care councils shall review, evaluate, and provide recommendations to the regional emergency medical services and trauma care council regarding the provision of emergency medical services and trauma care in the region, and provide recommendations to the regional emergency medical services and trauma care councils on the plan for emergency medical services and trauma care. [1990 c 269 § 15; 1987 c 214 § 6; 1983 c 112 § 8. Formerly RCW 18.73.073.]

**70.168.130 Disbursement of funds to regional emergency medical services and trauma care councils—Grants to nonprofit agencies—Purposes.** (1) The department, with the assistance of the emergency medical services and trauma care steering committee, shall adopt a program for the disbursement of funds for the development, implementation, and enhancement of the emergency medical services and trauma care system. Under the program, the department shall disburse funds to each emergency medical services and trauma care regional council, or their chosen fiscal agent or agents, which shall be city or county governments, stipulating the purpose for which the funds shall be expended. The regional emergency medical services and trauma care council shall use such funds to make available matching grants in an amount not to exceed fifty percent of the cost of the proposal for which the grant is made; provided, the department may waive or modify the matching requirement if it determines insufficient local funding exists and the public health and safety would be jeopardized if the proposal were not funded. Grants shall be made to any public or private nonprofit agency which, in the judgment of the regional emergency medical services and trauma care council, will best fulfill the purpose of the grant.

(2) Grants may be awarded for any of the following purposes:

(a) Establishment and initial development of an emergency medical services and trauma care system;

(b) Expansion and improvement of an emergency medical services and trauma care system;

(c) Purchase of equipment for the operation of an emergency medical services and trauma care system;

(d) Training and continuing education of emergency medical and trauma care personnel; and

(e) Department approved research and development activities pertaining to emergency medical services and trauma care.

(3) Any emergency medical services agency or trauma care provider which receives a grant shall stipulate that it will:

(a) Operate in accordance with applicable provisions and standards required under this chapter;

(b) Provide, without prior inquiry as to ability to pay, emergency medical and trauma care to all patients requiring such care; and

(c) Be consistent with applicable provisions of the regional emergency medical services and trauma care plan and the statewide emergency medical services and trauma care system plan. [1990 c 269 § 16; 1987 c 214 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 261 § 8. Formerly RCW 18.73.085.]

**70.168.135 Grant program for designated trauma care services—Rules.** The department shall establish by rule a grant program for designated trauma care services. The grants shall be made from the emergency medical services and trauma care system trust account and shall require regional matching funds. The trust account funds and regional match shall be in a seventy-five to twenty-five percent ratio. [1997 c 331 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.168.140 Prehospital provider liability.** (1) No act or omission of any prehospital provider done or omitted in good faith while rendering emergency medical services in accordance with the approved regional plan shall impose any liability upon that provider.

(2) This section does not apply to the commission or omission of an act which is not within the field of the medical expertise of the provider.

(3) This section does not relieve a provider of any duty otherwise imposed by law.

(4) This section does not apply to any act or omission which constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(5) This section applies in addition to provisions already established in RCW 18.71.210. [1990 c 269 § 26.]

**70.168.150 Emergency cardiac and stroke care system—Voluntary hospital participation.** (1) By January 1, 2011, the department shall endeavor to enhance and support an emergency cardiac and stroke care system through:

(a) Encouraging hospitals to voluntarily self-identify cardiac and stroke capabilities, indicating which level of cardiac and stroke service the facility provides. Hospital levels must be defined by the previous work of the emergency cardiac and stroke technical advisory committee and must follow the guiding principles and recommendations of the emergency cardiac and stroke work group report;

(b) Giving a hospital "deemed status" and designating it as a primary stroke center if it has received a certification of distinction for primary stroke centers issued by the nonprofit organization known as the joint commission. When available, a hospital shall demonstrate its cardiac or stroke level through external, national certifying organizations, including, but not limited to, primary stroke center certification by the joint commission; and

(c) Within the current authority of the department, adopting cardiac and stroke prehospital patient care protocols, patient care procedures, and triage tools, consistent with the guiding principles and recommendations of the emergency cardiac and stroke work group report.

(2) A hospital that voluntarily participates in the system:

(a) Shall participate in internal, as well as regional, quality improvement activities;

(b) Shall participate in a national, state, or local data collection system that measures cardiac and stroke system performance from patient onset of symptoms to treatment or intervention, and includes, at a minimum, the nationally recognized consensus measures for stroke; and

(c) May advertise participation in the system, but may not claim a verified certification level unless verified by an external, nationally recognized, evidence-based certifying body as provided in subsection (1)(b) of this section. [2010 c 52 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 52:** See note following RCW 70.168.015.

**70.168.160 Report to the legislature.** By December 1, 2012, the department shall share with the legislature the department's report, which was funded by the centers for disease control and prevention, concerning emergency cardiac and stroke care. [2010 c 52 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 52:** See note following RCW 70.168.015.

(2016 Ed.)

**70.168.170 Ambulance services—Work group—Patient transportation—Mental health or chemical dependency services.** (1) The department, in consultation with the department of social and health services, shall convene a work group comprised of members of the steering committee and representatives of ambulance services, firefighters, mental health providers, and chemical dependency treatment programs. The work group shall establish alternative facility guidelines for the development of protocols, procedures, and applicable training appropriate to the level of emergency medical service provider for the appropriate transport of patients in need of immediate mental health or chemical dependency services.

(2) The alternative facility guidelines shall consider when transport to a mental health facility or chemical dependency treatment program is necessary as determined by:

(a) The presence of a medical emergency that requires immediate medical care;

(b) The severity of the mental health or substance use disorder needs of the patient;

(c) The training of emergency medical service personnel to respond to a patient experiencing emergency mental health or substance use disorders; and

(d) The risk the patient presents to the patient's self, the public, and the emergency medical service personnel.

(3) By July 1, 2016, the department shall make the guidelines available to all regional emergency medical services and trauma care councils for incorporation into regional emergency medical services and trauma care plans under RCW 70.168.100. [2015 c 157 § 1.]

**70.168.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and cited as the "statewide emergency medical services and trauma care system act." [1990 c 269 § 2.]

## Chapter 70.170 RCW HEALTH DATA AND CHARITY CARE

### Sections

70.170.010	Intent.
70.170.020	Definitions.
70.170.050	Requested studies—Costs.
70.170.060	Charity care—Prohibited and required hospital practices and policies—Rules—Department to monitor and report.
70.170.070	Penalties.
70.170.080	Assessments—Costs.
70.170.090	Confidentiality.

*Hospital financial and patient discharge data: RCW 43.70.052.*

**70.170.010 Intent.** (1) The legislature finds and declares that there is a need for health care information that helps the general public understand health care issues and how they can be better consumers and that is useful to purchasers, payers, and providers in making health care choices and negotiating payments. It is the purpose and intent of this chapter to establish a hospital data collection, storage, and retrieval system which supports these data needs and which also provides public officials and others engaged in the development of state health policy the information necessary for the analysis of health care issues.

(2) The legislature finds that rising health care costs and access to health care services are of vital concern to the people of this state. It is, therefore, essential that strategies be

explored that moderate health care costs and promote access to health care services.

(3) The legislature further finds that access to health care is among the state's goals and the provision of such care should be among the purposes of health care providers and facilities. Therefore, the legislature intends that charity care requirements and related enforcement provisions for hospitals be explicitly established.

(4) The lack of reliable statistical information about the delivery of charity care is a particular concern that should be addressed. It is the purpose and intent of this chapter to require hospitals to provide, and report to the state, charity care to persons with acute care needs, and to have a state agency both monitor and report on the relative commitment of hospitals to the delivery of charity care services, as well as the relative commitment of public and private purchasers or payers to charity care funding. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 501.]

**70.170.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Department" means department of health.

(2) "Hospital" means any health care institution which is required to qualify for a license under \*RCW 70.41.020(2); or as a psychiatric hospital under chapter 71.12 RCW.

(3) "Secretary" means secretary of health.

(4) "Charity care" means necessary hospital health care rendered to indigent persons, to the extent that the persons are unable to pay for the care or to pay deductibles or co-insurance amounts required by a third-party payer, as determined by the department.

(5) "Sliding fee schedule" means a hospital-determined, publicly available schedule of discounts to charges for persons deemed eligible for charity care; such schedules shall be established after consideration of guidelines developed by the department.

(6) "Special studies" means studies which have not been funded through the department's biennial or other legislative appropriations. [1995 c 269 § 2203; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 502.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.41.020 was amended by 2002 c 116 § 2, changing subsection (2) to subsection (4). RCW 70.41.020 was subsequently alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (4) to subsection (5). RCW 70.41.020 was subsequently amended by 2016 c 226 § 1, changing subsection (5) to subsection (7).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.170.050 Requested studies—Costs.** The department shall have the authority to respond to requests of others for special studies or analysis. The department may require such sponsors to pay any or all of the reasonable costs associated with such requests that might be approved, but in no event may costs directly associated with any such special study be charged against the funds generated by the assessment authorized under RCW 70.170.080. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 505.]

**70.170.060 Charity care—Prohibited and required hospital practices and policies—Rules—Department to monitor and report.** (1) No hospital or its medical staff shall adopt or maintain admission practices or policies which result in:

(a) A significant reduction in the proportion of patients who have no third-party coverage and who are unable to pay for hospital services;

(b) A significant reduction in the proportion of individuals admitted for inpatient hospital services for which payment is, or is likely to be, less than the anticipated charges for or costs of such services; or

(c) The refusal to admit patients who would be expected to require unusually costly or prolonged treatment for reasons other than those related to the appropriateness of the care available at the hospital.

(2) No hospital shall adopt or maintain practices or policies which would deny access to emergency care based on ability to pay. No hospital which maintains an emergency department shall transfer a patient with an emergency medical condition or who is in active labor unless the transfer is performed at the request of the patient or is due to the limited medical resources of the transferring hospital. Hospitals must follow reasonable procedures in making transfers to other hospitals including confirmation of acceptance of the transfer by the receiving hospital.

(3) The department shall develop definitions by rule, as appropriate, for subsection (1) of this section and, with reference to federal requirements, subsection (2) of this section. The department shall monitor hospital compliance with subsections (1) and (2) of this section. The department shall report individual instances of possible noncompliance to the state attorney general or the appropriate federal agency.

(4) The department shall establish and maintain by rule, consistent with the definition of charity care in RCW 70.170.020, the following:

(a) Uniform procedures, data requirements, and criteria for identifying patients receiving charity care;

(b) A definition of residual bad debt including reasonable and uniform standards for collection procedures to be used in efforts to collect the unpaid portions of hospital charges that are the patient's responsibility.

(5) For the purpose of providing charity care, each hospital shall develop, implement, and maintain a charity care policy which, consistent with subsection (1) of this section, shall enable people below the federal poverty level access to appropriate hospital-based medical services, and a sliding fee schedule for determination of discounts from charges for persons who qualify for such discounts by January 1, 1990. The department shall develop specific guidelines to assist hospitals in setting sliding fee schedules required by this section. All persons with family income below one hundred percent of the federal poverty standard shall be deemed charity care patients for the full amount of hospital charges, provided that such persons are not eligible for other private or public health coverage sponsorship. Persons who may be eligible for charity care shall be notified by the hospital.

(6) Each hospital shall make every reasonable effort to determine the existence or nonexistence of private or public sponsorship which might cover in full or part the charges for care rendered by the hospital to a patient; the family income of the patient as classified under federal poverty income guidelines; and the eligibility of the patient for charity care as defined in this chapter and in accordance with hospital policy. An initial determination of sponsorship status shall precede collection efforts directed at the patient.

(7) The department shall monitor the distribution of charity care among hospitals, with reference to factors such as relative need for charity care in hospital service areas and

trends in private and public health coverage. The department shall prepare reports that identify any problems in distribution which are in contradiction of the intent of this chapter. The report shall include an assessment of the effects of the provisions of this chapter on access to hospital and health care services, as well as an evaluation of the contribution of all purchasers of care to hospital charity care.

(8) The department shall issue a report on the subjects addressed in this section at least annually, with the first report due on July 1, 1990. [1998 c 245 § 118; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 506.]

**70.170.070 Penalties.** (1) Every person who shall violate or knowingly aid and abet the violation of RCW 70.170.060 (5) or (6), 70.170.080, or \*70.170.100, or any valid orders or rules adopted pursuant to these sections, or who fails to perform any act which it is herein made his or her duty to perform, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Following official notice to the accused by the department of the existence of an alleged violation, each day of noncompliance upon which a violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation. Any person violating the provisions of this chapter may be enjoined from continuing such violation. The department has authority to levy civil penalties not exceeding one thousand dollars for violations of this chapter and determined pursuant to this section.

(2) Every person who shall violate or knowingly aid and abet the violation of RCW 70.170.060 (1) or (2), or any valid orders or rules adopted pursuant to such section, or who fails to perform any act which it is herein made his or her duty to perform, shall be subject to the following criminal and civil penalties:

(a) For any initial violations: The violating person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and the department may impose a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars as determined pursuant to this section.

(b) For a subsequent violation of RCW 70.170.060 (1) or (2) within five years following a conviction: The violating person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and the department may impose a penalty not to exceed three thousand dollars as determined pursuant to this section.

(c) For a subsequent violation with intent to violate RCW 70.170.060 (1) or (2) within five years following a conviction: The criminal and civil penalties enumerated in (a) of this subsection; plus up to a three-year prohibition against the issuance of tax exempt bonds under the authority of the Washington health care facilities authority; and up to a three-year prohibition from applying for and receiving a certificate of need.

(d) For a violation of RCW 70.170.060 (1) or (2) within five years of a conviction under (c) of this subsection: The criminal and civil penalties and prohibition enumerated in (a) and (b) of this subsection; plus up to a one-year prohibition from participation in the state medical assistance or medical care services authorized under chapter 74.09 RCW.

(3) The provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW shall apply to all noncriminal actions undertaken by the department of health, the department of social and health services, and the Washington health care facilities authority pursuant to chapter 9, Laws of 1989 1st ex. sess. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 507.]

(2016 Ed.)

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 70.170.100 was repealed by 1995 c 265 § 27 and by 1995 c 267 § 12, effective July 1, 1995.

**70.170.080 Assessments—Costs.** The basic expenses for the hospital data collection and reporting activities of this chapter shall be financed by an assessment against hospitals of no more than four one-hundredths of one percent of each hospital's gross operating costs, to be levied and collected from and after that date, upon which the similar assessment levied under \*chapter 70.39 RCW is terminated, for the provision of hospital services for its last fiscal year ending on or before June 30th of the preceding calendar year. Budgetary requirements in excess of that limit must be financed by a general fund appropriation by the legislature. All moneys collected under this section shall be deposited by the state treasurer in the hospital data collection account which is hereby created in the state treasury. The department may also charge, receive, and dispense funds or authorize any contractor or outside sponsor to charge for and reimburse the costs associated with special studies as specified in RCW 70.170.050.

During the 1993-1995 fiscal biennium, moneys in the hospital data collection account may be expended, pursuant to appropriation, for hospital data analysis and the administration of the health information program.

Any amounts raised by the collection of assessments from hospitals provided for in this section which are not required to meet appropriations in the budget act for the current fiscal year shall be available to the department in succeeding years. [1993 sp.s. c 24 § 925; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 71; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 508.]

\***Reviser's note:** Chapter 70.39 RCW was repealed by 1982 c 223 § 10, effective June 30, 1990.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.170.090 Confidentiality.** The department and any of its contractors or agents shall maintain the confidentiality of any information which may, in any manner, identify individual patients. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 509.]

## Chapter 70.175 RCW RURAL HEALTH SYSTEM PROJECT

### Sections

70.175.010	Legislative findings.
70.175.020	Definitions.
70.175.030	Project established—Implementation.
70.175.040	Rules.
70.175.050	Secretary's powers and duties.
70.175.060	Duties and responsibilities of participating communities.
70.175.070	Cooperation of state agencies.
70.175.080	Powers and duties of secretary—Contracting.
70.175.090	Participants authorized to contract—Penalty—Secretary and state exempt from liability.
70.175.100	Licensure—Rules.
70.175.110	Licensure—Rules—Duties of department.
70.175.120	Rural health care facility not a hospital.
70.175.130	Rural health care plan.
70.175.140	Consultative advice for licensees or applicants.

*Rural hospitals:* RCW 70.38.105, 70.38.111, 70.41.090.

*Rural public hospital districts:* RCW 70.44.450.

**70.175.010 Legislative findings.** (1) The legislature declares that availability of health services to rural citizens is an issue on which a state policy is needed.

The legislature finds that changes in the demand for health care, in reimbursement policies of public and private purchasers, [and] in the economic and demographic conditions in rural areas threaten the availability of care services.

In addition, many factors inhibit needed changes in the delivery of health care services to rural areas which include inappropriate and outdated regulatory laws, aging and inefficient health care facilities, the absence of local planning and coordination of rural health care services, the lack of community understanding of the real costs and benefits of supporting rural hospitals, the lack of regional systems to assure access to care that cannot be provided in every community, and the absence of state health care policy objectives.

The legislature further finds that the creation of effective health care delivery systems that assure access to health care services provided in an affordable manner will depend on active local community involvement. It further finds that it is the duty of the state to create a regulatory environment and health care payment policy that promotes innovation at the local level to provide such care.

It further declares that it is the responsibility of the state to develop policy that provides direction to local communities with regard to such factors as a definition of health care services, identification of statewide health status outcomes, clarification of state, regional, [and] community responsibilities and interrelationships for assuring access to affordable health care and continued assurances that quality health care services are provided.

(2) The legislature further finds that many rural communities do not operate hospitals in a cost-efficient manner. The cost of operating the rural hospital often exceeds the revenues generated. Some of these hospitals face closure, which may result in the loss of health care services for the community. Many communities are struggling to retain health care services by operating a cost-efficient facility located in the community. Current regulatory laws do not provide for the facilities licensure option that is appropriate for rural areas. A major barrier to the development of an appropriate rural licensure model is federal medicare approval to guarantee reimbursement for the costs of providing care and operating the facility. Medicare certification typically elaborates upon state licensure requirements. Medicare approval of reimbursement is more likely if the state has developed legal criteria for a rural-appropriate health facility. Medicare has begun negotiations with other states facing similar problems to develop exceptions with the goal of allowing reimbursement of rural alternative health care facilities. It is in the best interests of rural citizens for Washington state to begin negotiations with the federal government with the objective of designing a medicare eligible rural health care facility structured to meet the health care needs of rural Washington and be eligible for federal and state financial support for its development and operation. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 701.]

**70.175.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Administrative structure" means a system of contracts or formal agreements between organizations and persons providing health services in an area that establishes the

roles and responsibilities each will assume in providing the services of the rural health care facility.

(2) "Department" means the department of health.

(3) "Health care delivery system" means services and personnel involved in providing health care to a population in a geographic area.

(4) "Health care facility" means any land, structure, system, machinery, equipment, or other real or personal property or appurtenances useful for or associated with delivery of inpatient or outpatient health care service or support for such care or any combination thereof which is operated or undertaken in connection with a hospital, clinic, health maintenance organization, diagnostic or treatment center, extended care facility, or any facility providing or designed to provide therapeutic, convalescent or preventive health care services.

(5) "Health care system strategic plan" means a plan developed by the participant and includes identification of health care service needs of the participant, services and personnel necessary to meet health care service needs, identification of health status outcomes and outcome measures, identification of funding sources, and strategies to meet health care needs including measures of effectiveness.

(6) "Institutions of higher education" means educational institutions as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

(7) "Local administrator" means an individual or organization representing the participant who may enter into legal agreements on behalf of the participant.

(8) "Participant" means communities, counties, and regions that serve as a health care catchment area where the project site is located.

(9) "Project" means the Washington rural health system project.

(10) "Project site" means a site selected to participate in the project.

(11) "Rural health care facility" means a facility, group, or other formal organization or arrangement of facilities, equipment, and personnel capable of providing or assuring availability of health services in a rural area. The services to be provided by the rural health care facility may be delivered in a single location or may be geographically dispersed in the community health service catchment area so long as they are organized under a common administrative structure or through a mechanism that provides appropriate referral, treatment, and follow-up.

(12) "Secretary" means the secretary of health. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 702.]

**70.175.030 Project established—Implementation.**

(1) The department shall establish the Washington rural health system project to provide financial and technical assistance to participants. The goal of the project is to help assure access to affordable health care services to citizens in the rural areas of Washington state.

(2) Administrative costs necessary to implement this project shall be kept at a minimum to insure the maximum availability of funds for participants.

(3) The secretary may contract with third parties for services necessary to carry out activities to implement this chapter where this will promote economy, avoid duplication of effort, and make the best use of available expertise.

(4) The secretary may apply for, receive, and accept gifts and other payments, including property and service, from any governmental or other public or private entity or person, and may make arrangements as to the use of these receipts, including the undertaking of special studies and other projects related to the delivery of health care in rural areas.

(5) In designing and implementing the project the secretary shall consider the report of the Washington rural health care commission established under chapter 207, Laws of 1988. Nothing in this chapter requires the secretary to follow any specific recommendation contained in that report except as it may also be included in this chapter. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 806; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 703.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.175.040 Rules.** The department shall adopt rules consistent with this chapter to carry out the purpose of this chapter. All rules shall be adopted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. All rules and procedures adopted by the department shall minimize paperwork and compliance requirements for participants and should not be complex in nature so as to serve as a barrier or disincentive for prospective participants applying for the project. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 704.]

**70.175.050 Secretary's powers and duties.** The secretary shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To design the project application and selection process, including a program to advertise the project to rural communities and encourage prospective applicants to apply. Project sites that receive seed grant funding may hire consultants and shall perform other activities necessary to meet participant requirements defined in this chapter. In considering selection of participants eligible for seed grant funding, the secretary should consider project sites where (a) existing access to health care is severely inadequate, (b) where a financially vulnerable health care facility is present, (c) where a financially vulnerable health care facility is present and an adjoining community in the same catchment area has a competing facility, or (d) where improvements in the delivery of primary care services, including preventive care services, is needed.

The department may obtain technical assistance support for project sites that are not selected to be funded sites. The secretary shall select these assisted project sites based upon merit and to the extent possible, based upon the desire to address specific health status outcomes;

(2) To design acceptable outcome measures which are based upon health status outcomes and are to be part of the community plan, to work with communities to set acceptable local outcome targets in the health care delivery system strategic plan, and to serve as a general resource to participants in the planning, administration, and evaluation of project sites;

(3) To assess and approve community strategic plans developed by participants, including an assessment of the technical and financial feasibility of implementing the plan and whether adequate local support for the plan is demonstrated;

(4) To define health care catchment areas, identify financially vulnerable health care facilities, and to identify rural populations which are not receiving adequate health care services;

(5) To identify existing private and public resources which may serve as eligible consultants, identify technical assistance resources for communities in the project, create a register of public and private technical resource services available and provide the register to participants. The secretary shall screen consultants to determine their qualifications prior to including them on the register;

(6) To work with other state agencies, institutions of higher education, and other public and private organizations to coordinate technical assistance services for participants;

(7) To administer available funds for community use while participating in the project and establish procedures to assure accountability in the use of seed grant funds by participants;

(8) To define data and other minimum requirements for adequate evaluation of projects and to develop and implement an overall monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the projects;

(9) To act as facilitator for multiple applicants and entrants to the project;

(10) To report to the appropriate legislative committees and others from time to time on the progress of the projects including the identification of statutory and regulatory barriers to successful completion of rural health care delivery goals and an ongoing evaluation of the project. [1991 c 224 § 1; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 705.]

**70.175.060 Duties and responsibilities of participating communities.** The duties and responsibilities of participating communities shall include:

(1) To involve major health care providers, businesses, public officials, and other community leaders in project design, administration, and oversight;

(2) To identify an individual or organization to serve as the local administrator of the project. The secretary may require the local administrator to maintain acceptable accountability of seed grant funding;

(3) To coordinate and avoid duplication of public health and other health care services;

(4) To assess and analyze community health care needs;

(5) To identify services and providers necessary to meet needs;

(6) To develop outcome measures to assess the long-term effectiveness of modifications initiated through the project;

(7) To write a health care delivery system strategic plan including to the extent possible, identification of outcome measures needed to achieve health status outcomes identified in the plan. New organizational structures created should integrate existing programs and activities of local health providers so as to maximize the efficient planning and delivery of health care by local providers and promote more accessible and affordable health care services to rural citizens. Participants should create health care delivery system strategic plans which promote health care services which the participant can financially sustain;

(8) To screen and contract with consultants for technical assistance if the project site was selected to receive funding and assistance is needed;

(9) To monitor and evaluate the project in an ongoing manner;

(10) To implement necessary changes as defined in the plans such as converting existing facilities, developing or modifying services, recruiting providers, or obtaining agreements with other communities to provide some or all health care services; and

(11) To provide data and comply with other requirements of the administrator that are intended to evaluate the effectiveness of the projects. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 706.]

**70.175.070 Cooperation of state agencies.** (1) The secretary may call upon other agencies of the state to provide available information to assist the secretary in meeting the responsibilities under this chapter. This information shall be supplied as promptly as circumstances permit.

(2) The secretary may call upon other state agencies including institutions of higher education as authorized under Title 28B RCW to identify and coordinate the delivery of technical assistance services to participants in meeting the responsibilities of this chapter. The state agencies and institutions of higher education shall cooperate and provide technical assistance to the secretary to the extent that current funding for these agencies and institutions of higher education permits. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 707.]

**70.175.080 Powers and duties of secretary—Contracting.** In addition to the powers and duties specified in RCW 70.175.050 the secretary has the power to enter into contracts for the following functions and services:

(1) With public or private agencies, to assist the secretary in the secretary's duties to design or revise the health status outcomes, or to monitor or evaluate the performance of participants.

(2) With public or private agencies, to provide technical or professional assistance to project participants. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 708.]

**70.175.090 Participants authorized to contract—Penalty—Secretary and state exempt from liability.** (1) Participants are authorized to use funding granted to them by the secretary for the purpose of contracting for technical assistance services. Participants shall use only consultants identified by the secretary for consulting services unless the participant can show that an alternative consultant is qualified to provide technical assistance and is approved by the secretary. Adequate records shall be kept by the participant showing project site expenditures from grant moneys. Inappropriate use of grant funding shall be a gross misdemeanor.

(2) In providing a list of qualified consultants the secretary and the state shall not be held responsible for assuring qualifications of consultants and shall be held harmless for the actions of consultants. Furthermore, the secretary and the state shall not be held liable for the failure of participants to meet contractual obligations established in connection with project participation. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 709.]

**70.175.100 Licensure—Rules.** (1) The department shall establish and adopt such standards and rules pertaining to the construction, maintenance, and operation of a rural health care facility and the scope of health care services, and rescind, amend, or modify the rules from time to time as necessary in the public interest. In developing the rules, the

department shall consult with representatives of rural hospitals, community mental health centers, public health departments, community and migrant health clinics, and other providers of health care in rural communities. The department shall also consult with third-party payers, consumers, local officials, and others to ensure broad participation in defining regulatory standards and requirements that are appropriate for a rural health care facility.

(2) When developing the rural health care facility licensure rules, the department shall consider the report of the Washington rural health care commission established under chapter 207, Laws of 1988. Nothing in this chapter requires the department to follow any specific recommendation contained in that report except as it may also be included in this chapter.

(3) Upon developing rules, the department shall enter into negotiations with appropriate federal officials to seek medicare approval of the facility and financial participation of medicare and other federal programs in developing and operating the rural health care facility. [1998 c 245 § 119; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 710.]

**70.175.110 Licensure—Rules—Duties of department.** In developing the rural health care facility licensure regulations, the department shall:

(1) Minimize regulatory requirements to permit local flexibility and innovation in providing services;

(2) Promote the cost-efficient delivery of health care and other social services as is appropriate for the particular local community;

(3) Promote the delivery of services in a coordinated and nonduplicative manner;

(4) Maximize the use of existing health care facilities in the community;

(5) Permit regionalization of health care services when appropriate;

(6) Provide for linkages with hospitals, tertiary care centers, and other health care facilities to provide services not available in the facility; and

(7) Achieve health care outcomes defined by the community through a community planning process. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 711.]

**70.175.120 Rural health care facility not a hospital.** The rural health care facility is not considered a hospital for building occupancy purposes. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 712.]

**70.175.130 Rural health care plan.** The department may develop and implement a rural health care plan and may approve hospital and rural health care facility requests to be designated as essential access community hospitals or rural primary care hospitals so that such facilities may form rural health networks to preserve health care services in rural areas and thereby be eligible for federal program funding and enhanced medicare reimbursement. The department may monitor any rural health care plan and designated facilities to assure continued compliance with the rural health care plan. [1992 c 27 § 4; 1990 c 271 § 18.]

**70.175.140 Consultative advice for licensees or applicants.** Any licensee or applicant desiring to make alterations

or additions to its facilities or to construct new facilities may contact the department for consultative advice before commencing such alteration, addition, or new construction. [1992 c 27 § 5.]

## Chapter 70.180 RCW RURAL HEALTH CARE

### Sections

70.180.005	Finding—Health care professionals.
70.180.009	Finding—Rural training opportunities.
70.180.011	Definitions.
70.180.020	Health professional temporary substitute resource pool.
70.180.030	Registry of health care professionals available to rural communities—Conditions of participation.
70.180.040	Request procedure—Acceptance of gifts.
70.180.110	Rural training opportunities—Plan development.
70.180.120	Midwifery—Statewide plan.
70.180.130	Expenditures, funding.

*Rural public hospital districts: RCW 70.44.450.*

**70.180.005 Finding—Health care professionals.** The legislature finds that a health care access problem exists in rural areas of the state because rural health care providers are unable to leave the community for short-term periods of time to attend required continuing education training or for personal matters because their absence would leave the community without adequate medical care coverage. The lack of adequate medical coverage in geographically remote rural communities constitutes a threat to the health and safety of the people in those communities.

The legislature declares that it is in the public interest to recruit and maintain a pool of physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, and advanced registered nurse practitioners willing and able on short notice to practice in rural communities on a short-term basis to meet the medical needs of the community. [1991 c 332 § 27; 1990 c 271 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.180.009 Finding—Rural training opportunities.** The legislature finds that a shortage of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and physician assistants exists in rural areas of the state. In addition, many education programs to train these health care providers do not include options for practical training experience in rural settings. As a result, many health care providers find their current training does not prepare them for the unique demands of rural practice.

The legislature declares that the availability of rural training opportunities as a part of professional medical, nursing, pharmacist, and physician assistant education would provide needed practical experience, serve to attract providers to rural areas, and help address the current shortage of these providers in rural Washington. [1990 c 271 § 14.]

**70.180.011 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means the department of health.

(2) "Rural areas" means a rural area in the state of Washington as identified by the department. [1991 c 332 § 29.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

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**70.180.020 Health professional temporary substitute resource pool.** The department shall establish or contract for a health professional temporary substitute resource pool. The purpose of the pool is to provide short-term physician, physician assistant, pharmacist, and advanced registered nurse practitioner personnel to rural communities where these health care providers:

- (1) Are unavailable due to provider shortages;
- (2) Need time off from practice to attend continuing education and other training programs; and
- (3) Need time off from practice to attend to personal matters or recover from illness.

The health professional temporary substitute resource pool is intended to provide short-term assistance and should complement active health provider recruitment efforts by rural communities where shortages exist. [1994 c 103 § 1; 1990 c 271 § 2.]

**70.180.030 Registry of health care professionals available to rural communities—Conditions of participation.** (1) The department, in cooperation with the University of Washington school of medicine, the state's registered nursing programs, the state's pharmacy programs, and other appropriate public and private agencies and associations, shall develop and keep current a register of physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, and advanced registered nurse practitioners who are available to practice on a short-term basis in rural communities of the state. The department shall list only individuals who have a valid license to practice. The register shall be compiled and made available to all rural hospitals, public health departments and districts, rural pharmacies, and other appropriate public and private agencies and associations.

(2) Eligible health care professionals are those licensed under chapters 18.57, 18.57A, 18.64, 18.71, and 18.71A RCW and advanced registered nurse practitioners licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(3) Participating sites may:

(a) Receive reimbursement for substitute provider travel to and from the rural community and for lodging at a rate determined under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060; and

(b) Receive reimbursement for the cost of malpractice insurance if the services provided are not covered by the substitute provider's or local provider's existing medical malpractice insurance. Reimbursement for malpractice insurance shall only be made available to sites that incur additional costs for substitute provider coverage.

(4) The department may require rural communities to participate in health professional recruitment programs as a condition for providing a temporary substitute health care professional if the community does not have adequate permanent health care personnel. To the extent deemed appropriate and subject to funding, the department may also require communities to participate in other programs or projects, such as the rural health system project authorized in chapter 70.175 RCW, that are designed to assist communities to reorganize the delivery of rural health care services.

(5) A participating site may receive reimbursement for substitute provider assistance as provided for in subsection (3) of this section for up to ninety days during any twelve-month period. The department may modify or waive this lim-

itation should it determine that the health and safety of the community warrants a waiver or modification.

(6) Participating sites shall:

(a) Be responsible for all salary expenses for the temporary substitute provider.

(b) Provide the temporary substitute provider with referral and backup coverage information. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 746; 1994 c 103 § 2; 1990 c 271 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1994 c 103 § 2 and by 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 746, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **70.180.040 Request procedure—Acceptance of gifts.**

(1) Requests for a temporary substitute health care professional may be made to the department by the certified health plan, local rural hospital, public health department or district, community health clinic, local practicing physician, physician assistant, pharmacist, or advanced registered nurse practitioner, or local city or county government.

(2) The department may provide directly or contract for services to:

(a) Establish a manner and form for receiving requests;

(b) Minimize paperwork and compliance requirements for participant health care professionals and entities requesting assistance; and

(c) Respond promptly to all requests for assistance.

(3) The department may apply for, receive, and accept gifts and other payments, including property and services, from any governmental or other public or private entity or person, and may make arrangements as to the use of these receipts to operate the pool. The department shall make available upon request to the appropriate legislative committees information concerning the source, amount, and use of such gifts or payments. [1994 c 103 § 3; 1990 c 271 § 4.]

**70.180.110 Rural training opportunities—Plan development.** (1) The department, in consultation with at least the student achievement council, the state board for community and technical colleges, the superintendent of public instruction, and state-supported education programs in medicine, pharmacy, and nursing, shall develop a plan for increasing rural training opportunities for students in medicine, pharmacy, and nursing. The plan shall provide for direct exposure to rural health professional practice conditions for students planning careers in medicine, pharmacy, and nursing.

(2) The department and the medical, pharmacy, and nurse education programs shall:

(a) Inventory existing rural-based clinical experience programs, including internships, clerkships, residencies, and other training opportunities available to students pursuing degrees in nursing, pharmacy, and medicine;

(b) Identify where training opportunities do not currently exist and are needed;

(c) Develop recommendations for improving the availability of rural training opportunities;

(d) Develop recommendations on establishing agreements between education programs to assure that all students

in medical, pharmacist, and nurse education programs in the state have access to rural training opportunities; and

(e) Review private and public funding sources to finance rural-based training opportunities. [2012 c 229 § 593; 1998 c 245 § 120; 1990 c 271 § 15.]

**Effective date—**2012 c 229 §§ 101, 117, 401, 402, 501 through 594, 601 through 609, 701 through 708, 801 through 821, 902, and 904: See note following RCW 28B.77.005.

**70.180.120 Midwifery—Statewide plan.** The department, in consultation with training programs that lead to licensure in midwifery and certification as a certified nurse midwife, and other appropriate private and public groups, shall develop a statewide plan to address access to midwifery services.

The plan shall include at least the following: (1) Identification of maternity service shortage areas in the state where midwives could reduce the shortage of services; (2) an inventory of current training programs and preceptorship activities available to train licensed and certified nurse midwives; (3) identification of gaps in the availability of training due to such factors as geographic or economic conditions that prevent individuals from seeking training; (4) identification of other barriers to utilizing midwives; (5) identification of strategies to train future midwives such as developing training programs at community colleges and universities, using innovative telecommunications for training in rural areas, and establishing preceptorship programs accessible to prospective midwives in shortage areas; (6) development of recruitment strategies; and (7) estimates of expected costs associated in recruitment and training.

The plan shall identify the most expeditious and cost-efficient manner to recruit and train midwives to meet the current shortages. Plan development and implementation shall be coordinated with other state policy efforts directed toward, but not limited to, maternity care access, rural health care system organization, and provider recruitment for shortage and medically underserved areas of the state. [1998 c 245 § 121; 1990 c 271 § 16.]

**70.180.130 Expenditures, funding.** Any additional expenditures incurred by the University of Washington from provisions of chapter 271, Laws of 1990 shall be funded from existing financial resources. [1990 c 271 § 28.]

### **Chapter 70.185 RCW**

#### **RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS—HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

##### Sections

70.185.010	Definitions.
70.185.020	Statewide recruitment and retention clearinghouse.
70.185.030	Community-based recruitment and retention projects—Duties of department.
70.185.040	Rules.
70.185.050	Secretary's powers and duties.
70.185.060	Duties and responsibilities of participating communities.
70.185.070	Cooperation of state agencies.
70.185.080	Participants authorized to contract—Penalty—Secretary and state exempt from liability.
70.185.090	Community contracted student educational positions.
70.185.100	Contracts with area health education centers.
70.185.900	Application to scope of practice—Captions not law—1991 c 332.

Rural public hospital districts: RCW 70.44.450.

**70.185.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

- (1) "Department" means the department of health.
- (2) "Health care professional recruitment and retention strategic plan" means a plan developed by the participant and includes identification of health care personnel needs of the community, how these professionals will be recruited and retained in the community following recruitment.
- (3) "Institutions of higher education" means educational institutions as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.
- (4) "Local administrator" means an individual or organization representing the participant who may enter into legal agreements on behalf of the participant.
- (5) "Participant" means communities, counties, and regions that serve as a health care catchment area where the project site is located.
- (6) "Project" means the community-based retention and recruitment project.
- (7) "Project site" means a site selected to participate in the project.
- (8) "Secretary" means the secretary of health. [1991 c 332 § 7.]

**70.185.020 Statewide recruitment and retention clearinghouse.** The department, in consultation with appropriate private and public entities, shall establish a health professional recruitment and retention clearinghouse. The clearinghouse shall:

- (1) Inventory and classify the current public and private health professional recruitment and retention efforts;
- (2) Identify recruitment and retention program models having the greatest success rates;
- (3) Identify recruitment and retention program gaps;
- (4) Work with existing recruitment and retention programs to better coordinate statewide activities and to make such services more widely known and broadly available;
- (5) Provide general information to communities, health care facilities, and others about existing available programs;
- (6) Work in cooperation with private and public entities to develop new recruitment and retention programs;
- (7) Identify needed recruitment and retention programming for state institutions, county public health departments and districts, county human service agencies, and other entities serving substantial numbers of public pay and charity care patients, and may provide to these entities when they have been selected as participants necessary recruitment and retention assistance including:
  - (a) Assistance in establishing or enhancing recruitment of health care professionals;
  - (b) Recruitment on behalf of sites unable to establish their own recruitment program; and
  - (c) Assistance with retention activities when practitioners of the health professional loan repayment and scholarship program authorized by \*chapter 18.150 RCW are present in the practice setting. [1991 c 332 § 8.]

\*Reviser's note: Chapter 18.150 RCW was recodified as chapter 28B.115 RCW by 1991 c 332 § 36.

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**70.185.030 Community-based recruitment and retention projects—Duties of department.** (1) The department may, subject to funding, establish community-based recruitment and retention project sites to provide financial and technical assistance to participating communities. The goal of the project is to help assure the availability of health care providers in rural and underserved urban areas of Washington state.

(2) Administrative costs necessary to implement this project shall be kept at a minimum to insure the maximum availability of funds for participants.

(3) The secretary may contract with third parties for services necessary to carry out activities to implement this chapter where this will promote economy, avoid duplication of effort, and make the best use of available expertise.

(4) The secretary may apply for, receive, and accept gifts and other payments, including property and service, from any governmental or other public or private entity or person, and may make arrangements as to the use of these receipts, including the undertaking of special studies and other projects related to the delivery of health care in rural areas.

(5) In designing and implementing the project the secretary shall coordinate and avoid duplication with similar federal programs and with the Washington rural health system project as authorized under chapter 70.175 RCW to consolidate administrative duties and reduce costs. [1993 c 492 § 273; 1991 c 332 § 9.]

**Finding—1993 c 492:** See note following RCW 28B.115.080.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.185.040 Rules.** The department shall adopt rules consistent with this chapter to carry out the purpose of this chapter. All rules shall be adopted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. All rules and procedures adopted by the department shall minimize paperwork and compliance requirements for participants and should not be complex in nature so as to serve as a barrier or disincentive for prospective participants applying for the project. [1991 c 332 § 10.]

**70.185.050 Secretary's powers and duties.** The secretary shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To design the project application and selection process, including a program to advertise the project to rural communities and encourage prospective applicants to apply. Subject to funding, project sites shall be selected that are eligible to receive funding. Funding shall be used to hire consultants and perform other activities necessary to meet participant requirements under this chapter. The secretary shall require at least fifty percent matching funds or in-kind contributions from participants. In considering selection of participants eligible for seed grant funding, the secretary should consider project sites where (a) existing access to health care is severely inadequate, (b) recruitment and retention problems have been chronic, (c) the community is in need of primary care practitioners, or (d) the community has unmet health care needs for specific target populations;

(2) To design acceptable health care professional recruitment and retention strategic plans, and to serve as a general resource to participants in the planning, administration, and evaluation of project sites;

(3) To assess and approve strategic plans developed by participants, including an assessment of the technical and financial feasibility of implementing the plan and whether adequate local support for the plan is demonstrated;

(4) To identify existing private and public resources that may serve as eligible consultants, identify technical assistance resources for communities in the project, create a register of public and private technical resource services available, and provide the register to participants. The secretary shall screen consultants to determine their qualifications prior to including them on the register;

(5) To work with other state agencies, institutions of higher education, and other public and private organizations to coordinate technical assistance services for participants;

(6) To administer available funds for community use while participating in the project and establish procedures to assure accountability in the use of seed grant funds by participants;

(7) To define data and other minimum requirements for adequate evaluation of projects and to develop and implement an overall monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the projects;

(8) To act as facilitator for multiple applicants and entrants to the project;

(9) To report to the appropriate legislative committees and others from time to time on the progress of the projects including the identification of statutory and regulatory barriers to successful completion of rural health care delivery goals and an ongoing evaluation of the project. [1991 c 332 § 11.]

**70.185.060 Duties and responsibilities of participating communities.** The duties and responsibilities of participating communities shall include:

(1) To involve major health care providers, businesses, public officials, and other community leaders in project design, administration, and oversight;

(2) To identify an individual or organization to serve as the local administrator of the project. The secretary may require the local administrator to maintain acceptable accountability of seed grant funding;

(3) To coordinate and avoid duplication of public health and other health care services;

(4) To assess and analyze community health care professional needs;

(5) To write a health care professional recruitment and retention strategic plan;

(6) To screen and contract with consultants for technical assistance if the project site was selected to receive funding and assistance is needed;

(7) To monitor and evaluate the project in an ongoing manner;

(8) To provide data and comply with other requirements of the administrator that are intended to evaluate the effectiveness of the projects;

(9) To assure that specific populations with unmet health care needs have access to services. [1991 c 332 § 12.]

**70.185.070 Cooperation of state agencies.** (1) The secretary may call upon other agencies of the state to provide available information to assist the secretary in meeting the

responsibilities under this chapter. This information shall be supplied as promptly as circumstances permit.

(2) The secretary may call upon other state agencies including institutions of higher education as authorized under Titles 28A and 28B RCW to identify and coordinate the delivery of technical assistance services to participants in meeting the responsibilities of this chapter. The state agencies, vocational-technical institutions, and institutions of higher education shall cooperate and provide technical assistance to the secretary to the extent that current funding for these entities permits. [1991 c 332 § 13.]

**70.185.080 Participants authorized to contract—Penalty—Secretary and state exempt from liability.** (1)

Participants are authorized to use funding granted to them by the secretary for the purpose of contracting for technical assistance services. Participants shall use only consultants identified by the secretary for consulting services unless the participant can show that an alternative consultant is qualified to provide technical assistance and is approved by the secretary. Adequate records shall be kept by the participant showing project site expenditures from grant moneys. Inappropriate use of grant funding is a gross misdemeanor and shall incur the penalties under chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(2) In providing a list of qualified consultants the secretary and the state shall not be held responsible for assuring qualifications of consultants and shall be held harmless for the actions of consultants. Furthermore, the secretary and the state shall not be held liable for the failure of participants to meet contractual obligations established in connection with project participation. [1991 c 332 § 14.]

**70.185.090 Community contracted student educational positions.** (1) The department may develop a mechanism for underserved rural or urban communities to contract with education and training programs for student positions above the full time equivalent lids. The goal of this program is to provide additional capacity, educating students who will practice in underserved communities.

(2) Eligible education and training programs are those programs approved by the department that lead to eligibility for a credential as a credentialed health care professional. Eligible professions are those licensed under chapters 18.36A, 18.57, 18.57A, 18.71, and 18.71A RCW and advanced registered nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives licensed under \*chapter 18.88 RCW, and may include other providers identified as needed in the health personnel resource plan.

(2) Eligible education and training programs are those programs approved by the department that lead to eligibility for a credential as a credentialed health care professional. Eligible professions are those licensed under chapters 18.36A, 18.57, 18.57A, 18.71, and 18.71A RCW and advanced registered nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives licensed under \*chapter 18.88 RCW, and may include other providers identified as needed in the health personnel resource plan.

(3) Students participating in the community contracted educational positions shall meet all applicable educational program requirements and provide assurances, acceptable to the community, that they will practice in the sponsoring community following completion of education and necessary licensure.

(4) Participants in the program incur an obligation to repay any contracted funds with interest set by state law, unless they serve at least three years in the sponsoring community.

(5) The department may provide funds to communities for use in contracting. [1993 c 492 § 274.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 18.88 RCW was repealed by 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 433, effective July 1, 1994.

**Finding—1993 c 492:** See note following RCW 28B.115.080.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.185.100 Contracts with area health education centers.** The secretary may establish and contract with area health education centers in the eastern and western parts of the state. Consistent with the recruitment and retention objectives of this chapter, the centers shall provide or facilitate the provision of health professional educational and continuing education programs that strengthen the delivery of primary health care services in rural and medically underserved urban areas of the state. The center shall assist in the development and operation of health personnel recruitment and retention programs that are consistent with activities authorized under this chapter. The centers shall further provide technical expertise in the development of well managed health care delivery systems in rural Washington consistent with the goals and objectives of chapter 492, Laws of 1993. [1993 c 492 § 275.]

**Finding—1993 c 492:** See note following RCW 28B.115.080.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.185.900 Application to scope of practice—Captions not law—1991 c 332.** See notes following RCW 18.130.010.

## Chapter 70.190 RCW FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL

### Sections

70.190.030	Proposals to facilitate services at the community level.
70.190.050	Community networks—Outcome evaluation.
70.190.060	Community networks—Legislative intent—Membership—Open meetings.
70.190.065	Member's authorization of expenditures—Limitation.
70.190.070	Community networks—Duties.
70.190.075	Lead fiscal agent.
70.190.080	Community networks—Programs and plans.
70.190.085	Community networks—Sexual abstinence and activity campaign.
70.190.090	Community networks—Planning grants and contracts—Distribution of funds—Reports.
70.190.160	Community networks—Implementation in federal and state plans.
70.190.170	Transfer of funds and programs to state agency.
70.190.180	Community network—Grants for use of school facilities.
70.190.190	Network members immune from civil liability—Network assets not subject to attachment or execution.
70.190.930	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

**70.190.030 Proposals to facilitate services at the community level.** The council shall annually solicit from community networks proposals to facilitate greater flexibility, coordination, and responsiveness of services at the community level. The council shall consider such proposals only if:

(1) A comprehensive plan has been prepared by the community networks;

(2) The community network has identified and agreed to contribute matching funds as specified in \*RCW 70.190.010;

(3) An interagency agreement has been prepared by the council and the participating local service and support agen-

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cies that governs the use of funds, specifies the relationship of the project to the principles listed in RCW 74.14A.025, and identifies specific outcomes and indicators; and

(4) The community network has designed into its comprehensive plan standards for accountability. Accountability standards include, but are not limited to, the public hearing process eliciting public comment about the appropriateness of the proposed comprehensive plan. The community network must submit reports to the council outlining the public response regarding the appropriateness and effectiveness of the comprehensive plan. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 316; 1992 c 198 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 70.190.010 was repealed by 2011 1st sp.s. c 32 § 13, effective June 30, 2012.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**70.190.050 Community networks—Outcome evaluation.** (1) The Washington state institute for public policy shall conduct or contract for monitoring and tracking of the implementation of chapter 7, Laws of 1994 sp. sess. to determine whether these efforts result in a measurable reduction of violence. The institute shall also conduct or contract for an evaluation of the effectiveness of the community public health and safety networks in reducing the rate of at-risk youth through reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors. The evaluation plan shall result in statistically valid evaluation at both statewide and community levels.

(2) Starting five years after the initial grant to a community network, if the community network fails to meet the outcome standards and goals in any two consecutive years, the institute shall make recommendations to the legislature concerning whether the funds received by that community network should revert back to the originating agency. In making this determination, the institute shall consider the adequacy of the level of intervention relative to the risk factors in the community and any external events having a significant impact on risk factors or outcomes.

(3) The outcomes required under this chapter and social development standards and measures established by the department of health under RCW 43.70.555 shall be used in conducting the outcome evaluation of the community networks. [1998 c 245 § 122; 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 207.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**70.190.060 Community networks—Legislative intent—Membership—Open meetings.** (1) The legislature authorizes community public health and safety networks to reconnect parents and other citizens with children, youth, families, and community institutions which support health and safety. The networks have only those powers and duties expressly authorized under this chapter. The networks should empower parents and other citizens by being a means of expressing their attitudes, spirit, and perspectives regarding safe and healthy family and community life. The legislature intends that parent and other citizen perspectives exercise a controlling influence over policy and program operations of professional organizations concerned with children and family issues within networks in a manner consistent with the Constitution and state law. It is not the intent of the legisla-

ture that health, social service, or educational professionals dominate community public health and safety network processes or programs, but rather that these professionals use their skills to lend support to parents and other citizens in expressing their values as parents and other citizens identify community needs and establish community priorities. To this end, the legislature intends full participation of parents and other citizens in community public health and safety networks. The intent is that local community values are reflected in the operations of the network.

(2) A group of persons described in subsection (3) of this section may apply to be a community public health and safety network.

(3) Each community public health and safety network shall be composed of twenty-three people, thirteen of whom shall be citizens who live within the network boundary with no fiduciary interest. In selecting these members, first priority shall be given to members of community mobilization advisory boards, city or county children's services commissions, human services advisory boards, or other such organizations. The thirteen persons shall be selected as follows: Three by chambers of commerce, three by school board members, three by county legislative authorities, three by city legislative authorities, and one high school student, selected by student organizations. The remaining ten members shall live or work within the network boundary and shall include local representation selected by the following groups and entities: Cities; counties; federally recognized Indian tribes; parks and recreation programs; law enforcement agencies; state children's service workers; employment assistance workers; private social service providers, broad-based non-secular organizations, or health service providers; and public education.

(4) Each of the twenty-three people who are members of each community public health and safety network must sign an annual declaration under penalty of perjury or a notarized statement that clearly, in plain and understandable language, states whether or not he or she has a fiduciary interest. If a member has a fiduciary interest, the nature of that interest must be made clear, in plain understandable language, on the signed statement.

(5) Members of the network shall serve terms of three years.

The terms of the initial members of each network shall be as follows: (a) One-third shall serve for one year; (b) one-third shall serve for two years; and (c) one-third shall serve for three years. Initial members may agree which shall serve fewer than three years or the decision may be made by lot. Any vacancy occurring during the term may be filled by the chair for the balance of the unexpired term.

(6) Not less than sixty days before the expiration of a network member's term, the chair shall submit the name of a nominee to the network for its approval. The network shall comply with subsection (3) of this section.

(7) Networks are subject to the open public meetings act under chapter 42.30 RCW and the public records provisions of chapter 42.56 RCW. [2005 c 274 § 345; 1998 c 314 § 12; 1996 c 132 § 3; 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 303.]

**Intent—Construction—1996 c 132:** "It is the intent of this act only to make minimal clarifying, technical, and administrative revisions to the laws concerning community public health and safety networks and to the related

agencies responsible for implementation of the networks. This act is not intended to change the scope of the duties or responsibilities, nor to undermine the underlying policies, set forth in chapter 7, Laws of 1994 sp. sess." [1996 c 132 § 1.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.190.065 Member's authorization of expenditures—Limitation.** No network member may vote to authorize, or attempt to influence the authorization of, any expenditure in which the member's immediate family has a fiduciary interest. For the purpose of this section "immediate family" means a spouse, parent, grandparent, adult child, brother, or sister. [1996 c 132 § 5.]

**Intent—Construction—Severability—1996 c 132:** See notes following RCW 70.190.060.

**70.190.070 Community networks—Duties.** The community public health and safety networks shall:

(1) Review state and local public health data and analysis relating to risk factors, protective factors, and at-risk children and youth;

(2) Prioritize the risk factors and protective factors to reduce the likelihood of their children and youth being at risk. The priorities shall be based upon public health data and assessment and policy development standards provided by the department of health under RCW 43.70.555;

(3) Develop long-term comprehensive plans to reduce the rate of at-risk children and youth; set definitive, measurable goals, based upon the department of health standards; and project their desired outcomes;

(4) Distribute funds to local programs that reflect the locally established priorities and as provided in \*RCW 70.190.140;

(5) Comply with outcome-based standards;

(6) Cooperate with the department of health and local boards of health to provide data and determine outcomes; and

(7) Coordinate its efforts with anti-drug use efforts and organizations and maintain a high priority for combatting drug use by at-risk youth. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 304.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.190.140 expired June 30, 1995.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**70.190.075 Lead fiscal agent.** (1) Each network shall contract with a public entity as its lead fiscal agent. The contract shall grant the agent authority to perform fiscal, accounting, contract administration, legal, and other administrative duties, including the provision of liability insurance. Any contract under this subsection shall be submitted to the council by the network for approval prior to its execution. The council shall review the contract to determine whether the administrative costs will be held to no more than ten percent.

(2) The lead agent shall maintain a system of accounting for network funds consistent with the budgeting, accounting, and reporting systems and standards adopted or approved by the state auditor.

(3) The lead agent may contract with another public or private entity to perform duties other than fiscal or accounting duties. [1996 c 132 § 4.]

**Intent—Construction—Severability—1996 c 132:** See notes following RCW 70.190.060.

**70.190.080 Community networks—Programs and plans.** (1) The community network's plan may include a program to provide postsecondary scholarships to at-risk students who: (a) Are community role models under criteria established by the community network; (b) successfully complete high school; and (c) maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average throughout high school. Funding for the scholarships may include public and private sources.

(2) The community network's plan may also include funding of community-based home visitor programs which are designed to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect within the network. Parents shall sign a voluntary authorization for services, which may be withdrawn at any time. The program may provide parents with education and support either in parents' homes or in other locations comfortable for parents, beginning with the birth of their first baby. The program may make the following services available to the families:

(a) Visits for all expectant or new parents, either at the parent's home or another location with which the parent is comfortable;

(b) Screening before or soon after the birth of a child to assess the family's strengths and goals and define areas of concern in consultation with the family;

(c) Parenting education and skills development;

(d) Parenting and family support information and referral;

(e) Parent support groups; and

(f) Service coordination for individual families, and assistance with accessing services, provided in a manner that ensures that individual families have only one individual or agency to which they look for service coordination. Where appropriate for a family, service coordination may be conducted through interdisciplinary or interagency teams.

These programs are intended to be voluntary for the parents involved.

(3) In developing long-term comprehensive plans to reduce the rate of at-risk children and youth, the community networks shall consider increasing employment and job training opportunities in recognition that they constitute an effective network strategy and strong protective factor. The networks shall consider and may include funding of:

(a) At-risk youth job placement and training programs. The programs shall:

(i) Identify and recruit at-risk youth for local job opportunities;

(ii) Provide skills and needs assessments for each youth recruited;

(iii) Provide career and occupational counseling to each youth recruited;

(iv) Identify businesses willing to provide employment and training opportunities for at-risk youth;

(v) Match each youth recruited with a business that meets his or her skills and training needs;

(vi) Provide employment and training opportunities that prepare the individual for demand occupations; and

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(vii) Include, to the extent possible, collaboration of business, labor, education and training, community organizations, and local government;

(b) Employment assistance, including job development, school-to-work placement, employment readiness training, basic skills, apprenticeships, job mentoring, and private sector and community service employment;

(c) Education assistance, including tutoring, mentoring, interactions with role models, entrepreneurial education and projects, violence prevention training, safe school strategies, and employment reentry assistance services.

(4) The community network may include funding of:

(a) Peer-to-peer, group, and individual counseling, including crisis intervention, for at-risk youth and their parents;

(b) Youth coalitions that provide opportunities to develop leadership skills and gain appropriate respect, recognition, and rewards for their positive contribution to their community;

(c) Technical assistance to applicants to increase their organizational capacity and to improve the likelihood of a successful application; and

(d) Technical assistance and training resources to successful applicants. [1996 c 132 § 6; 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 305.]

**Intent—Construction—Severability—1996 c 132:** See notes following RCW 70.190.060.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**70.190.085 Community networks—Sexual abstinence and activity campaign.** The community network's plan may include funding for a student designed media and community campaign promoting sexual abstinence and addressing the importance of delaying sexual activity and pregnancy or male parenting until individuals are ready to nurture and support their children. Under the campaign, which shall be substantially designed and produced by students, the same messages shall be distributed in schools, through the media, and in the community where the campaign is targeted. The campaign shall require local private sector matching funds equal to state funds. Local private sector funds may include in-kind contributions of technical or other assistance from consultants or firms involved in public relations, advertising, broadcasting, and graphics or video production or other related fields. The campaign shall be evaluated using the outcomes required of community networks under this chapter, in particular reductions in the number or rate of teen pregnancies and teen male parentage over a three to five year period. [1994 c 299 § 5.]

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299:** See notes following RCW 74.12.400.

**70.190.090 Community networks—Planning grants and contracts—Distribution of funds—Reports.** (1) A network shall, upon application to the council, be eligible to receive planning grants and technical assistance from the council. However, during the 1999-01 fiscal biennium, a network that has not finalized its membership shall be eligible to receive such grants and assistance. Planning grants may be funded through available federal funds for family preservation services. After receiving the planning grant the network

has up to one year to submit the long-term comprehensive plan.

(2) The council shall enter into biennial contracts with networks as part of the grant process. The contracts shall be consistent with available resources, and shall be distributed in accordance with the distribution formula developed pursuant to \*RCW 43.41.195, subject to the applicable matching fund requirement.

(3) No later than February 1 of each odd-numbered year following the initial contract between the council and a network, the council shall request from the network its plan for the upcoming biennial contract period.

(4) The council shall notify the networks of their allocation of available resources at least sixty days prior to the start of a new biennial contract period.

(5) The networks shall, by contract, distribute funds (a) appropriated for plan implementation by the legislature, and (b) obtained from nonstate or federal sources. In distributing funds, the networks shall ensure that administrative costs are held to a maximum of ten percent. However, during the 1999-01 fiscal biennium, administrative costs shall be held to a maximum of ten percent or twenty thousand dollars, whichever is greater, exclusive of costs associated with procurement, payroll processing, personnel functions, management, maintenance and operation of space and property, data processing and computer services, indirect costs, and organizational planning, consultation, coordination, and training.

(6) A network shall not provide services or operate programs.

(7) A network shall file a report with the council by May 1 of each year that includes but is not limited to the following information: Detailed expenditures, programs under way, progress on contracted services and programs, and successes and problems in achieving the outcomes required by \*\*RCW 70.190.130(1)(h) related to reducing the rate of state-funded out-of-home placements and the other three at-risk behaviors covered by the comprehensive plan and approved by the council. [1999 c 309 § 918; 1996 c 132 § 7; 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 306.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 43.41.195 was repealed by 2015 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 326.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 70.190.130 was repealed by 2011 1st sp.s. c 32 § 13, effective June 30, 2012.

**Intent—Construction—Severability—1996 c 132:** See notes following RCW 70.190.060.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**70.190.160 Community networks—Implementation in federal and state plans.** The implementation of community networks shall be included in all federal and state plans affecting the state's children, youth, and families. The plans shall be consistent with the intent and requirements of this chapter. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 314.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**70.190.170 Transfer of funds and programs to state agency.** If a community network is unable or unwilling to assume powers and duties authorized under this chapter by June 30, 1998, or the Washington state institute for public

policy makes a recommendation under RCW 70.190.050, the governor may transfer all funds and programs available to a community network to a single state agency whose statutory purpose, mission, goals, and operating philosophy most closely supports the principles and purposes of section 101, chapter 7, Laws of 1994 sp. sess. and RCW 74.14A.020, for the purpose of integrating the programs and services. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 320.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**70.190.180 Community network—Grants for use of school facilities.** A community public health and safety network, based on rules adopted by the department of health, may include in its comprehensive community plans procedures for providing matching grants to school districts to support expanded use of school facilities for after-hours recreational opportunities and day care as authorized under chapter 28A.215 RCW and RCW 28A.620.010. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 604.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**70.190.190 Network members immune from civil liability—Network assets not subject to attachment or execution.** (1) The network members are immune from all civil liability arising from their actions done in their decision-making capacity as a network member, except for their intentional tortious acts or acts of official misconduct.

(2) The assets of a network are not subject to attachment or execution in satisfaction of a judgment for the tortious acts or official misconduct of any network member or for the acts of any agency or program to which it provides funds. [1996 c 132 § 9.]

**Intent—Construction—Severability—1996 c 132:** See notes following RCW 70.190.060.

**70.190.930 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 156.]

## Chapter 70.198 RCW

### EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES—HEARING LOSS

#### Sections

- 70.198.010 Findings.
- 70.198.020 Advisory council—Membership.

70.198.030 Development of early intervention service standards.  
70.198.040 Hearing loss pamphlet.

**70.198.010 Findings.** (1) The legislature finds that children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families have unique needs specific to the hearing loss. These unique needs reflect the challenges children with hearing loss and their families encounter related to their lack of full access to auditory communication.

(2) The legislature further finds that early detection of hearing loss in a child and early intervention and treatment have been demonstrated to be highly effective in facilitating a child's healthy development in a manner consistent with the child's age and cognitive ability.

(3) These combined factors support the need for early intervention services providers with specialized training and expertise, spanning the spectrum of available approaches and educational options, who can address the unique characteristics and needs of each child who is deaf or hard of hearing and that child's family. [2004 c 47 § 1.]

**70.198.020 Advisory council—Membership.** (1) There is established an advisory council in the department of social and health services for the purpose of advancing the development of a comprehensive and effective statewide system to provide prompt and effective early interventions for children in the state who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.

(2) Members of the advisory council shall have training, experience, or interest in hearing loss in children. Membership shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Pediatricians; audiologists; teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing; parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing; a representative from the Washington state center for childhood deafness and hearing loss; and representatives of the early support for infants and toddlers program in the department of early learning, the department of health, and the office of the superintendent of public instruction. [2010 c 233 § 2; 2009 c 381 § 33; 2004 c 47 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 c 233:** See note following RCW 43.215.020.

**Findings—Intent—2009 c 381:** See note following RCW 72.40.015.

**70.198.030 Development of early intervention service standards.** (1) The advisory council shall develop statewide standards for early intervention services and early intervention services providers specifically related to children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

(2) The advisory council shall develop these standards by January 1, 2005. [2004 c 47 § 3.]

**70.198.040 Hearing loss pamphlet.** (1) The advisory council shall create a pamphlet to be provided to the parents of a child in the state who is diagnosed with hearing loss by their child's pediatrician or audiologist, as appropriate, upon diagnosis of hearing loss. The pamphlet shall contain, at minimum, information on the following: The variety of interventions and treatments available for children who are deaf or hard of hearing; and resources for parent support, counseling, financing, and education related to hearing loss in children.

(2) The pamphlet shall be available for distribution by July 1, 2005. [2004 c 47 § 4.]

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## Chapter 70.200 RCW DONATIONS FOR CHILDREN

### Sections

70.200.010 Definitions.  
70.200.020 Immunity from liability.  
70.200.030 Construction—Liability, penalty.

**70.200.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Distributing organization" means a charitable nonprofit organization under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c) of the federal internal revenue code, or a public health agency acting on behalf of or in conjunction with a charitable nonprofit organization, which distributes children's items to needy persons free of charge and includes any nonprofit organization that distributes children's items free of charge to other nonprofit organizations or the public. A public health agency shall not otherwise be considered a distributing organization for purposes of this chapter when it is carrying out other functions and responsibilities under Title 70 RCW.

(2) "Donor" means a person, corporation, association, or other organization that donates children's items to a distributing organization or a person, corporation, association, or other organization that repairs or updates such donated items to current standards. Donor also includes any person, corporation, association, or other organization which donates any space in which storage or distribution of children's items takes place.

(3) "Children's items" include, but are not limited to, clothes, diapers, food, baby formula, cribs, playpens, car seat restraints, toys, high chairs, and books. [1997 c 40 § 1; 1994 c 25 § 1.]

**70.200.020 Immunity from liability.** Donors and distributing organizations are not liable for civil damages or criminal penalties resulting from the nature, age, condition, or packaging of the donated children's items unless a donor or distributing organization acts with gross negligence or intentional misconduct. [1994 c 25 § 2.]

**70.200.030 Construction—Liability, penalty.** Nothing in this chapter may be construed to create any liability of, or penalty against a donor or distributing organization except as provided in RCW 70.200.020. [1994 c 25 § 3.]

## Chapter 70.220 RCW WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

### Sections

70.220.010 Finding—Purpose.  
70.220.020 Washington academy of sciences to assist governor, legislature—Duty of state scientists not diminished.  
70.220.030 Organizing committee, staff support—Organizational structure.  
70.220.040 Duties—Review panels—Funding.  
70.220.050 Additional services permitted.  
70.220.060 Funding report required by April 30, 2007.

**70.220.010 Finding—Purpose.** The legislature finds that public policies and programs will be improved when informed by independent scientific analysis and communication with state and local policymakers. Throughout the state

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there are highly qualified persons in a wide range of scientific disciplines who are willing to contribute their time and expertise in such reviews, but that presently there is lacking an organizational structure in which the entire scientific community may most effectively respond to requests for assessments of complex public policy questions. Therefore it is the purpose of chapter 305, Laws of 2005 to authorize the creation of the Washington academy of sciences as a nonprofit entity independent of government, whose principal mission will be the provision of scientific analysis and recommendations on questions referred to the academy by the governor, the governor's designee, or the legislature. [2005 c 305 § 1.]

**70.220.020 Washington academy of sciences to assist governor, legislature—Duty of state scientists not diminished.** The Washington academy of sciences authorized to be formed under RCW 70.220.030 shall serve as a principal source of scientific investigation, examination, and reporting on scientific questions referred to the academy by the governor or the legislature under the provisions of RCW 70.220.040. Nothing in this section or this chapter supersedes or diminishes the responsibilities performed by scientists employed by the state or its political subdivisions. [2005 c 305 § 2.]

**70.220.030 Organizing committee, staff support—Organizational structure.** (1) The presidents of the University of Washington and Washington State University shall jointly form and serve as the cochairs of an organizing committee for the purpose of creating the Washington academy of sciences as an independent entity to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The committee should be representative of appropriate disciplines from the academic, private, governmental, and research sectors.

(2) Staff from the University of Washington and Washington State University, and from other available entities, shall provide support to the organizing committee under the direction of the cochairs.

(3)(a) The committee shall investigate organizational structures that will ensure the participation or membership in the academy of scientists and experts with distinction in their fields, and that will ensure broad participation among the several disciplines that may be called upon in the investigation, examination, and reporting upon questions referred to the academy by the governor or the legislature.

(b) The organizational structure shall include a process by which the academy responds to inquiries from the governor or the legislature, including but not limited to the identification of research projects, past or present, at Washington or other research institutions and the findings of such research projects.

(4) The committee cochairs shall use their best efforts to form the committee by January 1, 2006, and to complete the committee's review by April 30, 2007. By April 30, 2007, the committee, or such individuals as the committee selects, shall file articles of incorporation to create the academy as a Washington independent organizational entity. The articles shall expressly recognize the power and responsibility of the academy to provide services as described in RCW 70.220.040 upon request of the governor, the governor's designee, or the legislature. The articles shall also provide for a board of

directors of the academy that includes distinguished scientists from the range of disciplines that may be called upon to provide such services to the state and its political subdivisions, and provide a balance of representation from the academic, private, governmental, and research sectors.

(5) The articles shall provide for all such powers as may be appropriate or necessary to carry out the academy's purposes under this chapter, to the full extent allowable under the proposed organizational structure. [2005 c 305 § 3.]

**70.220.040 Duties—Review panels—Funding.** (1) The academy shall investigate, examine, and report on any subject of science requested by the governor, the governor's designee, or the legislature. The procedures for selecting panels of experts to respond to such requests shall be set forth in the bylaws or other appropriate operating guidelines. In forming review panels, the academy shall endeavor to assure that the panel members have no conflicts of interest and that proposed panelists first disclose any advocacy positions or financial interest related to the questions to be addressed by the panel that the candidate has held within the past ten years.

(2) The governor shall provide funding to the academy for the actual expense of such investigation, examination, and reports. Such funding shall be in addition to state funding assistance to the academy in its initial years of operation as described in RCW 70.220.060. [2005 c 305 § 4.]

**70.220.050 Additional services permitted.** The academy may carry out functions or provide services to its members and the public in addition to the services provided under RCW 70.220.040, such as public education programs, newsletters, web sites, science fairs, and research assistance. [2005 c 305 § 5.]

**70.220.060 Funding report required by April 30, 2007.** The organizational committee shall recommend procedures and funding requirements for receiving and disbursing funding in support of the academy's programs and services in a report to the governor and the appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives no later than April 30, 2007. [2005 c 305 § 6.]

## Chapter 70.225 RCW

### PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM

#### Sections

70.225.010	Definitions.
70.225.020	Prescription monitoring program—Subject to funding—Duties of dispensers.
70.225.025	Rules.
70.225.030	Enhancement of program—Feasibility study.
70.225.040	Confidentiality of prescription information—Procedures—Immunity when acting in good faith.
70.225.050	Department may contract for operation of program.
70.225.060	Violations—Penalties—Disclosure exemption for health care providers.
70.225.070	Requirements for test sites in the prescription monitoring program.
70.225.080	Access to data in the qualifying laboratory.
70.225.900	Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259.

**70.225.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Controlled substance" has the meaning provided in RCW 69.50.101.

(2) "Department" means the department of health.

(3) "Patient" means the person or animal who is the ultimate user of a drug for whom a prescription is issued or for whom a drug is dispensed.

(4) "Dispenser" means a practitioner or pharmacy that delivers a Schedule II, III, IV, or V controlled substance to the ultimate user, but does not include:

(a) A practitioner or other authorized person who administers, as defined in RCW 69.41.010, a controlled substance; or

(b) A licensed wholesale distributor or manufacturer, as defined in chapter 18.64 RCW, of a controlled substance. [2007 c 259 § 42.]

**70.225.020 Prescription monitoring program—Subject to funding—Duties of dispensers.** (1) The department shall establish and maintain a prescription monitoring program to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of all Schedules II, III, IV, and V controlled substances and any additional drugs identified by the pharmacy quality assurance commission as demonstrating a potential for abuse by all professionals licensed to prescribe or dispense such substances in this state. The program shall be designed to improve health care quality and effectiveness by reducing abuse of controlled substances, reducing duplicative prescribing and overprescribing of controlled substances, and improving controlled substance prescribing practices with the intent of eventually establishing an electronic database available in real time to dispensers and prescribers of controlled substances. As much as possible, the department should establish a common database with other states. This program's management and operations shall be funded entirely from the funds in the account established under RCW 74.09.215. Nothing in this chapter prohibits voluntary contributions from private individuals and business entities as defined under Title 23, 23B, 24, or 25 RCW to assist in funding the prescription monitoring program.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, each dispenser shall submit to the department by electronic means information regarding each prescription dispensed for a drug included under subsection (1) of this section. Drug prescriptions for more than one day use should be reported. The information submitted for each prescription shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Patient identifier;
- (b) Drug dispensed;
- (c) Date of dispensing;
- (d) Quantity dispensed;
- (e) Prescriber; and
- (f) Dispenser.

(3) Each dispenser shall submit the information in accordance with transmission methods established by the department.

(4) The data submission requirements of subsections (1) through (3) of this section do not apply to:

(a) Medications provided to patients receiving inpatient services provided at hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW; or patients of such hospitals receiving services at the clinics, day surgery areas, or other settings within the hospi-

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tal's license where the medications are administered in single doses;

(b) Pharmacies operated by the department of corrections for the purpose of providing medications to offenders in department of corrections institutions who are receiving pharmaceutical services from a department of corrections pharmacy, except that the department of corrections must submit data related to each offender's current prescriptions for controlled substances upon the offender's release from a department of corrections institution; or

(c) Veterinarians licensed under chapter 18.92 RCW. The department, in collaboration with the veterinary board of governors, shall establish alternative data reporting requirements for veterinarians that allow veterinarians to report:

(i) By either electronic or nonelectronic methods;

(ii) Only those data elements that are relevant to veterinary practices and necessary to accomplish the public protection goals of this chapter; and

(iii) No more frequently than once every three months and no less frequently than once every six months.

(5) The department shall continue to seek federal grants to support the activities described in chapter 259, Laws of 2007. The department may not require a practitioner or a pharmacist to pay a fee or tax specifically dedicated to the operation and management of the system. [2013 c 36 § 2; 2013 c 19 § 126; 2012 c 192 § 1; 2007 c 259 § 43.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2013 c 19 § 126 and by 2013 c 36 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—2013 c 36:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) The prescription monitoring program contributes to patient safety and reduction in drug errors for all patients, including medicaid beneficiaries in Washington state. Further, the prescription monitoring program provides the critical function of reducing costs borne by medicaid and provides for the detection of fraud in the medicaid system.

(2) Because of the nexus between medicaid, medicaid fraud, and cost reductions, the funding for the operations and management of the prescription monitoring program should be funded entirely from the medicaid fraud penalty account under RCW 74.09.215, with the option of funding the prescription monitoring program through voluntary contributions from private individuals and corporations as defined under Title 23, 23B, 24, or 25 RCW." [2013 c 36 § 1.]

**70.225.025 Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to implement this chapter. [2007 c 259 § 47.]

**70.225.030 Enhancement of program—Feasibility study.** To the extent that funding is provided for such purpose through federal or private grants, or is appropriated by the legislature, the health care authority shall study the feasibility of enhancing the prescription monitoring program established in RCW 70.225.020 in order to improve the quality of state purchased health services by reducing legend drug abuse, reducing duplicative and overprescribing of legend drugs, and improving legend drug prescribing practices. The study shall address the steps necessary to expand the program to allow those who prescribe or dispense prescription drugs to perform a web-based inquiry and obtain real time information regarding the legend drug utilization history of persons for whom they are providing medical or pharmaceutical care when such persons are receiving health services through state purchased health care programs. [2007 c 259 § 44.]

**70.225.040 Confidentiality of prescription information—Procedures—Immunity when acting in good faith.**

(1) Prescription information submitted to the department must be confidential, in compliance with chapter 70.02 RCW and federal health care information privacy requirements and not subject to disclosure, except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section.

(2) The department must maintain procedures to ensure that the privacy and confidentiality of patients and patient information collected, recorded, transmitted, and maintained is not disclosed to persons except as in subsections (3) and (4) of this section.

(3) The department may provide data in the prescription monitoring program to the following persons:

(a) Persons authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances or legend drugs, for the purpose of providing medical or pharmaceutical care for their patients;

(b) An individual who requests the individual's own prescription monitoring information;

(c) Health professional licensing, certification, or regulatory agency or entity;

(d) Appropriate law enforcement or prosecutorial officials, including local, state, and federal officials and officials of federally recognized tribes, who are engaged in a bona fide specific investigation involving a designated person;

(e) Authorized practitioners of the department of social and health services and the health care authority regarding medicaid program recipients;

(f) The director or director's designee within the department of labor and industries regarding workers' compensation claimants;

(g) The director or the director's designee within the department of corrections regarding offenders committed to the department of corrections;

(h) Other entities under grand jury subpoena or court order;

(i) Personnel of the department for purposes of administration and enforcement of this chapter or chapter 69.50 RCW;

(j) Personnel of a test site that meet the standards under RCW 70.225.070 pursuant to an agreement between the test site and a person identified in (a) of this subsection to provide assistance in determining which medications are being used by an identified patient who is under the care of that person;

(k) A health care facility or entity for the purpose of providing medical or pharmaceutical care to the patients of the facility or entity, if:

(i) The facility or entity is licensed by the department; and

(ii) The facility or entity is a trading partner with the state's health information exchange; and

(l) A health care provider group of five or more providers for purposes of providing medical or pharmaceutical care to the patients of the provider group if:

(i) All the providers in the provider group are licensed by the department; and

(ii) The provider group is a trading partner with the state's health information exchange.

(4) The department may provide data to public or private entities for statistical, research, or educational purposes after removing information that could be used to identify individ-

ual patients, dispensers, prescribers, and persons who received prescriptions from dispensers.

(5) A dispenser or practitioner acting in good faith is immune from any civil, criminal, or administrative liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed for requesting, receiving, or using information from the program. [2016 c 104 § 1. Prior: 2015 c 259 § 1; 2015 c 49 § 1; 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 87; 2007 c 259 § 45.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**70.225.050 Department may contract for operation of program.**

The department may contract with another agency of this state or with a private vendor, as necessary, to ensure the effective operation of the prescription monitoring program. Any contractor is bound to comply with the provisions regarding confidentiality of prescription information in RCW 70.225.040 and is subject to the penalties specified in RCW 70.225.060 for unlawful acts. [2007 c 259 § 46.]

**70.225.060 Violations—Penalties—Disclosure exemption for health care providers.**

(1) A dispenser who knowingly fails to submit prescription monitoring information to the department as required by this chapter or knowingly submits incorrect prescription information is subject to disciplinary action under chapter 18.130 RCW.

(2) A person authorized to have prescription monitoring information under this chapter who knowingly discloses such information in violation of this chapter is subject to civil penalty.

(3) A person authorized to have prescription monitoring information under this chapter who uses such information in a manner or for a purpose in violation of this chapter is subject to civil penalty.

(4) In accordance with chapter 70.02 RCW and federal health care information privacy requirements, any physician or pharmacist authorized to access a patient's prescription monitoring may discuss or release that information to other health care providers involved with the patient in order to provide safe and appropriate care coordination. [2007 c 259 § 48.]

**70.225.070 Requirements for test sites in the prescription monitoring program.**

(1) Test sites that may receive access to data in the prescription monitoring program under RCW 70.225.040 must be:

(a) Licensed by the department as a test site under chapter 70.42 RCW; and

(b) Certified as a drug testing laboratory by the United States department of health and human services, substance abuse and mental health services administration.

(2) Test sites may not:

(a) Charge a fee for accessing the prescription monitoring program;

(b) Store data accessed from the prescription drug monitoring program in any form, including, but not limited to, hard copies, electronic copies, or web/digital based copies of any kind. Such data may be used only to transmit to those entities listed in \*RCW 70.225.040(3)(a). [2015 c 259 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: The reference to RCW 70.255.040 appears to be erroneous. RCW 70.225.040 was apparently intended.

**70.225.080 Access to data in the qualifying laboratory.** (1) Access to data in the qualifying laboratory must be under the supervision of the responsible person as designated by the United States department of health and human services, substance abuse and mental health services administration certification program.

(2) Such data cannot be gathered, shared, sold, or used in any manner other than as designated under RCW \*70.255.040, RCW 70.225.070, or this section. [2015 c 259 § 3.]

\*Reviser's note: The reference to RCW 70.255.040 appears to be erroneous. RCW 70.225.040 was apparently intended.

**70.225.900 Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259.** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

### Chapter 70.230 RCW AMBULATORY SURGICAL FACILITIES

#### Sections

70.230.010	Definitions.
70.230.020	Duties of secretary—Rules.
70.230.030	Operating without a license.
70.230.040	Exclusions from chapter.
70.230.050	Licenses—Applicants—Renewal.
70.230.060	Facility safety and emergency training.
70.230.070	Denial, suspension, or revocation of license—Investigating complaints—Penalties.
70.230.080	Coordinated quality improvement—Rules.
70.230.090	Ambulatory surgical facilities—Construction, maintenance, and operation—Minimum standards and rules.
70.230.100	Ambulatory surgical facilities—Surveys.
70.230.110	Ambulatory surgical facilities—Submission of data related to the quality of patient care.
70.230.120	Reports—Discipline of a health care provider for unprofessional conduct—Penalties.
70.230.130	Written records—Decisions to restrict or terminate privileges of practitioners—Penalties.
70.230.140	Information concerning practitioners—Disclosure.
70.230.150	Unanticipated outcomes—Notification.
70.230.160	Complaint toll-free telephone number—Notice.
70.230.170	Information received by department—Disclosure.
70.230.190	Certain ambulatory surgical facilities deemed to have complied with survey requirements of RCW 70.230.100.
70.230.200	Reports to legislature—Licensing fees—Licensing systems of other states.
70.230.900	Effective date—2007 c 273.
70.230.901	Implementation—2007 c 273.

**70.230.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Ambulatory surgical facility" means any distinct entity that operates for the primary purpose of providing specialty or multispecialty outpatient surgical services in which patients are admitted to and discharged from the facility within twenty-four hours and do not require inpatient hospitalization, whether or not the facility is certified under Title XVIII of the federal social security act. An ambulatory surgical facility includes one or more surgical suites that are adjacent to and within the same building as, but not in, the office of a practitioner in an individual or group practice, if the primary purpose of the one or more surgical suites is to provide specialty or multispecialty outpatient surgical services, irrespective of the type of anesthesia administered in the one or more surgical suites. An ambulatory surgical facility that is

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adjacent to and within the same building as the office of a practitioner in an individual or group practice may include a surgical suite that shares a reception area, restroom, waiting room, or wall with the office of the practitioner in an individual or group practice.

(2) "Department" means the department of health.

(3) "General anesthesia" means a state of unconsciousness intentionally produced by anesthetic agents, with absence of pain sensation over the entire body, in which the patient is without protective reflexes and is unable to maintain an airway.

(4) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, and the legal successor thereof.

(5) "Practitioner" means any physician or surgeon licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic physician or surgeon licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, or a podiatric physician or surgeon licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW.

(6) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

(7) "Surgical services" means invasive medical procedures that:

(a) Utilize a knife, laser, cautery, cryogenics, or chemicals; and

(b) Remove, correct, or facilitate the diagnosis or cure of a disease, process, or injury through that branch of medicine that treats diseases, injuries, and deformities by manual or operative methods by a practitioner. [2011 c 76 § 1; 2007 c 273 § 1.]

**Effective date—2011 c 76:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2012." [2011 c 76 § 4.]

**70.230.020 Duties of secretary—Rules.** The secretary shall:

(1) Issue a license to any ambulatory surgical facility that:

(a) Submits payment of the fee established in RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.250;

(b) Submits a completed application that demonstrates the ability to comply with the standards established for operating and maintaining an ambulatory surgical facility in statute and rule. An ambulatory surgical facility shall be deemed to have met the standards if it submits proof of certification as a medicare ambulatory surgical facility or accreditation by an organization that the secretary has determined to have substantially equivalent standards to those of the department; and

(c) Successfully completes the survey requirements established in RCW 70.230.100;

(2) Develop an application form for applicants for a license to operate an ambulatory surgical facility;

(3) Initiate investigations and enforcement actions for complaints or other information regarding failure to comply with this chapter or the standards and rules adopted under this chapter;

(4) Conduct surveys of facilities, including reviews of medical records and documents required to be maintained under this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter;

(5) By March 1, 2008, determine which accreditation organizations have substantially equivalent standards for purposes of deeming specific licensing requirements required in statute and rule as having met the state's standards; and

(6) Adopt any rules necessary to implement this chapter. [2016 c 146 § 2; 2007 c 273 § 2.]

**70.230.030 Operating without a license.** Except as provided in RCW 70.230.040, after June 30, 2009, no person or governmental unit of the state of Washington, acting separately or jointly with any other person or governmental unit, shall establish, maintain, or conduct an ambulatory surgical facility in this state or advertise by using the term "ambulatory surgical facility," "day surgery center," "licensed surgical center," or other words conveying similar meaning without a license issued by the department under this chapter. [2007 c 273 § 3.]

**70.230.040 Exclusions from chapter.** Nothing in this chapter:

(1) Applies to an ambulatory surgical facility that is maintained and operated by a hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW;

(2) Applies to an office maintained for the practice of dentistry;

(3) Applies to outpatient specialty or multispecialty surgical services routinely and customarily performed in the office of a practitioner in an individual or group practice, where the primary purpose of the office is not as set forth in RCW 70.230.010(1), provided that any surgical services in which general anesthesia is a planned event must be performed only in an ambulatory surgical facility as defined in this chapter or in a hospital or hospital-associated surgical center licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW; or

(4) Limits an ambulatory surgical facility to performing only surgical services. [2011 c 76 § 2; 2007 c 273 § 4.]

**Effective date—2011 c 76:** See note following RCW 70.230.010.

**70.230.050 Licenses—Applicants—Renewal.** (1) An applicant for a license to operate an ambulatory surgical facility must demonstrate the ability to comply with the standards established for operating and maintaining an ambulatory surgical facility in statute and rule, including:

(a) Submitting a written application to the department providing all necessary information on a form provided by the department, including a list of surgical specialties offered;

(b) Submitting building plans for review and approval by the department for new construction, alterations other than minor alterations, and additions to existing facilities, prior to obtaining a license and occupying the building;

(c) Demonstrating the ability to comply with this chapter and any rules adopted under this chapter;

(d) Cooperating with the department during on-site surveys prior to obtaining an initial license or renewing an existing license;

(e) Providing such proof as the department may require concerning the ownership and management of the ambulatory surgical facility, including information about the organization and governance of the facility and the identity of the applicant, officers, directors, partners, managing employees, or owners of ten percent or more of the applicant's assets;

(f) Submitting proof of operation of a coordinated quality improvement program in accordance with RCW 70.230.080;

(g) Submitting a copy of the facility safety and emergency training program established under RCW 70.230.060;

(h) Paying any fees established by the secretary under RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.250; and

(i) Providing any other information that the department may reasonably require.

(2) A license is valid for three years, after which an ambulatory surgical facility must submit an application for renewal of license upon forms provided by the department and the renewal fee as established in RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.250. The applicant must demonstrate the ability to comply with the standards established for operating and maintaining an ambulatory surgical facility in statutes, standards, and rules. The applicant must submit the license renewal document no later than thirty days prior to the date of expiration of the license.

(3) The applicant may demonstrate compliance with any of the requirements of subsection (1) of this section by providing satisfactory documentation to the secretary that it has met the standards of an accreditation organization or federal agency that the secretary has determined to have substantially equivalent standards as the statutes and rules of this state. [2016 c 146 § 3; 2007 c 273 § 5.]

**70.230.060 Facility safety and emergency training.** An ambulatory surgical facility shall have a facility safety and emergency training program. The program shall include:

(1) On-site equipment, medication, and trained personnel to facilitate handling of services sought or provided and to facilitate the management of any medical emergency that may arise in connection with services sought or provided;

(2) Written transfer agreements with local hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, approved by the ambulatory surgical facility's medical staff; and

(3) A procedural plan for handling medical emergencies that shall be available for review during surveys and inspections. [2007 c 273 § 6.]

**70.230.070 Denial, suspension, or revocation of license—Investigating complaints—Penalties.** (1) The secretary may deny, suspend, or revoke the license of any ambulatory surgical facility in any case in which he or she finds the applicant or registered entity knowingly made a false statement of material fact in the application for the license or any supporting data in any record required by this chapter or matter under investigation by the department.

(2) The secretary shall investigate complaints concerning operation of an ambulatory surgical facility without a license. The secretary may issue a notice of intention to issue a cease and desist order to any person whom the secretary has reason to believe is engaged in the unlicensed operation of an ambulatory surgical facility. If the secretary makes a written finding of fact that the public interest will be irreparably harmed by delay in issuing an order, the secretary may issue a temporary cease and desist order. The person receiving a temporary cease and desist order shall be provided an opportunity for a prompt hearing. The temporary cease and desist order shall remain in effect until further order of the secretary. Any person operating an ambulatory surgical facility under this chapter without a license is guilty of a misde-

meanor, and each day of operation of an unlicensed ambulatory surgical facility constitutes a separate offense.

(3) The secretary is authorized to deny, suspend, revoke, or modify a license or provisional license in any case in which it finds that there has been a failure or refusal to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the standards or rules adopted under this chapter. RCW 43.70.115 governs notice of a license denial, revocation, suspension, or modification and provides the right to an adjudicative proceeding.

(4) Pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, the secretary may assess monetary penalties of a civil nature not to exceed one thousand dollars per violation. [2007 c 273 § 8.]

#### **70.230.080 Coordinated quality improvement—**

**Rules.** (1) Every ambulatory surgical facility shall maintain a coordinated quality improvement program for the improvement of the quality of health care services rendered to patients and the identification and prevention of medical malpractice. The program shall include at least the following:

(a) The establishment of one or more quality improvement committees with the responsibility to review the services rendered in the ambulatory surgical facility, both retrospectively and prospectively, in order to improve the quality of medical care of patients and to prevent medical malpractice. Different quality improvement committees may be established as a part of the quality improvement program to review different health care services. Such committees shall oversee and coordinate the quality improvement and medical malpractice prevention program and shall ensure that information gathered pursuant to the program is used to review and to revise the policies and procedures of the ambulatory surgical facility;

(b) A process, including a medical staff privileges sanction procedure which must be conducted substantially in accordance with medical staff bylaws and applicable rules, regulations, or policies of the medical staff through which credentials, physical and mental capacity, professional conduct, and competence in delivering health care services are periodically reviewed as part of an evaluation of staff privileges;

(c) The periodic review of the credentials, physical and mental capacity, and competence in delivering health care services of all persons who are employed or associated with the ambulatory surgical facility;

(d) A procedure for the prompt resolution of grievances by patients or their representatives related to accidents, injuries, treatment, and other events that may result in claims of medical malpractice;

(e) The maintenance and continuous collection of information concerning the ambulatory surgical facility's experience with negative health care outcomes and incidents injurious to patients, patient grievances, professional liability premiums, settlements, awards, costs incurred by the ambulatory surgical facility for patient injury prevention, and safety improvement activities;

(f) The maintenance of relevant and appropriate information gathered pursuant to (a) through (e) of this subsection concerning individual practitioners within the practitioner's personnel or credential file maintained by the ambulatory surgical facility;

(g) Education programs dealing with quality improvement, patient safety, medication errors, injury prevention, staff responsibility to report professional misconduct, the legal aspects of patient care, improved communication with patients, and causes of malpractice claims for staff personnel engaged in patient care activities; and

(h) Policies to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of this section.

(2) Any person who, in substantial good faith, provides information to further the purposes of the quality improvement and medical malpractice prevention program or who, in substantial good faith, participates on the quality improvement committee is not subject to an action for civil damages or other relief as a result of such activity. Any person or entity participating in a coordinated quality improvement program that, in substantial good faith, shares information or documents with one or more other programs, committees, or boards under subsection (8) of this section is not subject to an action for civil damages or other relief as a result of the activity. For the purposes of this section, sharing information is presumed to be in substantial good faith. However, the presumption may be rebutted upon a showing of clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that the information shared was knowingly false or deliberately misleading.

(3) Information and documents, including complaints and incident reports, created specifically for, and collected and maintained by, a quality improvement committee are not subject to review or disclosure, except as provided in this section, or discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil action, and no person who was in attendance at a meeting of such committee or who participated in the creation, collection, or maintenance of information or documents specifically for the committee shall be permitted or required to testify in any civil action as to the content of such proceedings or the documents and information prepared specifically for the committee. This subsection does not preclude: (a) In any civil action, the discovery of the identity of persons involved in the medical care that is the basis of the civil action whose involvement was independent of any quality improvement activity; (b) in any civil action, the testimony of any person concerning the facts which form the basis for the institution of such proceedings of which the person had personal knowledge acquired independently of such proceedings; (c) in any civil action by a health care provider regarding the restriction or revocation of that individual's clinical or staff privileges, introduction into evidence of information collected and maintained by quality improvement committees regarding such health care provider; (d) in any civil action, disclosure of the fact that staff privileges were terminated or restricted, including the specific restrictions imposed, if any, and the reasons for the restrictions; or (e) in any civil action, discovery and introduction into evidence of the patient's medical records required by rule of the department to be made regarding the care and treatment received.

(4) Each quality improvement committee shall, on at least a semiannual basis, report to the management of the ambulatory surgical facility, as identified in the facility's application, in which the committee is located. The report shall review the quality improvement activities conducted by the committee, and any actions taken as a result of those activities.

(5) The department shall adopt such rules as are deemed appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this section.

(6) The medical quality assurance commission, the board of osteopathic medicine and surgery, or the podiatric medical board, as appropriate, may review and audit the records of committee decisions in which a practitioner's privileges are terminated or restricted. Each ambulatory surgical facility shall produce and make accessible to the commission or board the appropriate records and otherwise facilitate the review and audit. Information so gained is not subject to the discovery process and confidentiality shall be respected as required by subsection (3) of this section. Failure of an ambulatory surgical facility to comply with this subsection is punishable by a civil penalty not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars.

(7) The department and any accrediting organization may review and audit the records of a quality improvement committee or peer review committee in connection with their inspection and review of the ambulatory surgical facility. Information so obtained is not subject to the discovery process, and confidentiality shall be respected as required by subsection (3) of this section. Each ambulatory surgical facility shall produce and make accessible to the department the appropriate records and otherwise facilitate the review and audit.

(8) A coordinated quality improvement program may share information and documents, including complaints and incident reports, created specifically for, and collected and maintained by, a quality improvement committee or a peer review committee under RCW 4.24.250 with one or more other coordinated quality improvement programs maintained in accordance with this section or RCW 43.70.510 or 70.41.200, a quality assurance committee maintained in accordance with RCW 18.20.390 or 74.42.640, or a peer review committee under RCW 4.24.250, for the improvement of the quality of health care services rendered to patients and the identification and prevention of medical malpractice. The privacy protections of chapter 70.02 RCW and the federal health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 and its implementing regulations apply to the sharing of individually identifiable patient information held by a coordinated quality improvement program. Any rules necessary to implement this section shall meet the requirements of applicable federal and state privacy laws. Information and documents disclosed by one coordinated quality improvement program to another coordinated quality improvement program or a peer review committee under RCW 4.24.250 and any information and documents created or maintained as a result of the sharing of information and documents are not subject to the discovery process and confidentiality shall be respected as required by subsection (3) of this section, RCW 18.20.390 (6) and (8), 70.41.200(3), 74.42.640 (7) and (9), and 4.24.250.

(9) An ambulatory surgical facility that participates in a coordinated quality improvement program under RCW 43.70.510 shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this section.

(10) Violation of this section shall not be considered negligence per se. [2013 c 301 § 4; 2007 c 273 § 9.]

**70.230.090 Ambulatory surgical facilities—Construction, maintenance, and operation—Minimum standards and rules.** The department shall establish and adopt such minimum standards and rules pertaining to the construction, maintenance, and operation of ambulatory surgical facilities and rescind, amend, or modify such rules, as are necessary in the public interest, and particularly for the establishment and maintenance of standards of patient care required for the safe and adequate care and treatment of patients. In establishing the format and content of these standards and rules, the department shall give consideration to maintaining consistency with such minimum standards and rules applicable to ambulatory surgical facilities in the survey standards of accrediting organizations or federal agencies that the secretary has determined to have substantially equivalent standards as the statutes and rules of this state. [2007 c 273 § 10.]

**70.230.100 Ambulatory surgical facilities—Surveys.**

(1) The department shall make or cause to be made a survey of all ambulatory surgical facilities according to the following frequency:

(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, an ambulatory surgical facility must be surveyed by the department no more than once every eighteen months.

(b) An ambulatory surgical facility must be surveyed by the department no more than once every thirty-six months if the ambulatory surgical facility:

(i) Has had, within eighteen months of a department survey, a survey in connection with its certification by the centers for medicare and medicaid services or accreditation by an accreditation organization approved by the department under RCW 70.230.020(5);

(ii) Has maintained certification by the centers for medicare and medicaid services or accreditation by an accreditation organization approved by the department under RCW 70.230.020(5) since the survey in connection with its certification or accreditation pursuant to (b)(i) of this subsection; and

(iii) As soon as practicable after a survey in connection with its certification or accreditation pursuant to (b)(i) of this subsection, provides the department with documentary evidence that the ambulatory surgical facility is certified or accredited and that the survey has occurred, including the date that the survey occurred.

(2) Every survey of an ambulatory surgical facility may include an inspection of every part of the surgical facility. The department may make an examination of all phases of the ambulatory surgical facility operation necessary to determine compliance with all applicable statutes, rules, and regulations. In the event that the department is unable to make a survey or cause a survey to be made during the three years of the term of the license, the license of the ambulatory surgical facility shall remain in effect until the state conducts a survey or a substitute survey is performed if the ambulatory surgical facility is in compliance with all other licensing requirements.

(3) Ambulatory surgical facilities shall make the written reports of surveys conducted pursuant to medicare certification procedures or by an approved accrediting organization

available to department surveyors during any department surveys or upon request. [2016 c 146 § 4; 2007 c 273 § 11.]

**70.230.110 Ambulatory surgical facilities—Submission of data related to the quality of patient care.** The department shall require ambulatory surgical facilities to submit data related to the quality of patient care for review by the department. The data shall be submitted every eighteen months. The department shall consider the reporting standards of other public and private organizations that measure quality in order to maintain consistency in reporting and minimize the burden on the ambulatory surgical facility. The department shall review the data to determine the maintenance of quality patient care at the facility. If the department determines that the care offered at the facility may present a risk to the health and safety of patients, the department may conduct an inspection of the facility and initiate appropriate actions to protect the public. Information submitted to the department pursuant to this section shall be exempt from disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2007 c 273 § 12.]

**70.230.120 Reports—Discipline of a health care provider for unprofessional conduct—Penalties.** (1) The chief administrator or executive officer of an ambulatory surgical facility shall report to the department when the practice of a health care provider licensed by a disciplining authority under RCW 18.130.040 is restricted, suspended, limited, or terminated based upon a conviction, determination, or finding by the ambulatory surgical facility that the provider has committed an action defined as unprofessional conduct under RCW 18.130.180. The chief administrator or executive officer shall also report any voluntary restriction or termination of the practice of a health care provider licensed by a disciplining authority under RCW 18.130.040 while the provider is under investigation or the subject of a proceeding by the ambulatory surgical facility regarding unprofessional conduct, or in return for the ambulatory surgical facility not conducting such an investigation or proceeding or not taking action. The department shall forward the report to the appropriate disciplining authority.

(2) Reports made under subsection (1) of this section must be made within fifteen days of the date of: (a) A conviction, determination, or finding by the ambulatory surgical facility that the health care provider has committed an action defined as unprofessional conduct under RCW 18.130.180; or (b) acceptance by the ambulatory surgical facility of the voluntary restriction or termination of the practice of a health care provider, including his or her voluntary resignation, while under investigation or the subject of proceedings regarding unprofessional conduct under RCW 18.130.180.

(3) Failure of an ambulatory surgical facility to comply with this section is punishable by a civil penalty not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars.

(4) An ambulatory surgical facility, its chief administrator, or its executive officer who files a report under this section is immune from suit, whether direct or derivative, in any civil action related to the filing or contents of the report, unless the conviction, determination, or finding on which the report and its content are based is proven to not have been made in good faith. The prevailing party in any action brought alleging that the conviction, determination, finding,

or report was not made in good faith is entitled to recover the costs of litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

(5) The department shall forward reports made under subsection (1) of this section to the appropriate disciplining authority designated under Title 18 RCW within fifteen days of the date the report is received by the department. The department shall notify an ambulatory surgical facility that has made a report under subsection (1) of this section of the results of the disciplining authority's case disposition decision within fifteen days after the case disposition. Case disposition is the decision whether to issue a statement of charges, take informal action, or close the complaint without action against a provider. In its biennial report to the legislature under RCW 18.130.310, the department shall specifically identify the case dispositions of reports made by ambulatory surgical facilities under subsection (1) of this section. [2007 c 273 § 13.]

**70.230.130 Written records—Decisions to restrict or terminate privileges of practitioners—Penalties.** Each ambulatory surgical facility shall keep written records of decisions to restrict or terminate privileges of practitioners. Copies of such records shall be made available to the medical quality assurance commission, the board of osteopathic medicine and surgery, or the podiatric medical board, within thirty days of a request, and all information so gained remains confidential in accordance with RCW 70.230.080 and 70.230.120 and is protected from the discovery process. Failure of an ambulatory surgical facility to comply with this section is punishable by a civil penalty not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars. [2007 c 273 § 14.]

**70.230.140 Information concerning practitioners—Disclosure.** (1) Prior to granting or renewing clinical privileges or association of any practitioner or hiring a practitioner, an ambulatory surgical facility approved pursuant to this chapter shall request from the practitioner and the practitioner shall provide the following information:

(a) The name of any hospital, ambulatory surgical facility, or other facility with or at which the practitioner had or has any association, employment, privileges, or practice during the prior five years: PROVIDED, That the ambulatory surgical facility may request additional information going back further than five years, and the physician shall use his or her best efforts to comply with such a request for additional information;

(b) Whether the physician has ever been or is in the process of being denied, revoked, terminated, suspended, restricted, reduced, limited, sanctioned, placed on probation, monitored, or not renewed for any professional activity listed in (b)(i) through (x) of this subsection, or has ever voluntarily or involuntarily relinquished, withdrawn, or failed to proceed with an application for any professional activity listed in (b)(i) through (x) of this subsection in order to avoid an adverse action or to preclude an investigation or while under investigation relating to professional competence or conduct:

- (i) License to practice any profession in any jurisdiction;
- (ii) Other professional registration or certification in any jurisdiction;
- (iii) Specialty or subspecialty board certification;
- (iv) Membership on any hospital medical staff;

(v) Clinical privileges at any facility, including hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, or skilled nursing facilities;

(vi) Medicare, medicaid, the food and drug administration, the national institute of health (office of human research protection), governmental, national, or international regulatory agency, or any public program;

(vii) Professional society membership or fellowship;

(viii) Participation or membership in a health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, independent practice association, physician-hospital organization, or other entity;

(ix) Academic appointment;

(x) Authority to prescribe controlled substances (drug enforcement agency or other authority);

(c) Any pending professional medical misconduct proceedings or any pending medical malpractice actions in this state or another state, the substance of the allegations in the proceedings or actions, and any additional information concerning the proceedings or actions as the practitioner deems appropriate;

(d) The substance of the findings in the actions or proceedings and any additional information concerning the actions or proceedings as the practitioner deems appropriate;

(e) A waiver by the practitioner of any confidentiality provisions concerning the information required to be provided to ambulatory surgical facilities pursuant to this subsection; and

(f) A verification by the practitioner that the information provided by the practitioner is accurate and complete.

(2) Prior to granting privileges or association to any practitioner or hiring a practitioner, an ambulatory surgical facility approved under this chapter shall request from any hospital or ambulatory surgical facility with or at which the practitioner had or has privileges, was associated, or was employed, during the preceding five years, the following information concerning the practitioner:

(a) Any pending professional medical misconduct proceedings or any pending medical malpractice actions, in this state or another state;

(b) Any judgment or settlement of a medical malpractice action and any finding of professional misconduct in this state or another state by a licensing or disciplinary board; and

(c) Any information required to be reported by hospitals or ambulatory surgical facilities pursuant to RCW 18.130.070.

(3) The medical quality assurance commission, board of osteopathic medicine and surgery, podiatric medical board, or dental quality assurance commission, as appropriate, shall be advised within thirty days of the name of any practitioner denied staff privileges, association, or employment on the basis of adverse findings under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) A hospital, ambulatory surgical facility, or other facility that receives a request for information from another hospital, ambulatory surgical facility, or other facility pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall provide such information concerning the physician in question to the extent such information is known to the hospital, ambulatory surgical facility, or other facility receiving such a request, including the reasons for suspension, termination, or curtailment of employment or privileges at the hospital, ambulatory surgical facility, or facility. A hospital, ambulatory surgical

facility, other facility, or other person providing such information in good faith is not liable in any civil action for the release of such information.

(5) Information and documents, including complaints and incident reports, created specifically for, and collected and maintained by, a quality improvement committee are not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil action, and no person who was in attendance at a meeting of such committee or who participated in the creation, collection, or maintenance of information or documents specifically for the committee shall be permitted or required to testify in any civil action as to the content of such proceedings or the documents and information prepared specifically for the committee. This subsection does not preclude: (a) In any civil action, the discovery of the identity of persons involved in the medical care that is the basis of the civil action whose involvement was independent of any quality improvement activity; (b) in any civil action, the testimony of any person concerning the facts which form the basis for the institution of such proceedings of which the person had personal knowledge acquired independently of such proceedings; (c) in any civil action by a health care provider regarding the restriction or revocation of that individual's clinical or staff privileges, introduction into evidence information collected and maintained by quality improvement committees regarding such health care provider; (d) in any civil action, disclosure of the fact that staff privileges were terminated or restricted, including the specific restrictions imposed, if any, and the reasons for the restrictions; or (e) in any civil action, discovery and introduction into evidence of the patient's medical records required by rule of the department to be made regarding the care and treatment received.

(6) Ambulatory surgical facilities shall be granted access to information held by the medical quality assurance commission, board of osteopathic medicine and surgery, or podiatric medical board pertinent to decisions of the ambulatory surgical facility regarding credentialing and recredentialing of practitioners.

(7) Violation of this section shall not be considered negligence per se. [2013 c 301 § 5; 2007 c 273 § 15.]

#### **70.230.150 Unanticipated outcomes—Notification.**

Ambulatory surgical facilities shall have in place policies to assure that, when appropriate, information about unanticipated outcomes is provided to patients or their families or any surrogate decision makers identified pursuant to RCW 7.70.065. Notifications of unanticipated outcomes under this section do not constitute an acknowledgment or admission of liability, nor may the fact of notification, the content disclosed, or any and all statements, affirmations, gestures, or conduct expressing apology be introduced as evidence in a civil action. [2007 c 273 § 16.]

#### **70.230.160 Complaint toll-free telephone number—**

**Notice.** Every ambulatory surgical facility shall post in conspicuous locations a notice of the department's ambulatory surgical facility complaint toll-free telephone number. The form of the notice shall be approved by the department. [2007 c 273 § 17.]

**70.230.170 Information received by department—Disclosure.** Information received by the department through filed reports, inspection, or as otherwise authorized under this chapter may be disclosed publicly, as permitted under chapter 42.56 RCW, subject to the following provisions:

(1) Licensing inspections, or complaint investigations regardless of findings, shall, as requested, be disclosed no sooner than three business days after the ambulatory surgical facility has received the resulting assessment report;

(2) Information regarding administrative action against the license [licensee] shall, as requested, be disclosed after the ambulatory surgical facility has received the documents initiating the administrative action;

(3) Information about complaints that did not warrant an investigation shall not be disclosed except to notify the ambulatory surgical facility and the complainant that the complaint did not warrant an investigation; and

(4) Information disclosed under this section shall not disclose individual names. [2007 c 273 § 18.]

**70.230.190 Certain ambulatory surgical facilities deemed to have complied with survey requirements of RCW 70.230.100.** Any entity that meets the definition of an ambulatory surgical facility in RCW 70.230.010 that had been issued a license on or after July 1, 2009, that was later declared void by a department determination that the entity did not meet the definition of an ambulatory surgical facility shall be deemed to have complied with the survey requirements of RCW 70.230.100 for its initial license application. [2011 c 76 § 3.]

**Effective date—2011 c 76:** See note following RCW 70.230.010.

**70.230.200 Reports to legislature—Licensing fees—Licensing systems of other states. (Expires July 1, 2018.)**

(1) The department shall report to the fiscal committees of the legislature by December 1, 2016, and December 1, 2017, if it anticipates that the amounts raised by ambulatory surgical facility licensing fees will not be sufficient to defray the costs of regulating ambulatory surgical facilities. The report shall identify the amount of state general fund money necessary to compensate for the insufficiency.

(2) The department shall conduct a benchmark survey to compare Washington's system for licensing ambulatory surgical facilities with the ambulatory surgical facility licensing systems of other states with a similar number of licensed ambulatory surgical facilities. The survey must review the licensing standards, staffing levels, training of surveyors and inspectors, and expenditures of the selected states. The survey must examine the total cost of the other states' regulatory structures and analyze the reasons for any differences in cost. The survey must assess the extent to which total program costs in other states are supported through licensing fees compared with state general fund money or other resources. The findings of the survey must be submitted to the committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over health care issues by December 1, 2016. The findings must include recommendations for statutory, regulatory, and administrative changes to reduce ambulatory surgical facility licensing fees.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2018. [2016 c 146 § 6.]

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**70.230.900 Effective date—2007 c 273.** Except for section 7 of this act, this act takes effect July 1, 2009. [2007 c 273 § 29.]

**70.230.901 Implementation—2007 c 273.** The secretary of health may take the necessary steps to ensure that this act is implemented on its effective date. [2007 c 273 § 30.]

## Chapter 70.235 RCW

### LIMITING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

#### Sections

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70.235.070	Distribution of funds for infrastructure and capital development projects—Prerequisites.
70.235.900	Scope of chapter 14, Laws of 2008.

**70.235.005 Findings—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington has long been a national and international leader on energy conservation and environmental stewardship, including air quality protection, renewable energy development and generation, emission standards for fossil-fuel based energy generation, energy efficiency programs, natural resource conservation, vehicle emission standards, and the use of biofuels. Washington is also unique among most states in that in addition to its commitment to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, it has established goals to grow the clean energy sector and reduce the state's expenditures on imported fuels.

(2) The legislature further finds that Washington should continue its leadership on climate change policy by creating accountability for achieving the emission reductions established in RCW 70.235.020, participating in the design of a regional multisector market-based system to help achieve those emission reductions, assessing other market strategies to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensuring the state has a well trained workforce for our clean energy future.

(3) It is the intent of the legislature that the state will: (a) Limit and reduce emissions of greenhouse gas consistent with the emission reductions established in RCW 70.235.020; (b) minimize the potential to export pollution, jobs, and economic opportunities; and (c) reduce emissions at the lowest cost to Washington's economy, consumers, and businesses.

(4) In the event the state elects to participate in a regional multisector market-based system, it is the intent of the legislature that the system will become effective by January 1, 2012, after authority is provided to the department for its implementation. By acting now, Washington businesses and citizens will have adequate time and opportunities to be well positioned to take advantage of the low-carbon economy and to make necessary investments in low-carbon technology.

(5) It is also the intent of the legislature that the regional multisector market-based system recognize Washington's unique emissions portfolio, including the state's hydroelectric system, the opportunities presented by Washington's abundant forest resources and agriculture land, and the state's leadership in energy efficiency and the actions it has already taken that have reduced its generation of greenhouse gas emissions and that entities receive appropriate credit for early actions to reduce greenhouse gases.

(6) If any revenues that accrue to the state are created by a market system, they must be used to further the state's efforts to achieve the goals established in RCW 70.235.020, address the impacts of global warming on affected habitats, species, and communities, and increase investment in the clean energy economy particularly for communities and workers that have suffered from heavy job losses and chronic unemployment and underemployment. [2008 c 14 § 1.]

**70.235.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Carbon dioxide equivalents" means a metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential.

(2) "Climate advisory team" means the stakeholder group formed in response to executive order 07-02.

(3) "Climate impacts group" means the University of Washington's climate impacts group.

(4) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(5) "Director" means the director of the department.

(6) "Greenhouse gas" and "greenhouse gases" includes carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and any other gas or gases designated by the department by rule.

(7) "Person" means an individual, partnership, franchise holder, association, corporation, a state, a city, a county, or any subdivision or instrumentality of the state.

(8) "Program" means the department's climate change program.

(9) "Western climate initiative" means the collaboration of states, Canadian provinces, Mexican states, and tribes to design a multisector market-based mechanism as directed under the western regional climate action initiative signed by the governor on February 22, 2007. [2010 c 146 § 1; 2008 c 14 § 2.]

**70.235.020 Greenhouse gas emissions reductions—Reporting requirements.** (1)(a) The state shall limit emissions of greenhouse gases to achieve the following emission reductions for Washington state:

(i) By 2020, reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases in the state to 1990 levels;

(ii) By 2035, reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases in the state to twenty-five percent below 1990 levels;

(iii) By 2050, the state will do its part to reach global climate stabilization levels by reducing overall emissions to fifty percent below 1990 levels, or seventy percent below the state's expected emissions that year.

(b) By December 1, 2008, the department shall submit a greenhouse gas reduction plan for review and approval to the legislature, describing those actions necessary to achieve the

emission reductions in (a) of this subsection by using existing statutory authority and any additional authority granted by the legislature. Actions taken using existing statutory authority may proceed prior to approval of the greenhouse gas reduction plan.

(c) Except where explicitly stated otherwise, nothing in chapter 14, Laws of 2008 limits any state agency authorities as they existed prior to June 12, 2008.

(d) Consistent with this directive, the department shall take the following actions:

(i) Develop and implement a system for monitoring and reporting emissions of greenhouse gases as required under RCW 70.94.151; and

(ii) Track progress toward meeting the emission reductions established in this subsection, including the results from policies currently in effect that have been previously adopted by the state and policies adopted in the future, and report on that progress.

(2) By December 31st of each even-numbered year beginning in 2010, the department and the \*department of community, trade, and economic development shall report to the governor and the appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives the total emissions of greenhouse gases for the preceding two years, and totals in each major source sector. The department shall ensure the reporting rules adopted under RCW 70.94.151 allow it to develop a comprehensive inventory of emissions of greenhouse gases from all significant sectors of the Washington economy.

(3) Except for purposes of reporting, emissions of carbon dioxide from industrial combustion of biomass in the form of fuel wood, wood waste, wood by-products, and wood residuals shall not be considered a greenhouse gas as long as the region's silvicultural sequestration capacity is maintained or increased. [2008 c 14 § 3.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**70.235.030 Development of a design for a regional multisector market-based system to limit and reduce emissions of greenhouse gas—Information required to be submitted to the legislature.** (1)(a) The director shall develop, in coordination with the western climate initiative, a design for a regional multisector market-based system to limit and reduce emissions of greenhouse gas consistent with the emission reductions established in RCW 70.235.020(1).

(b) By December 1, 2008, the director and the director of the \*department of community, trade, and economic development shall deliver to the legislature specific recommendations for approval and request for authority to implement the preferred design of a regional multisector market-based system in (a) of this subsection. These recommendations must include:

(i) Proposed legislation, necessary funding, and the schedule necessary to implement the preferred design by January 1, 2012;

(ii) Any changes determined necessary to the reporting requirements established under RCW 70.94.151; and

(iii) Actions that the state should take to prevent manipulation of the multisector market-based system designed under this section.

(2) In developing the design for the regional multisector market-based system under subsection (1) of this section, the department shall consult with the affected state agencies, and provide opportunity for public review and comment.

(3) In addition to the information required under subsection (1)(b) of this section, the director and the director of the \*department of community, trade, and economic development shall submit the following to the legislature by December 1, 2008:

(a) Information on progress to date in achieving the requirements of chapter 14, Laws of 2008;

(b) The final recommendations of the climate advisory team, including recommended most promising actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases or otherwise respond to climate change. These recommendations must include strategies to reduce the quantity of emissions of greenhouse gases per distance traveled in the transportation sector;

(c) A request for additional resources and statutory authority needed to limit and reduce emissions of greenhouse gas consistent with chapter 14, Laws of 2008 including implementation of the most promising recommendations of the climate advisory team;

(d) Recommendations on how projects funded by the green energy incentive account in \*\*RCW 43.325.040 may be used to expand the electrical transmission infrastructure into urban and rural areas of the state for purposes of allowing the recharging of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles;

(e) Recommendations on how local governments could participate in the multisector market-based system designed under subsection (1) of this section;

(f) Recommendations regarding the circumstances under which generation of electricity or alternative fuel from landfill gas and gas from anaerobic digesters may receive an offset or credit in the regional multisector market-based system or other strategies developed by the department; and

(g) Recommendations developed in consultation with the department of natural resources and the department of agriculture with the climate advisory team, the college of forest resources at the University of Washington, and the Washington State University, and a nonprofit consortium involved in research on renewable industrial materials, regarding how forestry and agricultural lands and practices may participate voluntarily as an offset or other credit program in the regional multisector market-based system. The recommendations must ensure that the baseline for this offset or credit program does not disadvantage this state in relation to another state or states. These recommendations shall address:

(i) Commercial and other working forests, including accounting for site-class specific forest management practices;

(ii) Agricultural and forest products, including accounting for substitution of wood for fossil intensive substitutes;

(iii) Agricultural land and practices;

(iv) Forest and agricultural lands set aside or managed for conservation as of, or after, June 12, 2008; and

(v) Reforestation and afforestation projects. [2008 c 14 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 43.325.040 expired June 30, 2016.

(2016 Ed.)

**70.235.040 Consultation with climate impacts group at the University of Washington—Report to the legislature.** Within eighteen months of the next and each successive global or national assessment of climate change science, the department shall consult with the climate impacts group at the University of Washington regarding the science on human-caused climate change and provide a report to the legislature summarizing that science and make recommendations regarding whether the greenhouse gas emissions reductions required under RCW 70.235.020 need to be updated. [2008 c 14 § 7.]

**70.235.050 Greenhouse gas emission limits for state agencies—Timeline—Reports—Strategy—Point of accountability employee for energy and climate change initiatives.** (1) All state agencies shall meet the statewide greenhouse gas emission limits established in RCW 70.235.020 to achieve the following, using the estimates and strategy established in subsections (2) and (3) of this section:

(a) By July 1, 2020, reduce emissions by fifteen percent from 2005 emission levels;

(b) By 2035, reduce emissions to thirty-six percent below 2005 levels; and

(c) By 2050, reduce emissions to the greater reduction of fifty-seven and one-half percent below 2005 levels, or seventy percent below the expected state government emissions that year.

(2)(a) By June 30, 2010, all state agencies shall report estimates of emissions for 2005 to the department, including 2009 levels of emissions, and projected emissions through 2035.

(b) State agencies required to report under RCW 70.94.151 must estimate emissions from methodologies recommended by the department and must be based on actual operation of those agencies. Agencies not required to report under RCW 70.94.151 shall derive emissions estimates using an emissions calculator provided by the department.

(3) By June 30, 2011, each state agency shall submit to the department a strategy to meet the requirements in subsection (1) of this section. The strategy must address employee travel activities, teleconferencing alternatives, and include existing and proposed actions, a timeline for reductions, and recommendations for budgetary and other incentives to reduce emissions, especially from employee business travel.

(4) By October 1st of each even-numbered year beginning in 2012, each state agency shall report to the department the actions taken to meet the emission reduction targets under the strategy for the preceding fiscal biennium. The department may authorize the department of enterprise services to report on behalf of any state agency having fewer than five hundred full-time equivalent employees at any time during the reporting period. The department shall cooperate with the department of enterprise services and the department of commerce to develop consolidated reporting methodologies that incorporate emission reduction actions taken across all or substantially all state agencies.

(5) All state agencies shall cooperate in providing information to the department, the department of enterprise services, and the department of commerce for the purposes of this section.

(6) The governor shall designate a person as the single point of accountability for all energy and climate change initiatives within state agencies. This position must be funded from current full-time equivalent allocations without increasing budgets or staffing levels. If duties must be shifted within an agency, they must be shifted among current full-time equivalent allocations. All agencies, councils, or work groups with energy or climate change initiatives shall coordinate with this designee. [2015 c 225 § 110; 2009 c 519 § 2.]

**Findings—2009 c 519:** See RCW 43.21M.900.

**70.235.060 Emissions calculator for estimating aggregate emissions—Reports.** (1) The department shall develop an emissions calculator to assist state agencies in estimating aggregate emissions as well as in estimating the relative emissions from different ways in carrying out activities.

(2) The department may use data such as totals of building space occupied, energy purchases and generation, motor vehicle fuel purchases and total mileage driven, and other reasonable sources of data to make these estimates. The estimates may be derived from a single methodology using these or other factors, except that for the top ten state agencies in occupied building space and vehicle miles driven, the estimates must be based upon the actual and projected operations of those agencies. The estimates may be adjusted, and reasonable estimates derived, when agencies have been created since 1990 or functions reorganized among state agencies since 1990. The estimates may incorporate projected emissions reductions that also affect state agencies under the program authorized in RCW 70.235.020 and other existing policies that will result in emissions reductions.

(3) By December 31st of each even-numbered year beginning in 2010, the department shall report to the governor and to the appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives the total state agencies' emissions of greenhouse gases for 2005 and the preceding two years and actions taken to meet the emissions reduction targets. [2009 c 519 § 5.]

**Findings—2009 c 519:** See RCW 43.21M.900.

**70.235.070 Distribution of funds for infrastructure and capital development projects—Prerequisites.** Beginning in 2010, when distributing capital funds through competitive programs for infrastructure and economic development projects, all state agencies must consider whether the entity receiving the funds has adopted policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Agencies also must consider whether the project is consistent with:

(1) The state's limits on the emissions of greenhouse gases established in RCW 70.235.020;

(2) Statewide goals to reduce annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by 2050, in accordance with RCW 47.01.440, except that the agency shall consider whether project locations in rural counties, as defined in RCW 43.160.020, will maximize the reduction of vehicle miles traveled; and

(3) Applicable federal emissions reduction requirements. [2009 c 519 § 9.]

**Findings—2009 c 519:** See RCW 43.21M.900.

**70.235.900 Scope of chapter 14, Laws of 2008.** Except where explicitly stated otherwise, nothing in chapter 14, Laws of 2008 alters or limits any authorities of the department as they existed prior to June 12, 2008. [2008 c 14 § 11.]

## Chapter 70.240 RCW

### CHILDREN'S SAFE PRODUCTS

#### Sections

70.240.010	Definitions.
70.240.020	Prohibition on the manufacturing and sale of children's products containing lead, cadmium, or phthalates.
70.240.025	Prohibition on the manufacturing and sale of children's products and residential upholstered furniture containing certain flame retardants.
70.240.030	Identification of high priority chemicals—Report.
70.240.035	Certain flame retardant chemicals—Review—Stakeholder advisory committee—Report.
70.240.040	Notice that a children's product contains a high priority chemical.
70.240.050	Manufacturers of restricted products—Notice to sellers and distributors—Civil penalty.
70.240.060	Adoption of rules.

**70.240.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Additive TBBPA" means the chemical tetrabromobisphenol A, chemical abstracts service number 79-94-7, as of June 9, 2016, in a form that has not undergone a reactive process and is not covalently bonded to a polymer in a product or product component.

(2) "Children's cosmetics" means cosmetics that are made for, marketed for use by, or marketed to children under the age of twelve. "Children's cosmetics" includes cosmetics that meet any of the following conditions:

(a) Represented in its packaging, display, or advertising as appropriate for use by children;

(b) Sold in conjunction with, attached to, or packaged together with other products that are packaged, displayed, or advertised as appropriate for use by children; or

(c) Sold in any of the following:

(i) Retail store, catalogue, or online web site, in which a person exclusively offers for sale products that are packaged, displayed, or advertised as appropriate for use by children; or

(ii) A discrete portion of a retail store, catalogue, or online web site, in which a person offers for sale products that are packaged, displayed, or advertised as appropriate for use by children.

(3) "Children's jewelry" means jewelry that is made for, marketed for use by, or marketed to children under the age of twelve. "Children's jewelry" includes jewelry that meets any of the following conditions:

(a) Represented in its packaging, display, or advertising as appropriate for use by children under the age of twelve;

(b) Sold in conjunction with, attached to, or packaged together with other products that are packaged, displayed, or advertised as appropriate for use by children;

(c) Sized for children and not intended for use by adults; or

(d) Sold in any of the following:

(i) A vending machine;

(ii) Retail store, catalogue, or online web site, in which a person exclusively offers for sale products that are packaged, displayed, or advertised as appropriate for use by children; or

(iii) A discrete portion of a retail store, catalogue, or online web site, in which a person offers for sale products that are packaged, displayed, or advertised as appropriate for use by children.

(4)(a) "Children's product" includes any of the following:

(i) Toys;

(ii) Children's cosmetics;

(iii) Children's jewelry;

(iv) A product designed or intended by the manufacturer to help a child with sucking or teething, to facilitate sleep, relaxation, or the feeding of a child, or to be worn as clothing by children; or

(v) Portable infant or child safety seat designed to attach to an automobile seat.

(b) "Children's product" does not include the following:

(i) Batteries;

(ii) Slings and catapults;

(iii) Sets of darts with metallic points;

(iv) Toy steam engines;

(v) Bicycles and tricycles;

(vi) Video toys that can be connected to a video screen and are operated at a nominal voltage exceeding twenty-four volts;

(vii) Chemistry sets;

(viii) Consumer and children's electronic products, including but not limited to personal computers, audio and video equipment, calculators, wireless phones, game consoles, and handheld devices incorporating a video screen, used to access interactive software and their associated peripherals;

(ix) Interactive software, intended for leisure and entertainment, such as computer games, and their storage media, such as compact disks;

(x) BB guns, pellet guns, and air rifles;

(xi) Snow sporting equipment, including skis, poles, boots, snow boards, sleds, and bindings;

(xii) Sporting equipment, including, but not limited to bats, balls, gloves, sticks, pucks, and pads;

(xiii) Roller skates;

(xiv) Scooters;

(xv) Model rockets;

(xvi) Athletic shoes with cleats or spikes; and

(xvii) Pocket knives and multitools.

(5) "Cosmetics" includes articles intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body or any part thereof for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance, and articles intended for use as a component of such an article. "Cosmetics" does not include soap, dietary supplements, or food and drugs approved by the United States food and drug administration.

(6) "Decabromodiphenyl ether" means the chemical decabromodiphenyl ether, chemical abstracts service number 1163-19-5, as of June 9, 2016.

(7) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(8) "HBCD" means the chemical hexabromocyclododecane, chemical abstracts service number 25637-99-4, as of June 9, 2016.

(9) "High priority chemical" means a chemical identified by a state agency, federal agency, or accredited research university, or other scientific evidence deemed authoritative by the department on the basis of credible scientific evidence as known to do one or more of the following:

(a) Harm the normal development of a fetus or child or cause other developmental toxicity;

(b) Cause cancer, genetic damage, or reproductive harm;

(c) Disrupt the endocrine system;

(d) Damage the nervous system, immune system, or organs or cause other systemic toxicity;

(e) Be persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic; or

(f) Be very persistent and very bioaccumulative.

(10) "IPTPP" means the chemical isopropylated triphenyl phosphate, chemical abstracts service number 68937-41-7, as of June 9, 2016.

(11) "Manufacturer" includes any person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, governmental entity, organization, or joint venture that produces residential upholstered furniture as defined in RCW 70.76.010 or children's product or an importer or domestic distributor of residential upholstered furniture as defined in RCW 70.76.010 or children's product. For the purposes of this subsection, "importer" means the owner of the residential upholstered furniture as defined in RCW 70.76.010 or children's product.

(12) "Phthalates" means di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP), benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP), diisononyl phthalate (DINP), diisodecyl phthalate (DIDP), or di-n-octyl phthalate (DnOP).

(13) "TBB" means the chemical (2-ethylhexyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrabromobenzoate, chemical abstracts service number 183658-27-7, as of June 9, 2016.

(14) "TBPH" means the chemical bis (2-ethylhexyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrabromophthalate, chemical abstracts service number 26040-51-7, as of June 9, 2016.

(15) "TCEP" means the chemical (tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphate); chemical abstracts service number 115-96-8, as of June 9, 2016.

(16) "TCPP" means the chemical tris (1-chloro-2-propyl) phosphate); chemical abstracts service number 13674-84-5, as of June 9, 2016.

(17) "TDCPP" means the chemical (tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl)phosphate); chemical abstracts service number 13674-87-8, as of June 9, 2016.

(18) "Toy" means a product designed or intended by the manufacturer to be used by a child at play.

(19) "TPP" means the chemical triphenyl phosphate, chemical abstracts service number 115-86-6, as of June 9, 2016.

(20) "Trade association" means a membership organization of persons engaging in a similar or related line of commerce, organized to promote and improve business conditions in that line of commerce and not to engage in a regular business of a kind ordinarily carried on for profit.

(21) "V6" means the chemical bis(chloromethyl) propane-1,3-diyltetrakis (2-chloroethyl) bisphosphate, chemical abstracts service number 385051-10-4, as of June 9, 2016.

(22) "Very bioaccumulative" means having a bioconcentration factor or bioaccumulation factor greater than or equal to five thousand, or if neither are available, having a log Kow greater than 5.0.

(23) "Very persistent" means having a half-life greater than or equal to one of the following:

(a) A half-life in soil or sediment of greater than one hundred eighty days;

(b) A half-life greater than or equal to sixty days in water or evidence of long-range transport. [2016 c 176 § 1; 2008 c 288 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**70.240.020 Prohibition on the manufacturing and sale of children's products containing lead, cadmium, or phthalates.** (1) Beginning July 1, 2009, no manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this state a children's product or product component containing the following:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, lead at more than .009 percent by weight (ninety parts per million);

(b) Cadmium at more than .004 percent by weight (forty parts per million); or

(c) Phthalates, individually or in combination, at more than 0.10 percent by weight (one thousand parts per million).

(2) If determined feasible for manufacturers to achieve and necessary to protect children's health, the department, in consultation with the department of health, may by rule require that no manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this state a children's product or product component containing lead at more than .004 percent by weight (forty parts per million). [2008 c 288 § 3.]

**70.240.025 Prohibition on the manufacturing and sale of children's products and residential upholstered furniture containing certain flame retardants.** Beginning July 1, 2017, no manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this state children's products or residential upholstered furniture, as defined in RCW 70.76.010, containing any of the following flame retardants in amounts greater than one thousand parts per million in any product component:

(1) TDCPP;

(2) TCEP;

(3) Decabromodiphenyl ether;

(4) HBCD; or

(5) Additive TBBPA. [2016 c 176 § 2.]

**70.240.030 Identification of high priority chemicals—Report.** (1) By January 1, 2009, the department, in consultation with the department of health, shall identify high priority chemicals that are of high concern for children after considering a child's or developing fetus's potential for exposure to each chemical. In identifying the chemicals, the department shall include chemicals that meet one or more of the following criteria:

(a) The chemical has been found through biomonitoring studies that demonstrate the presence of the chemical in human umbilical cord blood, human breast milk, human urine, or other bodily tissues or fluids;

(b) The chemical has been found through sampling and analysis to be present in household dust, indoor air, drinking water, or elsewhere in the home environment; or

(c) The chemical has been added to or is present in a consumer product used or present in the home.

(2) By January 1, 2009, the department shall identify children's products or product categories that may contain chemicals identified under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) By January 1, 2009, the department shall submit a report on the chemicals of high concern to children and the children's products or product categories they identify to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature. The report shall include policy options for addressing children's products that contain chemicals of high concern for children, including recommendations for additional ways to inform consumers about toxic chemicals in products, such as labeling. [2008 c 288 § 4.]

**70.240.035 Certain flame retardant chemicals—Review—Stakeholder advisory committee—Report.** (1) The department shall consider whether the following flame retardants meet the criteria of a chemical of high concern for children:

(a) IPTPP;

(b) TBB;

(c) TBPH;

(d) TCPP;

(e) TPP;

(f) V6.

(2)(a) Within one year of the department adopting a rule that identifies a flame retardant in subsection (1) of this section as a chemical of high concern for children, the department of health, in consultation with the department, must create a stakeholder advisory committee for each flame retardant chemical to provide stakeholder input, expertise, and additional information in the development of recommendations as provided under subsection (4) of this section. All advisory committee meetings must be open to the public.

(b) The advisory committee membership must include, but is not limited to, representatives from: Large and small business sectors; community, environmental, and public health advocacy groups; local governments; affected and interested businesses; and public health agencies.

(c) The department may request state agencies and technical experts to participate. The department of health shall provide technical expertise on human health impacts including: Early childhood and fetal exposure, exposure reduction, and safer substitutes.

(3) When developing policy options and recommendations consistent with subsection (4) of this section, the department must rely on credible scientific evidence and consider information relevant to the hazards based on the quantitative extent of exposures to the chemical under its intended or reasonably anticipated conditions of use. The department of health, in consultation with the department, must include the following:

(a) Chemical name, properties, uses, and manufacturers;

(b) An analysis of available information on the production, unintentional production, uses, and disposal of the chemical;

(c) Quantitative estimates of the potential human and environmental exposures associated with the use and release of the chemical;

(d) An assessment of the potential impacts on human health and the environment resulting from the quantitative exposure estimates referred to in (c) of this subsection;

(e) An evaluation of:

(i) Environmental and human health benefits;

(ii) Economic and social impacts;

(iii) Feasibility;

(iv) Availability and effectiveness of safer substitutes for uses of the chemical;

(v) Consistency with existing federal and state regulatory requirements; and

(f) Recommendations for:

(i) Managing, reducing, and phasing out the different uses and releases of the chemical;

(ii) Minimizing exposure to the chemical;

(iii) Using safer substitutes; and

(iv) Encouraging the development of safer alternatives.

(4)(a) The department of health must submit to the legislature recommendations on policy options for reducing exposure, designating and developing safer substitutes, and restricting or prohibiting the use of the flame retardant chemicals identified in subsection (1) of this section as a chemical of high concern for children.

(b) When the department of health, in consultation with the department, determines that flame retardant chemicals identified in subsection (1) of this section as a chemical of high concern for children should be restricted or prohibited from use in children's products, residential upholstered furniture as defined in RCW 70.76.010, or other commercial products or processes, the department of health must include citations of the peer-reviewed science and other sources of information reviewed and ultimately relied upon in support of the recommendation to restrict or prohibit the chemical. [2016 c 176 § 3.]

**70.240.040 Notice that a children's product contains a high priority chemical.** Beginning six months after the department has adopted rules under \*section 8(5) of this act, a manufacturer of a children's product, or a trade organization on behalf of its member manufacturers, shall provide notice to the department that the manufacturer's product contains a high priority chemical. The notice must be filed annually with the department and must include the following information:

(1) The name of the chemical used or produced and its chemical abstracts service registry number;

(2) A brief description of the product or product component containing the substance;

(3) A description of the function of the chemical in the product;

(4) The amount of the chemical used in each unit of the product or product component. The amount may be reported in ranges, rather than the exact amount;

(5) The name and address of the manufacturer and the name, address, and phone number of a contact person for the manufacturer; and

(6) Any other information the manufacturer deems relevant to the appropriate use of the product. [2008 c 288 § 5.]

\*Reviser's note: Section 8 of this act was vetoed by the governor.

**70.240.050 Manufacturers of restricted products—Notice to sellers and distributors—Civil penalty.** (1) A manufacturer of products that are restricted under this chapter must notify persons that sell the manufacturer's products in this state about the provisions of this chapter no less than ninety days prior to the effective date of the restrictions.

(2) A manufacturer that produces, sells, or distributes a product prohibited from manufacture, sale, or distribution in this state under this chapter shall recall the product and reimburse the retailer or any other purchaser for the product.

(3) A manufacturer of products in violation of this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars for each violation in the case of a first offense. Manufacturers who are repeat violators are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each repeat offense. Penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state toxics control account created in RCW 70.105D.070.

(4) Retailers who unknowingly sell products that are restricted from sale under this chapter are not liable under this chapter.

(5) The sale or purchase of any previously owned products containing a chemical restricted under this chapter made in casual or isolated sales as defined in RCW 82.04.040, or by a nonprofit organization, is exempt from this chapter. [2016 c 176 § 4; 2008 c 288 § 7.]

**70.240.060 Adoption of rules.** The department may adopt rules as necessary for the purpose of implementing, administering, and enforcing this chapter. [2008 c 288 § 9.]

## Chapter 70.245 RCW

### THE WASHINGTON DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT

#### Sections

70.245.010	Definitions.
70.245.020	Written request for medication.
70.245.030	Form of the written request.
70.245.040	Attending physician responsibilities.
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**70.245.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Adult" means an individual who is eighteen years of age or older.

(2) "Attending physician" means the physician who has primary responsibility for the care of the patient and treatment of the patient's terminal disease.

(3) "Competent" means that, in the opinion of a court or in the opinion of the patient's attending physician or consulting physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist, a patient has the ability to make and communicate an informed decision to health care providers, including communication through persons familiar with the patient's manner of communicating if those persons are available.

(4) "Consulting physician" means a physician who is qualified by specialty or experience to make a professional diagnosis and prognosis regarding the patient's disease.

(5) "Counseling" means one or more consultations as necessary between a state licensed psychiatrist or psychologist and a patient for the purpose of determining that the patient is competent and not suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgment.

(6) "Health care provider" means a person licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized or permitted by law to administer health care or dispense medication in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession, and includes a health care facility.

(7) "Informed decision" means a decision by a qualified patient, to request and obtain a prescription for medication that the qualified patient may self-administer to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner, that is based on an appreciation of the relevant facts and after being fully informed by the attending physician of:

- (a) His or her medical diagnosis;
- (b) His or her prognosis;
- (c) The potential risks associated with taking the medication to be prescribed;
- (d) The probable result of taking the medication to be prescribed; and
- (e) The feasible alternatives including, but not limited to, comfort care, hospice care, and pain control.

(8) "Medically confirmed" means the medical opinion of the attending physician has been confirmed by a consulting physician who has examined the patient and the patient's relevant medical records.

(9) "Patient" means a person who is under the care of a physician.

(10) "Physician" means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy licensed to practice medicine in the state of Washington.

(11) "Qualified patient" means a competent adult who is a resident of Washington state and has satisfied the requirements of this chapter in order to obtain a prescription for medication that the qualified patient may self-administer to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner.

(12) "Self-administer" means a qualified patient's act of ingesting medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner.

(13) "Terminal disease" means an incurable and irreversible disease that has been medically confirmed and will, within reasonable medical judgment, produce death within six months. [2009 c 1 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.020 Written request for medication.** (1) An adult who is competent, is a resident of Washington state, and has been determined by the attending physician and consulting physician to be suffering from a terminal disease, and who has voluntarily expressed his or her wish to die, may make a written request for medication that the patient may self-administer to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner in accordance with this chapter.

(2) A person does not qualify under this chapter solely because of age or disability. [2009 c 1 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.030 Form of the written request.** (1) A valid request for medication under this chapter shall be in substantially the form described in RCW 70.245.220, signed and dated by the patient and witnessed by at least two individuals who, in the presence of the patient, attest that to the best of their knowledge and belief the patient is competent, acting voluntarily, and is not being coerced to sign the request.

(2) One of the witnesses shall be a person who is not:

(a) A relative of the patient by blood, marriage, or adoption;

(b) A person who at the time the request is signed would be entitled to any portion of the estate of the qualified patient upon death under any will or by operation of law; or

(c) An owner, operator, or employee of a health care facility where the qualified patient is receiving medical treatment or is a resident.

(3) The patient's attending physician at the time the request is signed shall not be a witness.

(4) If the patient is a patient in a long-term care facility at the time the written request is made, one of the witnesses shall be an individual designated by the facility and having the qualifications specified by the department of health by rule. [2009 c 1 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.040 Attending physician responsibilities.** (1) The attending physician shall:

(a) Make the initial determination of whether a patient has a terminal disease, is competent, and has made the request voluntarily;

(b) Request that the patient demonstrate Washington state residency under RCW 70.245.130;

(c) To ensure that the patient is making an informed decision, inform the patient of:

(i) His or her medical diagnosis;

(ii) His or her prognosis;

(iii) The potential risks associated with taking the medication to be prescribed;

(iv) The probable result of taking the medication to be prescribed; and

(v) The feasible alternatives including, but not limited to, comfort care, hospice care, and pain control;

(d) Refer the patient to a consulting physician for medical confirmation of the diagnosis, and for a determination that the patient is competent and acting voluntarily;

(e) Refer the patient for counseling if appropriate under RCW 70.245.060;

(f) Recommend that the patient notify next of kin;

(g) Counsel the patient about the importance of having another person present when the patient takes the medication prescribed under this chapter and of not taking the medication in a public place;

(h) Inform the patient that he or she has an opportunity to rescind the request at any time and in any manner, and offer the patient an opportunity to rescind at the end of the fifteen-day waiting period under RCW 70.245.090;

(i) Verify, immediately before writing the prescription for medication under this chapter, that the patient is making an informed decision;

(j) Fulfill the medical record documentation requirements of RCW 70.245.120;

(k) Ensure that all appropriate steps are carried out in accordance with this chapter before writing a prescription for medication to enable a qualified patient to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner; and

(l)(i) Dispense medications directly, including ancillary medications intended to facilitate the desired effect to minimize the patient's discomfort, if the attending physician is authorized under statute and rule to dispense and has a current drug enforcement administration certificate; or

(ii) With the patient's written consent:

(A) Contact a pharmacist and inform the pharmacist of the prescription; and

(B) Deliver the written prescription personally, by mail or facsimile to the pharmacist, who will dispense the medications directly to either the patient, the attending physician, or an expressly identified agent of the patient. Medications dispensed pursuant to this subsection shall not be dispensed by mail or other form of courier.

(2) The attending physician may sign the patient's death certificate which shall list the underlying terminal disease as the cause of death. [2009 c 1 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

#### **70.245.050 Consulting physician confirmation.**

Before a patient is qualified under this chapter, a consulting physician shall examine the patient and his or her relevant medical records and confirm, in writing, the attending physician's diagnosis that the patient is suffering from a terminal disease, and verify that the patient is competent, is acting voluntarily, and has made an informed decision. [2009 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.060 Counseling referral.** If, in the opinion of the attending physician or the consulting physician, a patient may be suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgment, either physician shall refer the patient for counseling. Medication to end a patient's life in a humane and dignified manner shall not be prescribed until the person performing the counseling determines that the patient is not suffering from a psychiatric or

psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgment. [2009 c 1 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.070 Informed decision.** A person shall not receive a prescription for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner unless he or she has made an informed decision. Immediately before writing a prescription for medication under this chapter, the attending physician shall verify that the qualified patient is making an informed decision. [2009 c 1 § 7 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.080 Notification of next of kin.** The attending physician shall recommend that the patient notify the next of kin of his or her request for medication under this chapter. A patient who declines or is unable to notify next of kin shall not have his or her request denied for that reason. [2009 c 1 § 8 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.090 Written and oral requests.** To receive a prescription for medication that the qualified patient may self-administer to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner, a qualified patient shall have made an oral request and a written request, and reiterate the oral request to his or her attending physician at least fifteen days after making the initial oral request. At the time the qualified patient makes his or her second oral request, the attending physician shall offer the qualified patient an opportunity to rescind the request. [2009 c 1 § 9 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.100 Right to rescind request.** A patient may rescind his or her request at any time and in any manner without regard to his or her mental state. No prescription for medication under this chapter may be written without the attending physician offering the qualified patient an opportunity to rescind the request. [2009 c 1 § 10 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.110 Waiting periods.** (1) At least fifteen days shall elapse between the patient's initial oral request and the writing of a prescription under this chapter.

(2) At least forty-eight hours shall elapse between the date the patient signs the written request and the writing of a prescription under this chapter. [2009 c 1 § 11 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.120 Medical record documentation requirements.** The following shall be documented or filed in the patient's medical record:

(1) All oral requests by a patient for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner;

(2) All written requests by a patient for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner;

(3) The attending physician's diagnosis and prognosis, and determination that the patient is competent, is acting voluntarily, and has made an informed decision;

(4) The consulting physician's diagnosis and prognosis, and verification that the patient is competent, is acting voluntarily, and has made an informed decision;

(5) A report of the outcome and determinations made during counseling, if performed;

(6) The attending physician's offer to the patient to rescind his or her request at the time of the patient's second oral request under RCW 70.245.090; and

(7) A note by the attending physician indicating that all requirements under this chapter have been met and indicating the steps taken to carry out the request, including a notation of the medication prescribed. [2009 c 1 § 12 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.130 Residency requirement.** Only requests made by Washington state residents under this chapter may be granted. Factors demonstrating Washington state residency include but are not limited to:

(1) Possession of a Washington state driver's license;

(2) Registration to vote in Washington state; or

(3) Evidence that the person owns or leases property in Washington state. [2009 c 1 § 13 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.140 Disposal of unused medications.** Any medication dispensed under this chapter that was not self-administered shall be disposed of by lawful means. [2009 c 1 § 14 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.150 Reporting of information to the department of health—Adoption of rules—Information collected not a public record—Annual statistical report.**

(1)(a) The department of health shall annually review all records maintained under this chapter.

(b) The department of health shall require any health care provider upon writing a prescription or dispensing medication under this chapter to file a copy of the dispensing record and such other administratively required documentation with the department. All administratively required documentation shall be mailed or otherwise transmitted as allowed by department of health rule to the department no later than thirty calendar days after the writing of a prescription and dispensing of medication under this chapter, except that all documents required to be filed with the department by the prescribing physician after the death of the patient shall be mailed no later than thirty calendar days after the date of death of the patient. In the event that anyone required under this chapter to report information to the department of health provides an inadequate or incomplete report, the department shall contact the person to request a complete report.

(2) The department of health shall adopt rules to facilitate the collection of information regarding compliance with this chapter. Except as otherwise required by law, the information collected is not a public record and may not be made available for inspection by the public.

(3) The department of health shall generate and make available to the public an annual statistical report of information collected under subsection (2) of this section. [2009 c 1 § 15 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.160 Effect on construction of wills, contracts, and statutes.** (1) Any provision in a contract, will, or other agreement, whether written or oral, to the extent the provision would affect whether a person may make or rescind a request for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner, is not valid.

(2) Any obligation owing under any currently existing contract shall not be conditioned or affected by the making or rescinding of a request, by a person, for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner. [2009 c 1 § 16 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.170 Insurance or annuity policies.** The sale, procurement, or issuance of any life, health, or accident insurance or annuity policy or the rate charged for any policy shall not be conditioned upon or affected by the making or rescinding of a request, by a person, for medication that the patient may self-administer to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner. A qualified patient's act of ingesting medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner shall not have an effect upon a life, health, or accident insurance or annuity policy. [2009 c 1 § 17 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.180 Authority of chapter—References to practices under this chapter—Applicable standard of care.**

(1) Nothing in this chapter authorizes a physician or any other person to end a patient's life by lethal injection, mercy killing, or active euthanasia. Actions taken in accordance with this chapter do not, for any purpose, constitute suicide, assisted suicide, mercy killing, or homicide, under the law. State reports shall not refer to practice under this chapter as "suicide" or "assisted suicide." Consistent with RCW 70.245.010 (7), (11), and (12), 70.245.020(1), 70.245.040(1)(k), 70.245.060, 70.245.070, 70.245.090, 70.245.120 (1) and (2), 70.245.160 (1) and (2), 70.245.170, 70.245.190(1) (a) and (d), and 70.245.200(2), state reports shall refer to practice under this chapter as obtaining and self-administering life-ending medication.

(2) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be interpreted to lower the applicable standard of care for the attending physician, consulting physician, psychiatrist or psychologist, or other health care provider participating under this chapter. [2009 c 1 § 18 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.190 Immunities—Basis for prohibiting health care provider from participation—Notification—Permissible sanctions.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 70.245.200 and subsection (2) of this section:

(a) A person shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability or professional disciplinary action for participating in good faith compliance with this chapter. This includes being present when a qualified patient takes the prescribed medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner;

(b) A professional organization or association, or health care provider, may not subject a person to censure, discipline, suspension, loss of license, loss of privileges, loss of membership, or other penalty for participating or refusing to participate in good faith compliance with this chapter;

(c) A patient's request for or provision by an attending physician of medication in good faith compliance with this chapter does not constitute neglect for any purpose of law or provide the sole basis for the appointment of a guardian or conservator; and

(d) Only willing health care providers shall participate in the provision to a qualified patient of medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner. If a health care provider is unable or unwilling to carry out a patient's request under this chapter, and the patient transfers his or her care to a new health care provider, the prior health care provider shall transfer, upon request, a copy of the patient's relevant medical records to the new health care provider.

(2)(a) A health care provider may prohibit another health care provider from participating under chapter 1, Laws of 2009 on the premises of the prohibiting provider if the prohibiting provider has given notice to all health care providers with privileges to practice on the premises and to the general public of the prohibiting provider's policy regarding participating under chapter 1, Laws of 2009. This subsection does not prevent a health care provider from providing health care services to a patient that do not constitute participation under chapter 1, Laws of 2009.

(b) A health care provider may subject another health care provider to the sanctions stated in this subsection if the sanctioning health care provider has notified the sanctioned provider before participation in chapter 1, Laws of 2009 that it prohibits participation in chapter 1, Laws of 2009:

(i) Loss of privileges, loss of membership, or other sanctions provided under the medical staff bylaws, policies, and procedures of the sanctioning health care provider if the sanctioned provider is a member of the sanctioning provider's medical staff and participates in chapter 1, Laws of 2009 while on the health care facility premises of the sanctioning health care provider, but not including the private medical office of a physician or other provider;

(ii) Termination of a lease or other property contract or other nonmonetary remedies provided by a lease contract, not including loss or restriction of medical staff privileges or exclusion from a provider panel, if the sanctioned provider participates in chapter 1, Laws of 2009 while on the premises of the sanctioning health care provider or on property that is owned by or under the direct control of the sanctioning health care provider; or

(iii) Termination of a contract or other nonmonetary remedies provided by contract if the sanctioned provider participates in chapter 1, Laws of 2009 while acting in the course and scope of the sanctioned provider's capacity as an employee or independent contractor of the sanctioning health care provider. Nothing in this subsection (2)(b)(iii) prevents:

(A) A health care provider from participating in chapter 1, Laws of 2009 while acting outside the course and scope of the provider's capacity as an employee or independent contractor; or

(B) A patient from contracting with his or her attending physician and consulting physician to act outside the course and scope of the provider's capacity as an employee or independent contractor of the sanctioning health care provider.

(c) A health care provider that imposes sanctions under (b) of this subsection shall follow all due process and other procedures the sanctioning health care provider may have

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that are related to the imposition of sanctions on another health care provider.

(d) For the purposes of this subsection:

(i) "Notify" means a separate statement in writing to the health care provider specifically informing the health care provider before the provider's participation in chapter 1, Laws of 2009 of the sanctioning health care provider's policy about participation in activities covered by this chapter.

(ii) "Participate in chapter 1, Laws of 2009" means to perform the duties of an attending physician under RCW 70.245.040, the consulting physician function under RCW 70.245.050, or the counseling function under RCW 70.245.060. "Participate in chapter 1, Laws of 2009" does not include:

(A) Making an initial determination that a patient has a terminal disease and informing the patient of the medical prognosis;

(B) Providing information about the Washington death with dignity act to a patient upon the request of the patient;

(C) Providing a patient, upon the request of the patient, with a referral to another physician; or

(D) A patient contracting with his or her attending physician and consulting physician to act outside of the course and scope of the provider's capacity as an employee or independent contractor of the sanctioning health care provider.

(3) Suspension or termination of staff membership or privileges under subsection (2) of this section is not reportable under RCW 18.130.070. Action taken under RCW 70.245.030, 70.245.040, 70.245.050, or 70.245.060 may not be the sole basis for a report of unprofessional conduct under RCW 18.130.180.

(4) References to "good faith" in subsection (1)(a), (b), and (c) of this section do not allow a lower standard of care for health care providers in the state of Washington. [2009 c 1 § 19 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.200 Willful alteration/forgery—Coercion or undue influence—Penalties—Civil damages—Other penalties not precluded.** (1) A person who without authorization of the patient willfully alters or forges a request for medication or conceals or destroys a rescission of that request with the intent or effect of causing the patient's death is guilty of a class A felony.

(2) A person who coerces or exerts undue influence on a patient to request medication to end the patient's life, or to destroy a rescission of a request, is guilty of a class A felony.

(3) This chapter does not limit further liability for civil damages resulting from other negligent conduct or intentional misconduct by any person.

(4) The penalties in this chapter do not preclude criminal penalties applicable under other law for conduct that is inconsistent with this chapter. [2009 c 1 § 20 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.210 Claims by governmental entity for costs incurred.** Any governmental entity that incurs costs resulting from a person terminating his or her life under this chapter in a public place has a claim against the estate of the person to recover such costs and reasonable attorneys' fees

related to enforcing the claim. [2009 c 1 § 21 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.220 Form of the request.** A request for a medication as authorized by this chapter shall be in substantially the following form:

REQUEST FOR MEDICATION TO END MY LIFE IN A HUMAN [HUMANE] AND DIGNIFIED MANNER

I, . . . . ., am an adult of sound mind.

I am suffering from . . . . ., which my attending physician has determined is a terminal disease and which has been medically confirmed by a consulting physician.

I have been fully informed of my diagnosis, prognosis, the nature of medication to be prescribed and potential associated risks, the expected result, and the feasible alternatives, including comfort care, hospice care, and pain control.

I request that my attending physician prescribe medication that I may self-administer to end my life in a humane and dignified manner and to contact any pharmacist to fill the prescription.

INITIAL ONE:

. . . . . I have informed my family of my decision and taken their opinions into consideration.

. . . . . I have decided not to inform my family of my decision.

. . . . . I have no family to inform of my decision.

I understand that I have the right to rescind this request at any time.

I understand the full import of this request and I expect to die when I take the medication to be prescribed. I further understand that although most deaths occur within three hours, my death may take longer and my physician has counseled me about this possibility.

I make this request voluntarily and without reservation, and I accept full moral responsibility for my actions.

Signed: . . . . .

Dated: . . . . .

DECLARATION OF WITNESSES

By initialing and signing below on or after the date the person named above signs, we declare that the person making and signing the above request:

Witness 1      Witness 2  
Initials      Initials

- . . . . .      . . . . .      1. Is personally known to us or has provided proof of identity;
- . . . . .      . . . . .      2. Signed this request in our presence on the date of the person's signature;
- . . . . .      . . . . .      3. Appears to be of sound mind and not under duress, fraud, or undue influence;

- . . . . .      . . . . .      4. Is not a patient for whom either of us is the attending physician.

Printed Name of Witness 1: . . . . .

Signature of Witness 1/Date: . . . . .

Printed Name of Witness 2: . . . . .

Signature of Witness 2/Date: . . . . .

NOTE: One witness shall not be a relative by blood, marriage, or adoption of the person signing this request, shall not be entitled to any portion of the person's estate upon death, and shall not own, operate, or be employed at a health care facility where the person is a patient or resident. If the patient is an inpatient at a health care facility, one of the witnesses shall be an individual designated by the facility. [2009 c 1 § 22 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.901 Short title—2009 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1000).** This act may be known and cited as the Washington death with dignity act. [2009 c 1 § 26 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

**70.245.903 Effective dates—2009 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1000).** This act takes effect one hundred twenty days after the election at which it is approved [March 5, 2009], except for section 24 of this act which takes effect July 1, 2009. [2009 c 1 § 28 (Initiative Measure No. 1000, approved November 4, 2008).]

Chapter 70.250 RCW  
ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING WORK GROUP

Sections

- 70.250.010 Definitions.
- 70.250.030 Implementation of evidence-based best practice guidelines or protocols.
- 70.250.040 Application of section 135(a) of the medicare improvements for patients and providers act of 2008.
- 70.250.050 Robert Bree collaborative—Duties—Membership.
- 70.250.900 Effective date—2009 c 258.

**70.250.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Advanced diagnostic imaging services" means magnetic resonance imaging services, computed tomography services, positron emission tomography services, cardiac nuclear medicine services, and similar new imaging services.
- (2) "Authority" means the Washington state health care authority.
- (3) "Collaborative" means the Robert Bree collaborative established in RCW 70.250.050.
- (4) "Payor" means carriers licensed under chapters 48.21, 48.41, 48.44, 48.46, and 48.62 RCW.
- (5) "Self-funded health plan" means an employer-sponsored health plan or Taft-Hartley plan that is not provided through a fully insured health carrier.

(6) "State purchased health care" has the same meaning as in RCW 41.05.011. [2011 c 313 § 2; 2009 c 258 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 313:** See note following RCW 70.250.050.

**70.250.030 Implementation of evidence-based best practice guidelines or protocols.** (1) No later than September 1, 2009, all state purchased health care programs shall, except for state purchased health care services that are purchased from or through health carriers as defined in RCW 48.43.005, implement evidence-based best practice guidelines or protocols applicable to advanced diagnostic imaging services, and the decision support tools to implement the guidelines or protocols, identified under RCW 70.250.050.

(2) By January 1, 2012, and every January 1st thereafter, all state purchased health care programs must implement the evidence-based best practice guidelines or protocols and strategies identified under RCW 70.250.050, after the administrator, in consultation with participating agencies, has affirmatively reviewed and endorsed the recommendations. This requirement applies to health carriers, as defined in RCW 48.43.005 and to entities acting as third-party administrators that contract with state purchased health care programs to provide or administer health benefits for enrollees of those programs. If the collaborative fails to reach consensus within the time frames identified in this section and RCW 70.250.050, state purchased health care programs may pursue implementation of evidence-based strategies on their own initiative. [2011 c 313 § 4; 2009 c 258 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 313:** See note following RCW 70.250.050.

**70.250.040 Application of section 135(a) of the medicare improvements for patients and providers act of 2008.** Any current or future time frames, procedures, rules, regulations, or guidance regarding accreditation requirements for advanced diagnostic imaging services established in, or promulgated pursuant to, section 135(a) of the medicare improvements for patients and providers act of 2008, shall also be applicable to any person or entity in this state not already subject to its provisions that receives payment for the furnishing of the technical component of advanced diagnostic imaging services as defined under that act. [2009 c 258 § 4.]

**70.250.050 Robert Bree collaborative—Duties—Membership.** (1) Consistent with the authority granted in RCW 41.05.013, the authority shall convene a collaborative, to be known as the Robert Bree collaborative. The collaborative shall identify health care services for which there are substantial variation in practice patterns or high utilization trends in Washington state, without producing better care outcomes for patients, that are indicators of poor quality and potential waste in the health care system. On an annual basis, the collaborative shall identify up to three health care services it will address.

(2) For each health care service identified, the collaborative shall:

(a) Analyze and identify evidence-based best practice approaches to improve quality and reduce variation in use of the service, including identification of guidelines or protocols applicable to the health care service. In evaluating guidelines, the collaborative should identify the highest quality guidelines based upon the most rigorous and transparent methods

for identification, rating, and translation of evidence into practice recommendations.

(b) Identify data collection and reporting necessary to develop baseline health service utilization rates and to measure the impact of strategies adopted under this section. Methods for data collection and reporting should strive to minimize cost and administrative effort related to data collection and reporting wherever possible, including the use of existing data resources and nonfee-based tools for reporting.

(c) Identify strategies to increase use of the evidence-based best practice approaches identified under (a) of this subsection in both state purchased and privately purchased health care plans. Strategies considered should include, but are not limited to: Identifying goals for appropriate utilization rates and reduction in practice variation among providers; peer-to-peer consultation or second opinions; provider feedback reports; use of patient decision aids; incentives for appropriate use of health care services; centers of excellence or other provider qualification standards; quality improvement systems; and service utilization and outcomes reporting, including public reporting. In developing strategies, the collaborative should strongly consider related efforts of organizations such as the Puget Sound health alliance, the Washington state hospital association, the national quality forum, the joint commission on accreditation of health care organizations, the national committee for quality assurance, the foundation for health care quality, and, where appropriate, more focused quality improvement efforts, such as the Washington state perinatal advisory committee and the Washington state surgical care and outcomes assessment program. The collaborative shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the strategies chosen before finalizing their recommendations.

(3) If the collaborative chooses a health care service for which there is substantial variation in practice patterns or a high or low utilization trend in Washington state, and a lack of evidence-based best practice approaches, it should consider strategies that will promote improved care outcomes, such as patient decision aids, provider feedback reports, centers of excellence or other provider qualification standards, and research to improve care quality and outcomes.

(4) The governor shall appoint twenty members of the collaborative, who must include:

(a) Two members, selected from health carriers or third-party administrators that have the most fully insured and self-funded covered lives in Washington state. The count of total covered lives includes enrollment in all companies included in their holding company system. Each health carrier or third-party administrator is entitled to no more than a single position on the collaborative to represent all entities under common ownership or control;

(b) One member, selected from the health maintenance organization having the most fully insured and self-insured covered lives in Washington state. The count of total lives includes enrollment in all companies included in its holding company system. Each health maintenance organization is entitled to no more than a single position on the collaborative to represent all entities under common ownership or control;

(c) One member, chosen from among three nominees submitted by the association of Washington health plans, rep-

representing national health carriers that operate in multiple states outside of the Pacific Northwest;

(d) Four physicians, selected from lists of nominees submitted by the Washington state medical association, as follows:

(i) Two physicians, one of whom must be a practicing primary care physician, representing large multispecialty clinics with fifty or more physicians, selected from a list of five nominees. The primary care physician must be either a family physician, an internal medicine physician, or a general pediatrician; and

(ii) Two physicians, one of whom must be a practicing primary care physician, representing clinics with less than fifty physicians, selected from a list of five nominees. The primary care physician must be either a family physician, an internal medicine physician, or a general pediatrician;

(e) One osteopathic physician, selected from a list of five nominees submitted by the Washington state osteopathic medical association;

(f) Two physicians representing the largest hospital-based physician systems in the state, selected from a list of five nominees submitted jointly by the Washington state medical association and the Washington state hospital association;

(g) Three members representing hospital systems, at least one of whom is responsible for quality, submitted from a list of six nominees from the Washington state hospital association;

(h) Three members, representing self-funded purchasers of health care services for employees;

(i) Two members, representing state purchased health care programs; and

(j) One member, representing the Puget Sound health alliance.

(5) The governor shall appoint the chair of the collaborative.

(6) The collaborative shall add members to its membership or establish clinical committees for each therapy under review by the collaborative for the purpose of acquiring clinical expertise needed to accomplish its responsibilities under this section and RCW 70.250.010 and 70.250.030. Membership of clinical committees should reflect clinical expertise in the area of health care services being addressed by the collaborative, including clinicians involved in related quality improvement or comparative effectiveness efforts, as well as nonphysician practitioners. Each clinical committee shall include at least two members of the specialty or subspecialty society most experienced with the health service identified for review.

(7) Permanent and ad hoc members of the collaborative or any of its committees may not have personal financial conflicts of interest that could substantially influence or bias their participation. If a collaborative or committee member has a personal financial conflict of interest with respect to a particular health care service being addressed by the collaborative, he or she shall disclose such an interest. The collaborative must determine whether the member should be recused from any deliberations or decisions related to that service.

(8) A person serving on the collaborative or any of its clinical committees shall be immune from civil liability, whether direct or derivative, for any decisions made in good

faith while pursuing activities associated with the work of collaborative or any of its clinical committees.

(9) The guidelines or protocols identified under this section shall not be construed to establish the standard of care or duty of care owed by health care providers in any cause of action occurring as a result of health care.

(10) The collaborative shall actively solicit federal or private funds and in-kind contributions necessary to complete its work in a timely fashion. The collaborative shall not accept private funds if receipt of such funding could present a potential conflict of interest or bias in the collaborative's deliberations. Available state funds may be used to support the work of the collaborative when the collaborative has selected a health care service that is a high utilization or high-cost service in state purchased health care programs or the health care service is undergoing evaluation in one or more state purchased health care programs and coordination will reduce duplication of efforts. The collaborative shall not begin the work described in this section unless sufficient funds are received from private or federal resources, or available state funds.

(11) No member of the collaborative or its committees may be compensated for his or her service.

(12) The proceedings of the collaborative shall be open to the public and notice of meetings shall be provided at least twenty days prior to a meeting.

(13) All meetings of the collaborative, including those of a subcommittee, are subject to the open public meetings act.

(14) The collaborative shall report to the administrator of the authority regarding the health services areas it has chosen and strategies proposed. The administrator shall review the strategies recommended in the report, giving strong consideration to the direction provided in section 1, chapter 313, Laws of 2011 and this section. The administrator's review shall describe the outcomes of the review and any decisions related to adoption of the recommended strategies by state purchased health care programs. Following the administrator's review, the collaborative shall report to the legislature and the governor regarding chosen health services, proposed strategies, the results of the administrator's review, and available information related to the impact of strategies adopted in the previous three years on the cost and quality of care provided in Washington state. The initial report must be submitted by November 15, 2011, with annual reports thereafter. [2015 c 21 § 1; 2011 c 313 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 313:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Efforts are needed across the health care system to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care services provided in Washington state and to improve care outcomes for patients.

(b) Some health care services currently provided in Washington state present significant safety, efficacy, or cost-effectiveness concerns. Substantial variation in practice patterns or high utilization trends can be indicators of poor quality and potential waste in the health care system, without producing better care outcomes for patients.

(c) State purchased health care programs should partner with private health carriers, third-party purchasers, and health care providers in shared efforts to improve quality, health outcomes, and cost-effectiveness of care.

(2) The legislature declares that collaboration among state purchased health care programs, private health carriers, third-party purchasers, and health care providers to identify appropriate strategies that will increase the effectiveness of health care delivered in Washington state is in the best interest of the public. The legislature therefore intends to exempt from state antitrust laws, and to provide immunity from federal antitrust laws through the state action doctrine, for activities undertaken pursuant to efforts designed

and implemented under this act that might otherwise be constrained by such laws. The legislature does not intend and does not authorize any person or entity to engage in activities or to conspire to engage in activities that would constitute per se violations of state and federal antitrust laws including, but not limited to, agreements among competing health care providers or health carriers as to the price or specific level of reimbursement for health care services.

(3) The legislature intends that the Robert Bree collaborative established in section 3 of this act provide a mechanism through which public and private health care purchasers, health carriers, and providers can work together to identify effective means to improve quality health outcomes and cost-effectiveness of care. It is not the intent of the legislature to mandate payment or coverage decisions by private health care purchasers or carriers." [2011 c 313 § 1.]

**70.250.900 Effective date—2009 c 258.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 28, 2009]. [2009 c 258 § 5.]

## Chapter 70.255 RCW NOVELTY LIGHTERS

### Sections

70.255.010	Definitions.
70.255.020	Prohibition on the distribution or offer to sell novelty lighters.
70.255.030	Civil penalty—Jurisdiction.
70.255.040	Manufacturers must cease sale or distribution.

**70.255.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Authority having jurisdiction" means the local organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of the state fire code.

(2) "Director" means the director of fire protection appointed under RCW 43.43.938.

(3) "Distribute" means to do any of the following:

(a) Sell novelty lighters or deliver novelty lighters for sale by another person to consumers;

(b) Sell or accept orders for novelty lighters that are to be transported from a point outside this state to a consumer within this state;

(c) Buy novelty lighters directly from a manufacturer or wholesale dealer for resale in this state;

(d) Give novelty lighters as a sample, prize, gift, or other promotion.

(4) "Manufacturer" means:

(a) An entity that produces, or causes the production of, novelty lighters for sale in this state;

(b) An importer or first purchaser of novelty lighters that intends to resell within this state novelty lighters that were produced for sale outside this state; or

(c) A successor to an entity, importer, or first purchaser described in (a) or (b) of this subsection.

(5)(a) "Novelty lighter" means a lighter that can operate on any fuel, including butane or liquid fuel. Novelty lighters have features that are attractive to children, including but not limited to visual effects, flashing lights, musical sounds, and toylike designs. The term considers the shape of the lighter to be the most important characteristic when determining whether a lighter can be considered a novelty lighter.

(b) "Novelty lighter" does not include disposable cigarette lighters or lighters that are printed or decorated with logos, decals, artwork, or heat shrinkable sleeves.

(6) "Retail dealer" means an entity at one location, other than a manufacturer or wholesale dealer, that engages in distributing novelty lighters.

(7) "Sell" means to transfer, or agree to transfer, title or possession for a monetary or nonmonetary consideration.

(8) "Wholesale dealer" means an entity that distributes novelty lighters to a retail dealer or other person for resale. [2009 c 273 § 1.]

**70.255.020 Prohibition on the distribution or offer to sell novelty lighters.** (1) A person may not distribute or offer to sell a novelty lighter within this state if the director determines the novelty lighter is prohibited for sale or distribution under this chapter.

(2) This section does not apply if the novelty lighters are in interstate commerce and not intended for distribution in this state.

(3) The authority having jurisdiction shall enforce the provisions of this chapter. [2009 c 273 § 2.]

**70.255.030 Civil penalty—Jurisdiction.** (1) The authority having jurisdiction may impose a civil penalty for a violation of this chapter. The civil penalty may not exceed:

(a) For a wholesale dealer that distributes or offers to sell novelty lighters to retail dealers or consumers, a written warning for the first violation and a monetary penalty of five hundred dollars for each subsequent violation.

(b) For a retail dealer that distributes or offers to sell novelty lighters to consumers, a written warning for the first violation and a monetary penalty of two hundred fifty dollars for each subsequent violation.

(2) The authority having jurisdiction may bring an action seeking:

(a) Injunctive relief to prevent or end a violation of this chapter;

(b) To recover civil penalties imposed under subsection (1) of this section; or

(c) To recover attorneys' fees and other enforcement costs and disbursements.

(3) Penalties under this section must be deposited in an account designated by the authority having jurisdiction.

(4) A district court has jurisdiction over all proceedings brought under this section. [2009 c 273 § 3.]

**70.255.040 Manufacturers must cease sale or distribution.** (1) On July 26, 2009, manufacturers must immediately cease the sale or distribution of novelty lighters in this state.

(2) On July 26, 2009, wholesalers and retail dealers have a maximum of ninety days to reduce their current inventory of novelty lighters. In no instance may wholesalers and retail dealers sell or distribute a novelty lighter in this state after ninety days from July 26, 2009. [2009 c 273 § 4.]

**Chapter 70.260 RCW**  
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS**

## Sections

- 70.260.010 Definitions.  
70.260.020 Grants for pilot programs providing urban residential and commercial energy efficiency upgrades—Requirements of pilot programs—Report to the governor and legislature.  
70.260.030 Farm energy efficiency improvements.

**70.260.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Customers" means residents, businesses, and building owners.

(2) "Direct outreach" means:

(a) The use of door-to-door contact, community events, and other methods of direct interaction with customers to inform them of energy efficiency and weatherization opportunities; and

(b) The performance of energy audits.

(3) "Energy audit" means an assessment of building energy efficiency opportunities, from measures that require very little investment and without any disruption to building operation, normally involving general building operational measures, to low or relatively higher cost investment, such as installing timers to turn off equipment, replacing light bulbs, installing insulation, replacing equipment and appliances with higher efficiency equipment and appliances, and similar measures. The term includes an assessment of alternatives for generation of heat and power from renewable energy resources, including installation of solar water heating and equipment for photovoltaic electricity generation.

(4) "Energy efficiency and conservation block grant program" means the federal program created under the energy independence and security act of 2007 (P.L. 110-140).

(5) "Energy efficiency services" means energy audits, weatherization, energy efficiency retrofits, energy management systems as defined in RCW 39.35.030, and other activities to reduce a customer's energy consumption, and includes assistance with paperwork, arranging for financing, program design and development, and other postenergy audit assistance and education to help customers meet their energy savings goals.

(6) "Low-income individual" means an individual whose annual household income does not exceed eighty percent of the area median income for the metropolitan, micropolitan, or combined statistical area in which that individual resides as determined annually by the United States department of housing and urban development.

(7) "Sponsor" means any entity or group of entities that submits a proposal under RCW 70.260.020, including but not limited to any nongovernmental nonprofit organization, local community action agency, tribal nation, community service agency, public service company, county, municipality, publicly owned electric, or natural gas utility.

(8) "Sponsor match" means the share, if any, of the cost of efficiency improvements to be paid by the sponsor.

(9) "Weatherization" means making energy and resource conservation and energy efficiency improvements. [2009 c 379 § 101.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 379:** "(1) The legislature finds that improving energy efficiency in structures is one of the most cost-effective means to

meet energy requirements, and that while there have been significant efficiency savings achieved in the state over the past quarter century, there remains enormous potential to achieve even greater savings. Increased weatherization and more extensive efficiency improvements in residential, commercial, and public buildings achieves many benefits, including reducing energy bills, avoiding the construction of new electricity generating facilities with associated climate change impacts, and creation of family-wage jobs in performing energy audits and improvements.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that financial and technical assistance programs be expanded to direct municipal, state, and federal funds, as well as electric and natural gas utility funding, toward greater achievement of energy efficiency improvements. To this end, the legislature establishes a policy goal of assisting in weatherizing twenty thousand homes and businesses in the state in each of the next five years. The legislature also intends to attain this goal in part through supporting programs that rely on community organizations and that there be maximum family-wage job creation in fields related to energy efficiency." [2009 c 379 § 1.]

**Effective date—2009 c 379:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 7, 2009]." [2009 c 379 § 405.]

**70.260.020 Grants for pilot programs providing urban residential and commercial energy efficiency upgrades—Requirements of pilot programs—Report to the governor and legislature.** The Washington State University extension energy program is authorized to implement grants for pilot programs providing community-wide urban residential and commercial energy efficiency upgrades. The Washington State University extension energy program must coordinate and collaborate with the \*department of community, trade, and economic development on the design, administration, and implementation elements of the pilot program.

(1) There must be at least three grants for pilot programs, awarded on a competitive basis to sponsors for conducting direct outreach and delivering energy efficiency services that, to the extent feasible, ensure a balance of participation for: (a) Geographic regions in the state; (b) types of fuel used for heating; (c) owner-occupied and rental residences; (d) small commercial buildings; and (e) single-family and multifamily dwellings.

(2) The pilot programs must:

(a) Provide assistance for energy audits and energy efficiency-related improvements to structures owned by or used for residential, commercial, or nonprofit purposes in specified urban neighborhoods where the objective is to achieve a high rate of participation among building owners within the pilot area;

(b) Utilize volunteer support to reach out to potential customers through the use of community-based institutions;

(c) Employ qualified energy auditors and energy efficiency service providers to perform the energy audits using recognized energy efficiency and weatherization services that are cost-effective;

(d) Select and provide oversight of contractors to perform energy efficiency services. Sponsors shall require contractors to participate in quality control and efficiency training, use workers trained from workforce training and apprentice programs established under chapter 536, Laws of 2009 if these workers are available, pay prevailing wages under chapter 39.12 RCW, hire from the community in which the program is located, and create employment opportunities for veterans, members of the national guard, and low-income and disadvantaged populations; and

(e) Work with customers to secure financing for their portion of the project and apply for and administer utility, public, and charitable funding provided for energy audits and retrofits.

(3) The Washington State University extension energy program must give priority to sponsors that can secure a sponsor match of at least one dollar for each dollar awarded.

(a) A sponsor may use its own moneys, including corporate or ratepayer moneys, or moneys provided by landlords, charitable groups, government programs, the Bonneville power administration, or other sources to pay the sponsor match.

(b) A sponsor may meet its match requirement in whole or in part through providing labor, materials, or other in-kind expenditures.

(4)(a) Pilot programs receiving funding must report compliance with performance metrics for each sponsor receiving a grant award. The performance metrics include:

- (i) Monetary and energy savings achieved;
- (ii) Savings-to-investment ratio achieved for customers;
- (iii) Wage levels of jobs created;
- (iv) Utilization of preapprentice and apprenticeship programs; and
- (v) Efficiency and speed of delivery of services.

(b) Pilot programs receiving funding under this section are required to report to the Washington State University extension [extension energy] program on compliance with the performance metrics every six months following the receipt of grants, with the last report submitted six months after program completion.

(c) The Washington State University extension energy program shall review the accuracy of these reports and provide a progress report on all grant pilot programs to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1st of each year.

(5)(a) By December 1, 2009, the Washington State University extension energy program shall provide a report to the governor and appropriate legislative committees on the: Number of grants awarded; number of jobs created or maintained; number and type of individuals trained through workforce training and apprentice programs; number of veterans, members of the national guard, and individuals of low-income and disadvantaged populations employed by pilot programs; and amount of funding provided through the grants as established in subsection (1) of this section and the performance metrics established in subsection (4) of this section.

(b) By December 1, 2010, the Washington State University extension energy program shall provide a final report to the governor and appropriate legislative committees on the: Number of grants awarded; number of jobs created or maintained; number and type of individuals trained through workforce training and apprentice programs; number of veterans, members of the national guard, and individuals of low-income and disadvantaged populations employed by pilot programs; and amount of funding provided through the grants as established in subsection (1) of this section and the performance metrics established in subsection (4) of this section. [2009 c 379 § 102.]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

(2016 Ed.)

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2009 c 379:** See notes following RCW 70.260.010.

### 70.260.030 Farm energy efficiency improvements.

(1) The legislature finds that increasing energy costs put farm viability and competitiveness at risk and that energy efficiency improvements on the farm are the most cost-effective way to manage these costs. The legislature further finds that current on-farm energy efficiency programs often miss opportunities to evaluate and conserve all types of energy, including fuels and fertilizers.

(2) The Washington State University extension energy program, in consultation with the department of agriculture, shall form an interdisciplinary team of agricultural and energy extension agencies to develop and offer new methods to help agricultural producers assess their opportunities to increase energy efficiency in all aspects of their operations. The interdisciplinary team must develop and deploy:

(a) Online energy self-assessment software tools to allow agricultural producers to assess whole-farm energy use and to identify the most cost-effective efficiency opportunities;

(b) Energy auditor training curricula specific to the agricultural sector and designed for use by agricultural producers, conservation districts, agricultural extensions, and commodity groups;

(c) An effective infrastructure of trained energy auditors available to assist agricultural producers with on-farm energy audits and identify cost-share assistance for efficiency improvements; and

(d) Measurement systems for cost savings, energy savings, and carbon emission reduction benefits resulting from efficiency improvements identified by the interdisciplinary team.

(3) The Washington State University extension energy program shall seek to obtain additional resources for this section from federal and state agricultural assistance programs and from other sources.

(4) The Washington State University extension energy program shall provide technical assistance for farm energy assessment activities as specified in this section. [2009 c 379 § 103.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2009 c 379:** See notes following RCW 70.260.010.

## Chapter 70.265 RCW

### PUBLIC HOSPITAL CAPITAL FACILITY AREAS

#### Sections

70.265.010	Finding.
70.265.020	Definitions.
70.265.030	Establishing a public hospital capital facility area—Process.
70.265.040	Petition for formation of a public hospital capital facility area less than the entire county—Process.
70.265.050	Governing body.
70.265.060	Authority to construct, acquire, purchase, maintain, add to, and remodel facilities—Interlocal agreements—Legal title.
70.265.070	Financing—Bonds authorized.
70.265.080	Dissolution of public hospital capital facility area.
70.265.090	Limitations on legal challenges.
70.265.100	Treasurer—Duties—Funds—Surety bonds.
70.265.110	Contracting with other entities to provide hospital facilities or hospital services.

**70.265.010 Finding.** The legislature finds that it is in the interests of the people of the state of Washington to be able to establish public hospital capital facility areas as quasi-municipal corporations and independent taxing units existing within the boundaries of counties composed entirely of islands that receive medical services from an existing public hospital district but are not annexed to an existing public hospital district for the purpose of financing the construction, additions, or betterments of capital hospital facilities or other capital health care facilities. [2009 c 481 § 1.]

**70.265.020 Definitions.** (1) "Hospital capital facilities" include both real and personal property including land, buildings, site improvements, equipment, furnishings, collections, and all necessary costs related to acquisition, financing, design, construction, equipping, and remodeling.

(2) "Other capital health care facilities" means nursing home, extended care, long-term care, outpatient and rehabilitative facilities, ambulances, and such other facilities as are appropriate to the health needs of the population served.

(3) "Public hospital capital facility area" means a quasi-municipal corporation and independent taxing authority within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a taxing district within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution, created by a county legislative authority of a county composed entirely of islands that receives medical services from a hospital district, but is prevented by geography and the absence of contiguous boundaries from annexing to that district. A public hospital capital facility area may include all or a portion of a city or town. [2009 c 481 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**70.265.030 Establishing a public hospital capital facility area—Process.** (1)(a) Upon receipt of a completed petition to both establish a public hospital capital facility area and submit a ballot proposition under RCW 70.265.070 to finance public hospital capital facilities and other capital health care facilities, the legislative authority of the county in which a proposed public hospital capital facility area is to be established shall submit separate ballot propositions to voters to authorize establishing the proposed public hospital capital facility area and authorizing the public hospital capital facility area, if established, to finance public hospital capital facilities or other capital health care facilities by issuing general indebtedness and imposing excess levies to retire the indebtedness. A petition submitted under this section must be accompanied by a written request to establish a public hospital capital facility area that is signed by a majority of the commissioners of the public hospital district serving the proposed area.

(b) The ballot propositions must be submitted to voters of the proposed public hospital capital facility area at a general or special election. If the proposed election date is not a general election, the county legislative authority is encouraged to request an election when another unit of local government with territory located in the proposed public hospital capital facility area is already holding a special election under RCW 29A.04.330. Approval of the ballot proposition to cre-

ate a public hospital capital facility area requires a simple majority vote by the voters participating in the election.

(2) A completed petition submitted under this section must include:

(a) A description of the boundaries of the public hospital capital facility area; and

(b) A copy of a resolution of the legislative authority of each city, town, and hospital district with territory in the proposed public hospital capital facility area indicating both: (i) Approval of the creation of the proposed public hospital capital facility area; and (ii) agreement on how election costs will be paid for ballot propositions to voters that authorize the public hospital capital facility area to incur general indebtedness and impose excess levies to retire the general indebtedness. [2009 c 481 § 3.]

**70.265.040 Petition for formation of a public hospital capital facility area less than the entire county—Process.**

Any petition for the formation of a public hospital capital facility area may describe an area less than the entire county in which the petition is filed, the boundaries of which must follow the then existing precinct boundaries and not divide any voting precinct; and in the event that a petition is filed containing not less than ten percent of the voters of the proposed public hospital capital facility area who voted at the last general election, certified by the auditor in like manner as for a countywide district, the board of county commissioners shall fix a date for a hearing on the petition, and shall publish the petition, without the signatures thereto appended, for two weeks prior to the date of the hearing, together with a notice stating the time of the meeting when the petition will be heard. Publications required by this chapter must be in a newspaper published in the proposed public hospital capital facility area, or, if there be no such newspaper, then in a newspaper published in the county in which the public hospital capital facility area is situated, and of general circulation in that county. The hearing on the petition may be adjourned from time to time, not exceeding four weeks in all. If upon the final hearing the board of county commissioners finds that any lands have been unjustly or improperly included within the proposed public hospital capital facility area the board shall change and fix the boundary lines in such manner as it deems reasonable and just and conducive to the welfare and convenience, and make and enter an order establishing and defining the boundary lines of the proposed public hospital capital facility area: PROVIDED, That no lands may be included within the boundaries so fixed lying outside the boundaries described in the petition, except upon the written request of the owners of those lands. [2009 c 481 § 4.]

**70.265.050 Governing body.** The governing body of the public hospital capital facility area must consist of three members of the county legislative authority from each county in which the public hospital capital facility area is located. In counties that have more than three members of their legislative body, the three members who serve on the governing body of the public hospital capital facility area must be chosen by the full membership of the county legislative authority. [2009 c 481 § 5.]

**70.265.060 Authority to construct, acquire, purchase, maintain, add to, and remodel facilities—Interlocal agreements—Legal title.** A public hospital capital facility area may construct, acquire, purchase, maintain, add to, and remodel public hospital capital facilities, and the governing body of the public hospital capital facility area may, by interlocal agreement or otherwise, contract with a county, city, town, or public hospital district to design, administer the construction of, operate, or maintain a public hospital capital facility or other capital health care facility financed pursuant to this chapter. Legal title to public hospital capital facilities or other capital health care facilities acquired or constructed pursuant to this chapter may be transferred, acquired, or held by the public hospital capital facility area or by a county, city, town, or public hospital district in which the facility is located and receives service. [2009 c 481 § 6.]

**70.265.070 Financing—Bonds authorized.** (1) A public hospital capital facility area may contract indebtedness or borrow money to finance public hospital capital facilities and other capital health care facilities and may issue general obligation bonds for such purpose not exceeding an amount, together with any existing indebtedness of the public hospital capital facility area, equal to one and one-quarter percent of the value of the taxable property in the public hospital capital facility area and impose excess property tax levies to retire the general indebtedness as provided in RCW 39.36.050 if a ballot proposition authorizing both the indebtedness and excess levies is approved by at least three-fifths of the voters of the public hospital capital facility area voting on the proposition, and the total number of voters voting on the proposition constitutes not less than forty percent of the total number of voters in the public hospital capital facility area voting at the last preceding general election. The term "value of the taxable property" has the meaning set forth in RCW 39.36.015. The proposition must be submitted to voters at a general or special election and may be submitted to voters at the same election as the election when the ballot proposition authorizing the establishing of the public hospital capital facility area is submitted. If the proposed election date is not a general election, the county legislative authority is encouraged to request an election when another unit of local government with territory located in the proposed public hospital capital facility area is already holding a special election under RCW 29A.04.330.

(2) A public hospital capital facility area may accept gifts or grants of money or property of any kind for the same purposes for which it is authorized to borrow money in subsection (1) of this section. [2009 c 481 § 7.]

**70.265.080 Dissolution of public hospital capital facility area.** (1) A public hospital capital facility area may be dissolved by a majority vote of the governing body when all obligations under any general obligation bonds issued by the public hospital capital facility area have been discharged and any other contractual obligations of the public hospital capital facility area have either been discharged or assumed by another governmental entity.

(2) A public hospital capital facility area must be dissolved by the governing body if the first two ballot proposi-

tions under RCW 70.265.070 that are submitted to voters are not approved. [2009 c 481 § 8.]

**70.265.090 Limitations on legal challenges.** Unless commenced within thirty days after the date of the filing of the certificate of the canvass of an election on the proposition of creating a new public hospital capital facility area pursuant to this chapter, no lawsuit whatever may be maintained challenging in any way the legal existence of the public hospital capital facility area or the validity of the proceedings had for the organization and creation thereof. If the creation of a public hospital capital facility area is not challenged within the period specified in this section, the public hospital capital facility area conclusively must be deemed duly and regularly organized under the laws of this state. [2009 c 481 § 9.]

**70.265.100 Treasurer—Duties—Funds—Surety bonds.** (1) The treasurer of the county in which a public hospital capital facility area is located shall be treasurer of the public hospital capital facility area, except that the commission of the public hospital district in which the facility area is located by resolution may designate some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the public hospital capital facility area. If the treasurer is not the county treasurer, the commission shall require a bond, with a surety company authorized to do business in the state of Washington, in an amount and under the terms and conditions which the commission by resolution from time to time finds will protect the public hospital capital facility area against loss. The premium on any such bond must be paid by the public hospital capital facility area.

(2) All public hospital capital facility area funds must be paid to the treasurer and must be disbursed by him or her only on warrants issued by an auditor appointed by the commission, upon orders or vouchers approved by it. The treasurer shall establish a public hospital capital facility area fund, into which all public hospital capital facility area funds must be paid, and he or she shall maintain such special funds as may be created by the commission, into which he or she shall place all money as the commission may, by resolution, direct.

(3) If the treasurer of the district is the treasurer of the county all public hospital capital facility area funds must be deposited with the county depositaries under the same restrictions, contracts, and security as provided for county depositaries. If the treasurer of the public hospital capital facility area is some other person, all funds must be deposited in a bank or banks authorized to do business in this state as the commission by resolution designates, and with surety bond to the public hospital capital facility area or securities in lieu thereof of the kind, no less in amount, for deposit of county funds. The surety bond or securities in lieu thereof must be filed or deposited with the treasurer of the public hospital capital facility area, and approved by resolution of the commission.

(4) All interest collected on public hospital capital facility area funds belong to the public hospital capital facility area and [must] be deposited to its credit in the proper public hospital capital facility area funds.

(5) A public hospital capital facility area may provide and require a reasonable bond of any other person handling moneys or securities of the public hospital capital facility

area. The public hospital capital facility area may pay the premium on the bond. [2009 c 481 § 10.]

**70.265.110 Contracting with other entities to provide hospital facilities or hospital services.** Any public hospital capital facility area may contract or join with any public hospital district, publicly owned hospital, nonprofit hospital, legal entity, or individual to acquire, own, operate, manage, or provide any hospital or other health care facilities or hospital services or other health care services to be used by individuals, districts, hospitals, or others, including providing health maintenance services. If a public hospital capital facility area chooses to contract or join with another party or parties pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, it may do so through establishing a nonprofit corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other legal entity of its choosing in which the public hospital capital facility area and the other party or parties participate. The governing body of the legal entity must include representatives of the public hospital capital facility area, which representatives may include members of the public hospital district's board of commissioners. A public hospital capital facility area contracting or joining with another party pursuant to the provisions of this chapter may appropriate funds and may sell, lease, or otherwise provide property, personnel, and services to the legal entity established to carry out the contract or joint activity. [2009 c 481 § 11.]

### Chapter 70.270 RCW

#### REPLACEMENT OF LEAD WHEEL WEIGHTS

##### Sections

70.270.010	Findings.
70.270.020	Definitions.
70.270.030	Replacement of lead wheel weights with environmentally preferred wheel weights—Failure to comply.
70.270.040	Department's duties—Enforcement sequence.
70.270.050	Penalties.
70.270.060	Adoption of rules.

**70.270.010 Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Environmental health hazards associated with lead wheel weights are a preventable problem. People are exposed to lead fragments and dust when lead wheel weights fall from motor vehicles onto Washington roadways and are then abraded and pulverized by traffic. Lead wheel weights on and alongside roadways can contribute to soil, surface, and groundwater contamination and pose hazards to downstream aquatic life.

(2) Lead negatively affects every bodily system. While it is injurious to people of all ages, lead is especially harmful to fetuses, children, and adults of childbearing age. Effects of lead on a child's cognitive, behavioral, and developmental abilities may necessitate large expenditures of public funds for health care and special education. Irreversible damage to children and subsequent expenditures could be avoided if exposure to lead is reduced.

(3) There are no federal regulatory controls governing use of lead wheel weights. The legislature recognizes the state's need to protect the public from exposure to lead hazards. [2009 c 243 § 1.]

**70.270.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(2) "Environmentally preferred wheel weight" means any wheel weight used for balancing motor vehicle wheels that do not include more than 0.5 percent by weight of any chemical, group of chemicals, or metal of concern identified by rule under chapter 173-333 WAC.

(3) "Lead wheel weight" means any externally affixed or attached wheel weight used for balancing motor vehicle wheels and composed of greater than 0.1 percent lead by weight.

(4) "Person" includes any individual, firm, association, partnership, corporation, governmental entity, organization, or joint venture.

(5) "Vehicle" means any motor vehicle registered in Washington with a wheel diameter of less than 19.5 inches or a gross vehicle weight of fourteen thousand pounds or less. [2009 c 243 § 2.]

**70.270.030 Replacement of lead wheel weights with environmentally preferred wheel weights—Failure to comply.** (1) On and after January 1, 2011, a person who replaces or balances motor vehicle tires must replace lead wheel weights with environmentally preferred wheel weights on all vehicles when they replace or balance tires in Washington. However, the person may use alternatives to lead wheel weights that are determined by the department to not qualify as environmentally preferred wheel weights for up to two years following the date of that determination, but must thereafter use environmentally preferred wheel weights.

(2) A person who is subject to the requirement in subsection (1) of this section must recycle the lead wheel weights that they remove.

(3) A person who fails to comply with subsection (1) of this section is subject to penalties prescribed in RCW 70.270.050. A violation of subsection (1) of this section occurs with respect to each vehicle for which lead wheel weights are not replaced in compliance with subsection (1) of this section.

(4) An owner of a vehicle is not subject to any requirement in this section. [2009 c 243 § 3.]

**70.270.040 Department's duties—Enforcement sequence.** (1) The department shall achieve compliance with RCW 70.270.030 through the enforcement sequence specified in this section.

(2) To provide assistance in identifying environmentally preferred wheel weights, the department shall, by October 1, 2010, prepare and distribute information regarding this chapter to the maximum extent practicable to:

(a) Persons that replace or balance motor vehicle tires in Washington; and

(b) Persons generally in the motor vehicle tire and wheel weight manufacturing, distribution, wholesale, and retail industries.

(3) The department shall issue a warning letter to a person who fails to comply with RCW 70.270.030 and offer information or other appropriate assistance. If the person does not comply with RCW 70.270.030(1) within one year of

the department's issuance of the warning letter, the department may assess civil penalties under RCW 70.270.050. [2009 c 243 § 4.]

**70.270.050 Penalties.** (1) An initial violation of RCW 70.270.030(1) is punishable by a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars. Subsequent violations of RCW 70.270.030(1) are punishable by civil penalties not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation.

(2) Penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state toxics control account created in RCW 70.105D.070. [2009 c 243 § 5.]

**70.270.060 Adoption of rules.** The department may adopt rules to fully implement this chapter. [2009 c 243 § 6.]

### Chapter 70.275 RCW

#### MERCURY-CONTAINING LIGHTS—PROPER DISPOSAL

##### Sections

70.275.010	Findings—Purpose.
70.275.020	Definitions.
70.275.030	Product stewardship program.
70.275.040	Submission of proposed product stewardship plans—Department to establish rules—Public review—Plan update—Annual report.
70.275.050	Environmental handling charge—Annual fee.
70.275.060	Collection and management of mercury.
70.275.070	Collectors of unwanted mercury-containing lights—Duties.
70.275.080	Requirement to recycle end-of-life mercury-containing lights.
70.275.090	Producers must participate in an approved product stewardship program.
70.275.100	Written warning—Penalty—Appeal.
70.275.110	Department's web site to list producers participating in product stewardship plan—Required participation in a product stewardship plan—Written warning—Penalty—Rules—Exemptions.
70.275.130	Product stewardship programs account.
70.275.140	Adoption of rules—Report to the legislature—Invitation to entities to comment on issues—Estimate of statewide recycling rate for mercury-containing lights—Mercury vapor barrier packaging.
70.275.150	Application of chapter to the Washington utilities and transportation commission.
70.275.160	Application of chapter to entities regulated under chapter 70.105 RCW.
70.275.170	Immunity from antitrust liability.
70.275.900	Chapter liberally construed.
70.275.901	Severability—2010 c 130.

**Reviser's note—Sunset Act application:** The mercury-containing lights product stewardship program is subject to review, termination, and possible extension under chapter 43.131 RCW, the Sunset Act. See RCW 43.131.421. RCW 70.275.010 through 70.275.070 and 70.275.090 through 70.275.901 are scheduled for future repeal under RCW 43.131.422.

**70.275.010 Findings—Purpose.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Mercury is an essential component of many energy efficient lights. Improper disposal methods will lead to mercury releases that threaten the environment and harm human health. Spent mercury lighting is a hard to collect waste product that is appropriate for product stewardship;

(2) Convenient and environmentally sound product stewardship programs for mercury-containing lights that include collecting, transporting, and recycling mercury-containing lights will help protect Washington's environment and the health of state residents;

(3) The purpose of chapter 130, Laws of 2010 is to achieve a statewide goal of recycling all end-of-life mercury-containing lights by 2020 through expanded public education, a uniform statewide requirement to recycle all mercury-containing lights, and the development of a comprehensive, safe, and convenient collection system that includes use of residential curbside collection programs, mail-back containers, increased support for household hazardous waste facilities, and a network of additional collection locations;

(4) Product producers must play a significant role in financing no-cost collection and processing programs for mercury-containing lights; and

(5) Providers of premium collection services such as residential curbside and mail-back programs may charge a fee to cover the collection costs for these more convenient forms of collection. [2010 c 130 § 1.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**70.275.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Brand" means a name, symbol, word, or mark that identifies a product, rather than its components, and attributes the product to the owner of the brand as the producer.

(2) "Collection" or "collect" means, except for persons involved in mail-back programs:

(a) The activity of accumulating any amount of mercury-containing lights at a location other than the location where the lights are used by covered entities, and includes curbside collection activities, household hazardous waste facilities, and other registered drop-off locations; and

(b) The activity of transporting mercury-containing lights in the state, where the transporter is not a generator of unwanted mercury-containing lights, to a location for purposes of accumulation.

(3) "Covered entities" means:

(a) A household generator or other person who purchases mercury-containing lights at retail and delivers no more than ten mercury-containing lights to registered collectors for a product stewardship program on any given day; and

(b) A household generator or other person who purchases mercury-containing lights at retail and utilizes a registered residential curbside collection program or a mail-back program for collection of mercury-containing lights and discards no more than fifteen mercury-containing lights into those programs on any given day.

(4) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(5) "Environmental handling charge" or "charge" means the charge approved by the department to be applied to each mercury-containing light to be sold at retail in or into Washington state. The environmental handling charge must cover all administrative and operational costs associated with the product stewardship program, including the fee for the department's administration and enforcement.

(6) "Final disposition" means the point beyond which no further processing takes place and materials from mercury-containing lights have been transformed for direct use as a feedstock in producing new products, or disposed of or managed in permitted facilities.

(7) "Hazardous substances" or "hazardous materials" means those substances or materials identified by rules adopted under chapter 70.105 RCW.

(8) "Mail-back program" means the use of a prepaid postage container with mercury vapor barrier packaging that is used for the collection and recycling of mercury-containing lights from covered entities as part of a product stewardship program and is transported by the United States postal service or a common carrier.

(9) "Mercury-containing lights" means lamps, bulbs, tubes, or other devices that contain mercury and provide functional illumination in homes, businesses, and outdoor stationary fixtures.

(10) "Mercury vapor barrier packaging" means sealable containers that are specifically designed for the storage, handling, and transport of mercury-containing lights in order to prevent the escape of mercury into the environment by volatilization or any other means, and that meet the requirements for transporting by the United States postal service or a common carrier.

(11) "Orphan product" means a mercury-containing light that lacks a producer's brand, or for which the producer is no longer in business and has no successor in interest, or that bears a brand for which the department cannot identify an owner.

(12) "Person" means a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, nonprofit corporation or organization, limited liability company, firm, association, cooperative, or other legal entity located within or outside Washington state.

(13) "Processing" means recovering materials from unwanted products for use as feedstock in new products. Processing must occur at permitted facilities.

(14) "Producer" means a person that:

(a) Has or had legal ownership of the brand, brand name, or cobrand of a mercury-containing light sold in or into Washington state, unless the brand owner is a retailer whose mercury-containing light was supplied by another producer participating in a stewardship program under this chapter;

(b) Imports or has imported mercury-containing lights branded by a producer that meets the requirements of (a) of this subsection and where that producer has no physical presence in the United States;

(c) If (a) and (b) of this subsection do not apply, makes or made a mercury-containing light that is sold or has been sold in or into Washington state; or

(d)(i) Sells or sold at wholesale or retail a mercury-containing light; (ii) does not have legal ownership of the brand; and (iii) elects to fulfill the responsibilities of the producer for that product.

(15) "Product stewardship" means a requirement for a producer of mercury-containing lights to manage and reduce adverse safety, health, and environmental impacts of the product throughout its life cycle, including financing and providing for the collection, transporting, reusing, recycling, processing, and final disposition of their products.

(16) "Product stewardship plan" or "plan" means a detailed plan describing the manner in which a product stewardship program will be implemented.

(17) "Product stewardship program" or "program" means the methods, systems, and services financed in the manner provided for under RCW 70.275.050 and provided

by producers of mercury-containing lights generated by covered entities that addresses product stewardship and includes arranging for the collection, transportation, recycling, processing, and final disposition of unwanted mercury-containing lights, including orphan products.

(18) "Recovery" means the collection and transportation of unwanted mercury-containing lights under this chapter.

(19)(a) "Recycling" means transforming or remanufacturing unwanted products into usable or marketable materials for use other than landfill disposal or incineration.

(b) "Recycling" does not include energy recovery or energy generation by means of combusting unwanted products with or without other waste.

(20) "Reporting period" means the period commencing January 1st and ending December 31st in the same calendar year.

(21) "Residuals" means nonrecyclable materials left over from processing an unwanted product.

(22) "Retailer" means a person who offers mercury-containing lights for sale at retail through any means including, but not limited to, remote offerings such as sales outlets, catalogs, or the internet, but does not include a sale that is a wholesale transaction with a distributor or a retailer.

(23)(a) "Reuse" means a change in ownership of a mercury-containing light or its components, parts, packaging, or shipping materials for use in the same manner and purpose for which it was originally purchased, or for use again, as in shipping materials, by the generator of the shipping materials.

(b) "Reuse" does not include dismantling of products for the purpose of recycling.

(24) "Stakeholder" means a person who may have an interest in or be affected by a product stewardship program.

(25) "Stewardship organization" means an organization designated by a producer or group of producers to act as an agent on behalf of each producer to operate a product stewardship program.

(26) "Unwanted product" means a mercury-containing light no longer wanted by its owner or that has been abandoned, discarded, or is intended to be discarded by its owner. [2014 c 119 § 2. Prior: 2010 c 130 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Finding—2014 c 119:** "The legislature finds that additional flexibility is needed for mercury-containing light manufacturers to comply with the requirements of chapter 70.275 RCW in order to provide a sustainable funding mechanism and provide effective state protections to producer-operated product stewardship programs under chapter 70.275 RCW." [2014 c 119 § 1.]

**70.275.030 Product stewardship program.** (1) Every producer of mercury-containing lights sold in or into Washington state for retail sale in Washington state must participate in a product stewardship program for those products, operated by a stewardship organization and financed in the manner provided by RCW 70.275.050. Every such producer must inform the department of the producer's participation in a product stewardship program by including the producer's name in a plan submitted to the department by a stewardship organization as required by RCW 70.275.040. Producers

must satisfy these participation obligations individually or may do so jointly with other producers.

(2) A stewardship organization operating a product stewardship program must pay all administrative and operational costs associated with its program with revenues received from the environmental handling charge described in RCW 70.275.050. The stewardship organization's administrative and operational costs are not required to include a collection location's cost of receiving, accumulating and storing, and packaging mercury-containing lights. However, a stewardship organization may offer incentives or payments to collectors. The stewardship organization's administrative and operational costs do not include the collection costs associated with curbside and mail-back collection programs. The stewardship organization must arrange for collection service at locations described in subsection (4) of this section, which may include household hazardous waste facilities, charities, retailers, government recycling sites, or other suitable private locations. No such entity is required to provide collection services at their location. For curbside and mail-back programs, a stewardship organization must pay the costs of transporting mercury-containing lights from accumulation points and for processing mercury-containing lights collected by curbside and mail-back programs. For collection locations, including household hazardous waste facilities, charities, retailers, government recycling sites, or other suitable private locations, a stewardship organization must pay the costs of packaging and shipping materials as required under RCW 70.275.070 or must compensate collectors for the costs of those materials, and must pay the costs of transportation and processing of mercury-containing lights collected from the collection locations.

(3) Product stewardship programs shall collect unwanted mercury-containing lights delivered from covered entities for recycling, processing, or final disposition, and not charge a fee when lights are dropped off or delivered into the program.

(4) Product stewardship programs shall provide, at a minimum, no cost services in all cities in the state with populations greater than ten thousand and all counties of the state on an ongoing, year-round basis.

(5) Product stewardship programs shall promote the safe handling and recycling of mercury-containing lights to the public, including producing and offering point-of-sale educational materials to retailers of mercury-containing lights and point-of-return educational materials to collection locations.

(6) All product stewardship programs operated under approved plans must recover their fair share of unwanted covered products as determined by the department.

(7) The department or its designee may inspect, audit, or review audits of processing and disposal facilities used to fulfill the requirements of a product stewardship program.

(8) No product stewardship program required under this chapter may use federal or state prison labor for processing unwanted products.

(9) Product stewardship programs for mercury-containing lights must be fully implemented by January 1, 2015. [2014 c 119 § 3; 2010 c 130 § 3.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Finding—2014 c 119:** See note following RCW 70.275.020.

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**70.275.040 Submission of proposed product stewardship plans—Department to establish rules—Public review—Plan update—Annual report.** (1) On June 1st of the year prior to implementation, each producer must ensure that a stewardship organization submits a proposed product stewardship plan on the producer's behalf to the department for approval. Plans approved by the department must be implemented by January 1st of the following calendar year.

(2) The department shall establish rules for plan content. Plans must include but are not limited to:

(a) All necessary information to inform the department about the plan operator and participating producers and their brands;

(b) The management and organization of the product stewardship program that will oversee the collection, transportation, and processing services;

(c) The identity of collection, transportation, and processing service providers, including a description of the consideration given to existing residential curbside collection infrastructure and mail-back systems as an appropriate collection mechanism;

(d) How the product stewardship program will seek to use businesses within the state, including transportation services, retailers, collection sites and services, existing curbside collection services, existing mail-back services, and processing facilities;

(e) A description of how the public will be informed about the product stewardship program, including how consumers will be provided with information describing collection opportunities for unwanted mercury-containing lights from covered entities and safe handling of mercury-containing lights, waste prevention, and recycling. The description must also include information to make consumers aware that an environmental handling charge has been added to the purchase price of mercury-containing lights sold at retail to fund the mercury-containing light stewardship programs in the state. The environmental handling charge may not be described as a department recycling fee or charge at the point of retail sale;

(f) A description of the financing system required under RCW 70.275.050;

(g) How mercury and other hazardous substances will be handled for collection through final disposition;

(h) A public review and comment process; and

(i) Any other information deemed necessary by the department to ensure an effective mercury light product stewardship program that is in compliance with all applicable laws and rules.

(3) All plans submitted to the department must be made available for public review on the department's web site and at the department's headquarters.

(4) At least two years from the start of the product stewardship program and once every four years thereafter, each stewardship organization operating a product stewardship program must update its product stewardship plan and submit the updated plan to the department for review and approval according to rules adopted by the department.

(5) By June 1, 2016, and each June 1st thereafter, each stewardship organization must submit an annual report to the department describing the results of implementing the stewardship organization's plan for the prior calendar year,

including an independent financial audit. The department may adopt rules for reporting requirements. Financial information included in the annual report must include but is not limited to:

(a) The amount of the environmental handling charge assessed on mercury-containing lights and the revenue generated;

(b) Identification of confidential information pursuant to RCW 43.21A.160 submitted in the annual report; and

(c) The cost of the mercury-containing lights product stewardship program, including line item costs for:

(i) Program operations;

(ii) Communications, including media, printing and fulfillment, public relations, and other education and outreach projects;

(iii) Administration, including administrative personnel costs, travel, compliance and auditing, legal services, banking services, insurance, and other administrative services and supplies, and stewardship organization corporate expenses; and

(iv) Amount of unallocated reserve funds.

(6) Beginning in 2023 every stewardship organization must include in its annual report an analysis of the percent of total sales of lights sold at retail to covered entities in Washington that mercury-containing lights constitute, the estimated number of mercury-containing lights in use by covered entities in the state, and the projected number of unwanted mercury-containing lights to be recycled in future years.

(7) All plans and reports submitted to the department must be made available for public review, excluding sections determined to be confidential pursuant to RCW 43.21A.160, on the department's web site and at the department's headquarters. [2014 c 119 § 4; 2010 c 130 § 4.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Finding—2014 c 119:** See note following RCW 70.275.020.

**70.275.050 Environmental handling charge—Annual fee.** (1) Each stewardship organization must recommend to the department an environmental handling charge to be added to the price of each mercury-containing light sold in or into the state of Washington for sale at retail. The environmental handling charge must be designed to provide revenue necessary and sufficient to cover all administrative and operational costs associated with the stewardship program described in the department-approved product stewardship plan for that organization, including the department's annual fee required by subsection (5) of this section, and a prudent reserve. The stewardship organization must consult with collectors, retailers, recyclers, and each of its participating producers in developing its recommended environmental handling charge. The environmental handling charge may, but is not required to, vary by the type of mercury-containing light. In developing its recommended environmental handling charge, the stewardship organization must take into consideration and report to the department:

(a) The anticipated number of mercury-containing lights that will be sold to covered entities in the state at retail during the relevant period;

(b) The number of unwanted mercury-containing lights delivered from covered entities expected to be recycled during the relevant period;

(c) The operational costs of the stewardship organization as described in RCW 70.275.030(2);

(d) The administrative costs of the stewardship organization including the department's annual fee, described in subsection (5) of this section; and

(e) The cost of other stewardship program elements including public outreach.

(2) The department must review, adjust if necessary, and approve the stewardship organization's recommended environmental handling charge within sixty days of submittal. In making its determination, the department shall review the product stewardship plan and may consult with the producers, the stewardship organization, retailers, collectors, recyclers, and other entities.

(3) No sooner than January 1, 2015:

(a) The mercury-containing light environmental handling charge must be added to the purchase price of all mercury-containing lights sold to Washington retailers for sale at retail, and each Washington retailer shall add the charge to the purchase price of all mercury-containing lights sold at retail in this state, and the producer shall remit the environmental handling charge to the stewardship organization in the manner provided for in the stewardship plan; or

(b) Each Washington retailer must add the mercury-containing light environmental handling charge to the purchase price of all mercury-containing lights sold at retail in this state, where the retailer, by voluntary binding agreement with the producer, arranges to remit the environmental handling charge to the stewardship organization on behalf of the producer in the manner provided for in the stewardship plan. Producers may not require retailers to opt for this provision via contract, marketing practice, or any other means. The stewardship organization must allow retailers to retain a portion of the environmental handling charge as reimbursement for any costs associated with the collection and remittance of the charge.

(4) At any time, a stewardship organization may submit to the department a recommendation for an adjusted environmental handling charge for the department's review, adjustment, if necessary, and approval under subsection (2) of this section to ensure that there is sufficient revenue to fund the cost of the program, current deficits, or projected needed reserves for the next year. The department must review the stewardship organization's recommended environmental handling charge and must adjust or approve the recommended charge within thirty days of submittal if the department determines that the charge is reasonably designed to meet the criteria described in subsection (1) of this section.

(5) Beginning March 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, each stewardship organization shall pay to the department an annual fee equivalent to five thousand dollars for each participating producer to cover the department's administrative and enforcement costs. The amount paid under this section must be deposited into the product stewardship programs account created in RCW 70.275.130. [2014 c 119 § 5; 2010 c 130 § 5.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Finding—2014 c 119:** See note following RCW 70.275.020.

**70.275.060 Collection and management of mercury.**

(1) All mercury-containing lights collected in the state by product stewardship programs or other collection programs must be recycled and any process residuals must be managed in compliance with applicable laws.

(2) Mercury recovered from retorting must be recycled or placed in a properly permitted hazardous waste landfill, or placed in a properly permitted mercury repository. [2010 c 130 § 6.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**70.275.070 Collectors of unwanted mercury-containing lights—Duties.** (1) Except for persons involved in registered mail-back programs, a person who collects unwanted mercury-containing lights in the state, receives funding through a product stewardship program for mercury-containing lights, and who is not a generator of unwanted mercury-containing lights must:

(a) Register with the department as a collector of unwanted mercury-containing lights. Until the department adopts rules for collectors, the collector must provide to the department the legal name of the person or entity owning and operating the collection location, the address and phone number of the collection location, and the name, address, and phone number of the individual responsible for operating the collection location and update any changes in this information within thirty days of the change;

(b) Maintain a spill and release response plan at the collection location that describes the materials, equipment, and procedures that will be used to respond to any mercury release from an unwanted mercury-containing light;

(c) Maintain a worker safety plan at the collection location that describes the handling of the unwanted mercury-containing lights at the collection location and measures that will be taken to protect worker health and safety; and

(d) Use packaging and shipping material that will minimize the release of mercury into the environment and minimize breakage and use mercury vapor barrier packaging if mercury-containing lights are transported by the United States postal service or a common carrier.

(2) A person who operates a curbside collection program or owns or operates a mail-back business participating in a product stewardship program for mercury-containing lights and uses the United States postal service or a common carrier for transport must register with the department and use mercury vapor barrier packaging for curbside collection and mail-back containers. [2010 c 130 § 7.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**70.275.080 Requirement to recycle end-of-life mercury-containing lights. (Recodified as RCW 70.95M.140, effective July 1, 2026, subject to the contingency in 2014 c 119 § 10.)** Effective January 1, 2013:

(1) All persons, residents, government, commercial, industrial, and retail facilities and office buildings must recycle their end-of-life mercury-containing lights.

(2) No mercury-containing lights may knowingly be placed in waste containers for disposal at incinerators, waste to energy facilities, or landfills.

(3) No mercury-containing lights may knowingly be placed in a container for mixed recyclables unless there is a

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separate location or compartment for the mercury-containing lights that complies with local government collection standards or guidelines.

(4) No owner or operator of a solid waste facility may be found in violation of this section if the facility has posted in a conspicuous location a sign stating that mercury-containing lights must be recycled and are not accepted for disposal.

(5) No solid waste collector may be found in violation of this section for mercury-containing lights placed in a disposal container by the generator of the mercury-containing light. [2010 c 130 § 8.]

**70.275.090 Producers must participate in an approved product stewardship program.** As of January 1, 2013, no producer, wholesaler, retailer, electric utility, or other person may distribute, sell, or offer for sale mercury-containing lights for residential use to any person in this state unless the producer is participating in a product stewardship program under a plan approved by the department. [2010 c 130 § 9.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**70.275.100 Written warning—Penalty—Appeal.** (1) The department shall send a written warning and a copy of this chapter and any rules adopted to implement this chapter to a producer who is not participating in a product stewardship program approved by the department and whose mercury-containing lights are being sold in or into the state.

(2) A producer not participating in a product stewardship program approved by the department whose mercury-containing lights continue to be sold in or into the state sixty days after receiving a written warning from the department shall be assessed a penalty of up to one thousand dollars for each violation. A violation is one day of sales.

(3) If any producer fails to implement its approved plan, the department shall assess a penalty of up to five thousand dollars for the first violation along with notification that the producer must implement its plan within thirty days of the violation. After thirty days, any producer failing to implement their approved plan must be assessed a penalty of up to ten thousand dollars for the second and each subsequent violation. A subsequent violation occurs each thirty-day period that the producer fails to implement the approved plan.

(4) The department shall send a written warning to a producer that fails to submit a product stewardship plan, update or change the plan when required, or submit an annual report as required under this chapter. The written warning must include compliance requirements and notification that the requirements must be met within sixty days. If requirements are not met within sixty days, the producer will be assessed a ten thousand dollar penalty per day of noncompliance starting with the first day of notice of noncompliance.

(5) Penalties prescribed under this section must be reduced by fifty percent if the producer complies within thirty days of the second violation notice.

(6) A producer may appeal penalties prescribed under this section to the pollution control hearings board created under chapter 43.21B RCW. [2010 c 130 § 10.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**70.275.110 Department's web site to list producers participating in product stewardship plan—Required participation in a product stewardship plan—Written warning—Penalty—Rules—Exemptions.** (1) The department shall provide on its web site a list of all producers participating in a product stewardship plan that the department has approved and a list of all producers the department has identified as noncompliant with this chapter and any rules adopted to implement this chapter.

(2) Product wholesalers, retailers, distributors, and electric utilities must check the department's web site or producer-provided written verification to determine if producers of products they are selling in or into the state are in compliance with this chapter.

(3) No one may distribute or sell mercury-containing lights in or into the state from producers who are not participating in a product stewardship program or who are not in compliance with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

(4) The department shall serve, or send with delivery confirmation, a written warning explaining the violation to any person known to be distributing or selling mercury-containing lights in or into the state from producers who are not participating in a product stewardship program or who are not in compliance with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

(5) Any person who continues to distribute or sell mercury-containing lights from a producer that is not participating in an approved product stewardship program sixty days after receiving a written warning from the department may be assessed a penalty two times the value of the products sold in violation of this chapter or five hundred dollars, whichever is greater. The penalty must be waived if the person verifies that the person has discontinued distribution or sales of mercury-containing lights within thirty days of the date the penalty is assessed. A retailer may appeal penalties to the pollution control hearings board.

(6) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

(7) A sale or purchase of mercury-containing lights as a casual or isolated sale as defined in RCW 82.04.040 is not subject to the provisions of this section.

(8) A person primarily engaged in the business of reuse and resale of a used mercury-containing light is not subject to the provisions of this section when selling used working mercury-containing lights, for use in the same manner and purpose for which it was originally purchased.

(9) In-state distributors, wholesalers, and retailers in possession of mercury-containing lights on the date that restrictions on the sale of the product become effective may exhaust their existing stock through sales to the public. [2010 c 130 § 11.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**70.275.130 Product stewardship programs account.** The product stewardship programs account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All funds received from producers under this chapter and penalties collected under this chapter must be deposited in the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for administering this chapter. Only the director of the department or the director's designee

may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2010 c 130 § 13.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**70.275.140 Adoption of rules—Report to the legislature—Invitation to entities to comment on issues—Estimate of statewide recycling rate for mercury-containing lights—Mercury vapor barrier packaging.** (1) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement, administer, and enforce this chapter.

(2) The department may adopt rules to establish performance standards for product stewardship programs and may establish administrative penalties for failure to meet the standards.

(3) By December 31, 2010, and annually thereafter until December 31, 2014, the department shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature concerning the status of the product stewardship program and recommendations for changes to the provisions of this chapter.

(4) Beginning October 1, 2014, the department shall annually invite comments from local governments, communities, and citizens to report their satisfaction with services provided by product stewardship programs. This information must be used by the department to determine if the plan operator is meeting convenience requirements and in reviewing proposed updates or changes to product stewardship plans.

(5) Beginning October 1, 2014, the department shall annually invite comments from retailers, consumer groups, electric utilities, the Northwest power and conservation council, and other interested parties regarding the impacts of the requirements of this chapter on the availability or purchase of energy efficient lighting within the state. If the department determines that evidence shows the requirements of this chapter have resulted in negative impacts on the availability or purchase of energy efficient lighting in the state, the department shall report this information by December 31st of each year to the appropriate committees of the legislature with recommendations for changes to the provisions of this chapter.

(6) Beginning October 1, 2014, the department shall annually invite comments from retailers, consumer groups, electric utilities, the Northwest power and conservation council, and other interested parties regarding the availability of energy efficient nonmercury lighting to replace mercury-containing lighting within the state. If the department determines that evidence shows that energy efficient nonmercury-containing lighting is available and achieves similar energy savings as mercury lighting at similar cost, the department shall report this information by December 31st of each year to the appropriate committees of the legislature with recommendations for legislative changes to reduce mercury use in lighting.

(7) Beginning October 1, 2014, the department shall annually estimate the overall statewide recycling rate for mercury-containing lights and calculate that portion of the recycling rate attributable to the product stewardship program.

(8) The department may require submission of independent performance evaluations and report evaluations docu-

menting the effectiveness of mercury vapor barrier packaging in preventing the escape of mercury into the environment. The department may restrict the use of packaging for which adequate documentation has not been provided. Restricted packaging may not be used in any product stewardship program required under this chapter. [2010 c 130 § 14.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**70.275.150 Application of chapter to the Washington utilities and transportation commission.** Nothing in this chapter changes or limits the authority of the Washington utilities and transportation commission to regulate collection of solid waste, including curbside collection of residential recyclable materials, nor does this chapter change or limit the authority of a city or town to provide such service itself or by contract under RCW 81.77.020. [2010 c 130 § 15.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**70.275.160 Application of chapter to entities regulated under chapter 70.105 RCW.** Nothing in this chapter changes the requirements of any entity regulated under chapter 70.105 RCW to comply with the requirements under that chapter. [2010 c 130 § 16.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**70.275.170 Immunity from antitrust liability.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature that a producer, group of producers, stewardship organization preparing, submitting, and implementing a mercury-containing light product stewardship program pursuant to this chapter, as well as participating entities in the distribution chain, including retailers and distributors, are granted immunity, individually and jointly, from federal and state antitrust liability that might otherwise apply to the activities reasonably necessary for implementation and compliance with this chapter. It is further the intent of the legislature that the activities of the producer, group of producers, stewardship organization, and entities in the distribution chain, including retailers and distributors, in implementing and complying with the provisions of this chapter may not be considered to be in restraint of trade, a conspiracy, or combination thereof, or any other unlawful activity in violation of any provisions of federal or state antitrust laws.

(2) The department shall actively supervise the conduct of the stewardship organization, the producers of mercury-containing lights, and entities in the distribution chain in determination and implementation of the environmental handling charge authorized by this chapter. [2014 c 119 § 6.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Finding—2014 c 119:** See note following RCW 70.275.020.

**70.275.900 Chapter liberally construed.** This chapter must be liberally construed to carry out its purposes and objectives. [2010 c 130 § 17.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**70.275.901 Severability—2010 c 130.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [2010 c 130 § 21.]

(2016 Ed.)

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

## Chapter 70.280 RCW BISPHENOL A—RESTRICTIONS ON SALE

### Sections

70.280.010	Definitions.
70.280.020	Prohibiting the sale or distribution of certain products containing bisphenol A.
70.280.030	Notification—Recall of products.
70.280.040	Penalties.
70.280.050	Expenses to cover cost of administering chapter.
70.280.060	Rules.

**70.280.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(2) "Metal can" means a single walled container that is manufactured from metal substrate designed to hold or pack food or beverages and sealed by can ends manufactured from metal substrate. The metal substrate for the can and the can ends must be equal to or thinner than 0.0149 inch.

(3) "Sports bottle" means a resealable, reusable container, sixty-four ounces or less in size, that is designed or intended primarily to be filled with a liquid or beverage for consumption from the container, and is sold or distributed at retail without containing any liquid or beverage. [2010 c 140 § 1.]

**70.280.020 Prohibiting the sale or distribution of certain products containing bisphenol A.** (1) Beginning July 1, 2011, no manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this state, any bottle, cup, or other container, except a metal can, that contains bisphenol A if that container is designed or intended to be filled with any liquid, food, or beverage primarily for consumption from that container by children three years of age or younger and is sold or distributed at retail without containing any liquid, food, or beverage.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2012, no manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this state, sports bottles that contain bisphenol A. [2010 c 140 § 2.]

**70.280.030 Notification—Recall of products.** (1) A manufacturer of products that are restricted under this chapter must notify persons that sell the manufacturer's products in this state about the provisions of this chapter no less than ninety days prior to the effective date of the restrictions.

(2) A manufacturer that produces, sells, or distributes a product prohibited from manufacture, sale, or distribution in this state under this chapter shall recall the product and reimburse the retailer or any other purchaser for the product. [2010 c 140 § 3.]

**70.280.040 Penalties.** (1) A manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer that manufactures [manufactures], knowingly sells, or distributes products in violation of this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars for each violation in the case of a first offense. Manufacturers, wholesalers, or retailers who are repeat violators are sub-

ject to a civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each repeat offense. Penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state toxics control account created in RCW 70.105D.070.

(2) Retailers who unknowingly sell products that are restricted from sale under this chapter are not subject to the civil penalties under this chapter. [2010 c 140 § 4.]

**70.280.050 Expenses to cover cost of administering chapter.** Expenses to cover the cost of administering this chapter shall be paid from the [state] toxics control account under RCW 70.105D.070. [2010 c 140 § 5.]

**70.280.060 Rules.** The department may adopt rules as necessary for the purpose of implementing, administering, and enforcing this chapter. [2010 c 140 § 6.]

### Chapter 70.285 RCW BRAKE FRICTION MATERIAL

#### Sections

70.285.010	Findings.
70.285.020	Definitions.
70.285.030	Prohibition on the sale of certain brake friction material—Exemptions.
70.285.040	Brake friction material advisory committee—Members—Duties.
70.285.050	Finding that alternative brake friction material is available—Report—Rules.
70.285.060	Application for exemption from chapter.
70.285.070	Manufacturers of brake friction material must provide certain data to the department—Department's duties.
70.285.080	Compliance with chapter—Proof of compliance.
70.285.090	Enforcement of chapter—Violations—Penalties.
70.285.100	Adoption of rules.

**70.285.010 Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Brake friction material is an essential component of motor vehicle brakes and is critically important to transportation safety and public safety in general;

(2) Debris from brake friction material containing copper and its compounds is generated and released to the environment during normal operation of motor vehicle brakes;

(3) Thousands of pounds of copper and other substances released from brake friction material enter Washington state's streams, rivers, and marine environment every year; and

(4) Copper is toxic to many aquatic organisms, including salmon. [2010 c 147 § 1.]

**70.285.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Accredited laboratory" means a laboratory that is:

(a) Qualified and equipped for testing of products, materials, equipment, and installations in accordance with national or international standards; and

(b) Accredited by a third-party organization approved by the department to accredit laboratories for purposes of this chapter.

(2) "Alternative brake friction material" means brake friction material that:

(a) Does not contain:

(i) More than 0.5 percent copper or its compounds by weight;

(ii) The constituents identified in RCW 70.285.030 at or above the concentrations specified; and

(iii) Other materials determined by the department to be more harmful to human health or the environment than existing brake friction material;

(b) Enables motor vehicle brakes to meet applicable federal safety standards, or if no federal safety standard exists, a widely accepted industry standard;

(c) Is available at a cost and quantity that does not cause significant financial hardship across the majority of brake friction material and vehicle manufacturing industries; and

(d) Is available to enable brake friction material and vehicle manufacturers to produce viable products meeting consumer expectations regarding braking noise, shuddering, and durability.

(3) "Brake friction material" means that part of a motor vehicle brake designed to retard or stop the movement of a motor vehicle through friction against a rotor made of more durable material.

(4) "Committee" means the brake friction material advisory committee.

(5) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(6)(a) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 46.04.320 that are subject to registration requirements under \*RCW 46.16A.030.

(b) "Motor vehicle" does not include:

(i) Motorcycles as defined in RCW 46.04.330;

(ii) Motor vehicles employing internal closed oil immersed motor vehicle brakes or similar brake systems that are fully contained and emit no debris or fluid under normal operating conditions;

(iii) Military combat vehicles;

(iv) Race cars, dual-sport vehicles, or track day vehicles, whose primary use is for off-road purposes and are permitted under RCW 46.16A.320; or

(v) Collector vehicles, as defined in RCW 46.04.126.

(7)(a) "Motor vehicle brake" means an energy conversion mechanism used to retard or stop the movement of a motor vehicle.

(b) "Motor vehicle brake" does not include brakes designed primarily to hold motor vehicles stationary and not for use while motor vehicles are in motion.

(8) "Original equipment service" means brake friction material provided as service parts originally designed for and using the same brake friction material formulation sold with a new motor vehicle.

(9) "Small volume motor vehicle manufacturer" means a manufacturer of motor vehicles with Washington annual sales of less than one thousand new passenger cars, light-duty trucks, medium-duty vehicles, heavy-duty vehicles, and heavy-duty engines based on the average number of vehicles sold for the three previous consecutive model years. [2011 c 171 § 111; 2010 c 147 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Although RCW 46.16.010 was recodified as RCW 46.16A.030 pursuant to 2010 c 161 § 1215, the list of vehicles exempted from registration requirements, formerly under RCW 46.16.010, are codified under RCW 46.16A.080.

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**70.285.030 Prohibition on the sale of certain brake friction material—Exemptions.** (1) Beginning January 1, 2014, no manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or distributor may sell or offer for sale brake friction material in Washington state containing any of the following constituents in an amount exceeding the specified concentrations:

- (a) Asbestiform fibers, 0.1 percent by weight.
- (b) Cadmium and its compounds, 0.01 percent by weight.
- (c) Chromium(VI)-salts, 0.1 percent by weight.
- (d) Lead and its compounds, 0.1 percent by weight.
- (e) Mercury and its compounds, 0.1 percent by weight.

(2) Beginning January 1, 2021, no manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or distributor may sell or offer for sale brake friction material in Washington state containing more than five percent copper and its compounds by weight.

(3) Brake friction material manufactured prior to 2015 is exempt from subsection (1) of this section for the purposes of clearing inventory. This exemption expires January 1, 2025.

(4) Brake friction material manufactured prior to 2021 is exempt from subsection (2) of this section for the purposes of clearing inventory. This exemption expires January 1, 2031.

(5) Brake friction material manufactured as part of an original equipment service contract for vehicles manufactured prior to January 1, 2015, is exempt from subsection (1) of this section.

(6) Brake friction material manufactured as part of an original equipment service contract for vehicles manufactured prior to January 1, 2021, is exempt from subsection (2) of this section. [2010 c 147 § 3.]

**70.285.040 Brake friction material advisory committee—Members—Duties.** (1) By December 1, 2015, the department shall review risk assessments, scientific studies, and other relevant analyses regarding alternative brake friction material and determine whether the material may be available. The department shall consider any new science with regard to the bioavailability and toxicity of copper.

(2) If the department finds that alternative brake friction material may be available, it shall convene a brake friction material advisory committee. The committee shall include, but is not limited to:

- (a) A representative of the department, who will chair the committee;
- (b) The chief of the Washington state patrol, or the chief's designee;
- (c) A representative of manufacturers of brake friction material;
- (d) A representative of manufacturers of motor vehicles;
- (e) A representative of a nongovernmental organization concerned with motor vehicle safety;
- (f) A representative of the national highway traffic safety administration; and
- (g) A representative of a nongovernmental organization concerned with the environment.

(3) If convened pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the committee shall separately assess alternative brake friction material for passenger vehicles, light-duty vehicles, and heavy-duty vehicles. The committee shall make different recommendations to the department as to whether alternative brake friction material is available or unavailable for passen-

ger vehicles, light-duty vehicles, and heavy-duty vehicles. For purposes of this section, "heavy-duty vehicle" means a vehicle used for commercial purposes with a gross vehicle weight rating above twenty-six thousand pounds. The committee shall also consider appropriate exemptions including original equipment service and brake friction material manufactured prior to the dates specified in RCW 70.285.050. The department shall consider the committee's recommendations and make a finding as to whether alternative brake friction material is available or unavailable.

(4) If, pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, the department finds that alternative brake friction material:

(a) Is available, it shall comply with RCW 70.285.050;

(b) Is not available, it shall periodically evaluate the finding and, if it determines that alternative brake friction material may be available, comply with subsections (2) and (3) of this section. If the department finds that alternative brake friction material is available, it shall comply with RCW 70.285.050. [2010 c 147 § 4.]

**70.285.050 Finding that alternative brake friction material is available—Report—Rules.** If, pursuant to RCW 70.285.040, the department finds that alternative brake friction material is available:

(1)(a) By December 31st of the year in which the finding is made, the department shall publish the information required by RCW 70.285.040 in the Washington State Register and present it in a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature; and

(b) The report must include recommendations for exemptions on original equipment service and brake friction material manufactured prior to dates specified in this section and may include recommendations for other exemptions.

(2) Beginning eight years after the report in subsection (1) of this section is published in the Washington State Register, no manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or distributor may sell or offer for sale brake friction material in Washington state containing more than 0.5 percent copper and its compounds by weight, as specified in the report.

(3) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. [2010 c 147 § 5.]

**70.285.060 Application for exemption from chapter.**

Any motor vehicle manufacturer or brake friction material manufacturer may apply to the department for an exemption from this chapter for brake friction material intended for a specific motor vehicle model or class of motor vehicles based on special needs or characteristics of the motor vehicles for which the brake friction material is intended. Exemptions may only be issued for small volume motor vehicle manufacturers, specific motor vehicle models, or special classes of vehicles, such as fire trucks, police cars, and heavy or wide-load equipment hauling, provided the manufacturer can demonstrate that complying with the requirements of this chapter is not feasible, does not allow compliance with safety standards, or causes significant financial hardship. Exemptions are valid for no less than one year and may be renewed automatically as needed or the exemption may be permanent for as long as the vehicle is used in the manner described in the application. [2010 c 147 § 6.]

**70.285.070 Manufacturers of brake friction material must provide certain data to the department—Department's duties.** (1) By January 1, 2013, and at least every three years thereafter, manufacturers of brake friction material sold or offered for sale in Washington state shall provide data to the department adequate to enable the department to determine concentrations of antimony, copper, nickel, and zinc and their compounds in brake friction material sold or offered for sale in Washington state.

(2) Using data provided pursuant to subsection (1) of this section and other data as needed, and in consultation with the brake friction material manufacturing industry, the department must:

(a) By July 1, 2013, establish baseline concentration levels for constituents identified in subsection (1) of this section in brake friction material; and

(b) Track progress toward reducing the use of copper and its compounds and ensure that concentration levels of antimony, nickel, or zinc and their compounds do not increase by more than fifty percent above baseline concentration levels.

(3) If concentration levels of antimony, nickel, or zinc and their compounds in brake friction material increase by more than fifty percent above baseline concentration levels, the department shall review scientific studies to determine the potential impact of the constituent on human health and the environment. If scientific studies demonstrate the need for controlling the use of the constituent in brake friction material, the department may consider recommending limits on concentration levels of the constituent in the material.

(4) Confidential business information otherwise protected under RCW 43.21A.160 or chapter 42.56 RCW is exempt from public disclosure. [2010 c 147 § 7.]

**70.285.080 Compliance with chapter—Proof of compliance.** (1) Manufacturers of brake friction material offered for sale in Washington state must certify compliance with the requirements of this chapter and mark proof of certification on the brake friction material in accordance with criteria developed under this section.

(2) By December 1, 2012, the department must, after consulting with interested parties, develop compliance criteria to meet the requirements of this chapter. Compliance criteria includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Self-certification of compliance by brake friction material manufacturers using accredited laboratories; and

(b) Marked proof of certification, including manufacture date, on brake friction material and product packaging. Marked proof of certification must appear by January 1, 2015. Brake friction material manufactured or packaged prior to January 1, 2015, is exempt from this subsection (2)(b).

(3) Beginning January 1, 2021, manufacturers of new motor vehicles offered for sale in Washington state must ensure that motor vehicles are equipped with brake friction material certified to be compliant with the requirements of this chapter. [2010 c 147 § 8.]

**70.285.090 Enforcement of chapter—Violations—Penalties.** (1) The department shall enforce this chapter. The department may periodically purchase and test brake friction material sold or offered for sale in Washington state to verify that the material complies with this chapter.

(2) Enforcement of this chapter by the department must rely on notification and information exchange between the department and manufacturers, distributors, and retailers. The department shall issue one warning letter by certified mail to a manufacturer, distributor, or retailer that sells or offers to sell brake friction material in violation of this chapter, and offer information or other appropriate assistance regarding compliance with this chapter. Once a warning letter has been issued to a distributor or retailer for violations under subsections (3) and (5) of this section, the department need not provide warning letters for subsequent violations by that distributor or retailer. For the purposes of subsection (6) of this section, a warning letter serves as notice of the violation. If compliance is not achieved, the department may assess penalties under this section.

(3) A brake friction material distributor or retailer that violates this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation. Brake friction material distributors or retailers that sell brake friction material that is packaged consistent with RCW 70.285.080(2)(b) are not in violation of this chapter. However, if the department conclusively proves that the brake friction material distributor or retailer was aware that the brake friction material being sold violates RCW 70.285.030 or 70.285.050, the brake friction material distributor or retailer is subject to civil penalties according to this section.

(4) A brake friction material manufacturer that knowingly violates this chapter shall recall the brake friction material and reimburse the brake friction distributor, retailer, or any other purchaser for the material and any applicable shipping and handling charges for returning the material. A brake friction material manufacturer that violates this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation.

(5) A motor vehicle distributor or retailer that violates this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation. A motor vehicle distributor or retailer is not in violation of this chapter for selling a vehicle that was previously sold at retail and that contains brake friction material failing to meet the requirements of this chapter. However, if the department conclusively proves that the motor vehicle distributor or retailer installed brake friction material that violates RCW 70.285.030, 70.285.050, or 70.285.080(2)(b) on the vehicle being sold and was aware that the brake friction material violates RCW 70.285.030, 70.285.050, or 70.285.080(2)(b), the motor vehicle distributor or retailer is subject to civil penalties under this section.

(6) A motor vehicle manufacturer that violates this chapter must notify the registered owner of the vehicle within six months of knowledge of the violation and must replace at no cost to the owner the noncompliant brake friction material with brake friction material that complies with this chapter. A motor vehicle manufacturer that fails to provide the required notification to registered owners of the affected vehicles within six months of knowledge of the violation is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars. A motor vehicle manufacturer that fails to provide the required notification to registered owners of the affected vehicles after twelve months of knowledge of the violation is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars per vehicle. For purposes of this section, "motor vehicle manufacturer"

does not include a vehicle dealer defined under RCW 46.70.011 and required to be licensed as a vehicle dealer under chapter 46.70 RCW.

(7) Before the effective date of the prohibitions in RCW 70.285.030 or 70.285.050, the department shall prepare and distribute information about the prohibitions to manufacturers, distributors, and retailers to the maximum extent practicable.

(8) All penalties collected under this chapter must be deposited in the state toxics control account created in RCW 70.105D.070. [2010 c 147 § 9.]

**70.285.100 Adoption of rules.** The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this chapter. [2010 c 147 § 10.]

### Chapter 70.290 RCW

#### WASHINGTON VACCINE ASSOCIATION

##### Sections

70.290.010	Definitions.
70.290.020	Washington vaccine association—Creation.
70.290.030	Composition of association—Board of directors—Duties.
70.290.040	Estimate of program cost for upcoming year—Assessment collection—Surplus assessments—Start-up funding.
70.290.050	Selection of vaccines to be purchased—Committee.
70.290.060	Additional duties and powers of the association and secretary—Penalty—Rules.
70.290.070	Board shall submit financial report to the secretary.
70.290.075	Third-party administrators—Registration and reporting.
70.290.080	Limitation of liability.
70.290.090	Vote to recommend termination of the association—Disposition of funds.
70.290.100	Physicians and clinics ordering state supplied vaccine—Tracking of vaccine delivered—Documentation.
70.290.110	Judicial invalidation of program's funding—Termination of program.
70.290.900	Effective date—2010 c 174.

**70.290.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Association" means the Washington vaccine association.

(2) "Covered lives" means all persons under the age of nineteen in Washington state who are:

(a) Covered under an individual or group health benefit plan issued or delivered in Washington state or an individual or group health benefit plan that otherwise provides benefits to Washington residents; or

(b) Enrolled in a group health benefit plan administered by a third-party administrator. Persons under the age of nineteen for whom federal funding is used to purchase vaccines or who are enrolled in state purchased health care programs covering low-income children including, but not limited to, apple health for kids under RCW 74.09.470 and the basic health plan under chapter 70.47 RCW are not considered "covered lives" under this chapter.

(3) "Estimated vaccine cost" means the estimated cost to the state over the course of a state fiscal year for the purchase and distribution of vaccines purchased at the federal discount rate by the department of health.

(4) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 48.43.005 and also includes health benefit plans administered by a third-party administrator.

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(5) "Health carrier" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 48.43.005.

(6) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

(7) "State supplied vaccine" means vaccine purchased by the state department of health for covered lives for whom the state is purchasing vaccine using state funds raised via assessments on health carriers and third-party administrators as provided in this chapter.

(8) "Third-party administrator" means any person or entity who, on behalf of a health insurer or health care purchaser, receives or collects charges, contributions, or premiums for, or adjusts or settles claims on or for, residents of Washington state or Washington health care providers and facilities.

(9) "Total nonfederal program cost" means the estimated vaccine cost less the amount of federal revenue available to the state for the purchase and distribution of vaccines.

(10) "Vaccine" means a preparation of killed or attenuated living microorganisms, or fraction thereof, that upon administration stimulates immunity that protects against disease and is approved by the federal food and drug administration as safe and effective and recommended by the advisory committee on immunization practices of the centers for disease control and prevention for administration to children under the age of nineteen years. [2010 c 174 § 1.]

**70.290.020 Washington vaccine association—Creation.** There is created a nonprofit corporation to be known as the Washington vaccine association. The association is formed for the purpose of collecting and remitting adequate funds from health carriers and third-party administrators for the cost of vaccines provided to certain children in Washington state. [2010 c 174 § 2.]

**70.290.030 Composition of association—Board of directors—Duties.** (1) The association is comprised of all health carriers issuing or renewing health benefit plans in Washington state and all third-party administrators conducting business on behalf of residents of Washington state or Washington health care providers and facilities. Third-party administrators are subject to registration under RCW 70.290.075.

(2) The association is a nonprofit corporation under chapter 24.03 RCW and has the powers granted under that chapter.

(3) The board of directors includes the following voting members:

(a) Four members, selected from health carriers or third-party administrators, excluding health maintenance organizations, that have the most fully insured and self-funded covered lives in Washington state. The count of total covered lives includes enrollment in all companies included in their holding company system. Each health carrier or third-party administrator is entitled to no more than a single position on the board to represent all entities under common ownership or control.

(b) One member selected from the health maintenance organization having the most fully insured and self-insured covered lives in Washington state. The count of total lives includes enrollment in all companies included in its holding

company system. Each health maintenance organization is entitled to no more than a single position on the board to represent all entities under common ownership or control.

(c) One member, representing health carriers not otherwise represented on the board under (a) or (b) of this subsection, who is elected from among the health carrier members not designated under (a) or (b) of this subsection.

(d) One member, representing Taft Hartley plans, appointed by the secretary from a list of nominees submitted by the Northwest administrators association.

(e) One member representing Washington state employers offering self-funded health coverage, appointed by the secretary from a list of nominees submitted by the Puget Sound health alliance.

(f) Two physician members appointed by the secretary, including at least one board certified pediatrician.

(g) The secretary, or a designee of the secretary with expertise in childhood immunization purchasing and distribution.

(4) The directors' terms and appointments must be specified in the plan of operation adopted by the association.

(5) The board of directors of the association must:

(a) Prepare and adopt articles of association and bylaws;

(b) Prepare and adopt a plan of operation. The plan of operation must include a dispute mechanism through which a carrier or third-party administrator can challenge an assessment determination by the board under RCW 70.290.040. The board must include a means to bring unresolved disputes to an impartial decision maker as a component of the dispute mechanism;

(c) Submit the plan of operation to the secretary for approval;

(d) Conduct all activities in accordance with the approved plan of operation;

(e) Enter into contracts as necessary or proper to collect and disburse the assessment;

(f) Enter into contracts as necessary or proper to administer the plan of operation;

(g) Sue or be sued, including taking any legal action necessary or proper for the recovery of any assessment for, on behalf of, or against members of the association or other participating person;

(h) Appoint, from among its directors, committees as necessary to provide technical assistance in the operation of the association, including the hiring of independent consultants as necessary;

(i) Obtain such liability and other insurance coverage for the benefit of the association, its directors, officers, employees, and agents as may in the judgment of the board of directors be helpful or necessary for the operation of the association;

(j) On an annual basis, beginning no later than November 1, 2010, and by November 1st of each year thereafter, establish the estimated amount of the assessment;

(k) Notify, in writing, each health carrier and third-party administrator of the health carrier's or third-party administrator's estimated total assessment by November 15th of each year;

(l) Submit a periodic report to the secretary listing those health carriers or third-party administrators that failed to remit their assessments and audit health carrier and third-

party administrator books and records for accuracy of assessment payment submission;

(m) Allow each health carrier or third-party administrator no more than ninety days after the notification required by (k) of this subsection to remit any amounts in arrears or submit a payment plan, subject to approval by the association and initial payment under an approved payment plan;

(n) Deposit annual assessments collected by the association, less the association's administrative costs, with the state treasurer to the credit of the universal vaccine purchase account established in RCW 43.70.720;

(o) Borrow and repay such working capital, reserve, or other funds as, in the judgment of the board of directors, may be helpful or necessary for the operation of the association; and

(p) Perform any other functions as may be necessary or proper to carry out the plan of operation and to affect any or all of the purposes for which the association is organized.

(6) The secretary must convene the initial meeting of the association board of directors. [2013 c 144 § 48; 2010 c 174 § 3.]

**70.290.040 Estimate of program cost for upcoming year—Assessment collection—Surplus assessments—Start-up funding.**

(1) The secretary shall estimate the total nonfederal program cost for the upcoming calendar year by October 1, 2010, and October 1st of each year thereafter. Additionally, the secretary shall subtract any amounts needed to serve children enrolled in state purchased health care programs covering low-income children for whom federal vaccine funding is not available, and report the final amount to the association. In addition, the secretary shall perform such calculation for the period of May 1st through December 31st, 2010, as soon as feasible but in no event later than April 1, 2010. The estimates shall be timely communicated to the association.

(2) The board of directors of the association shall determine the method and timing of assessment collection in consultation with the department of health. The board shall use a formula designed by the board to ensure the total anticipated nonfederal program cost, minus costs for other children served through state purchased health care programs covering low-income children, calculated under subsection (1) of this section, is collected and transmitted to the universal vaccine purchase account created in RCW 43.70.720 in order to ensure adequacy of state funds to order state-supplied vaccine from federal centers for disease control and prevention.

(3) Each licensed health carrier and each third-party administrator on behalf of its clients' health benefit plans must be assessed and is required to timely remit payment for its share of the total amount needed to fund nonfederal program costs calculated by the department of health. Such an assessment includes additional funds as determined necessary by the board to cover the reasonable costs for the association's administration. The board shall determine the assessment methodology, with the intent of ensuring that the nonfederal costs are based on actual usage of vaccine for a health carrier or third-party administrator's covered lives. State and local governments and school districts must pay their portion of vaccine expense for covered lives under this chapter.

(4) The board of the association shall develop a mechanism through which the number and cost of doses of vaccine purchased under this chapter that have been administered to children covered by each health carrier, and each third-party administrator's clients health benefit plans, are attributed to each such health carrier and third-party administrator. Except as otherwise permitted by the board, this mechanism must include at least the following: Date of service; patient name; vaccine received; and health benefit plan eligibility. The data must be collected and maintained in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal health information privacy laws. Beginning November 1, 2011, and each November 1st thereafter, the board shall factor the results of this mechanism for the previous year into the determination of the appropriate assessment amount for each health carrier and third-party administrator for the upcoming year.

(5) For any year in which the total calculated cost to be received from association members through assessments is less than the total nonfederal program cost, the association must pay the difference to the state for deposit into the universal vaccine purchase account established in RCW 43.70.720. The board may assess, and the health carrier and third-party administrators are obligated to pay, their proportionate share of such costs and appropriate reserves as determined by the board.

(6) The aggregate amount to be raised by the association in any year may be reduced by any surpluses remaining from prior years.

(7) In order to generate sufficient start-up funding, the association may accept prepayment from member health carriers and third-party administrators, subject to offset of future amounts otherwise owing or other repayment method as determined by the board. The initial deposit of start-up funding must be deposited into the universal vaccine purchase account on or before April 30, 2010. [2010 c 174 § 4.]

**70.290.050 Selection of vaccines to be purchased—Committee.** (1) The board of the association shall establish a committee for the purposes of developing recommendations to the board regarding selection of vaccines to be purchased in each upcoming year by the department. The committee must be composed of at least five voting board members, including at least three health carrier or third-party administrator members, one physician, and the secretary or the secretary's designee. The committee must also include a representative of vaccine manufacturers, who is a nonvoting member of the committee. The representative of vaccine manufacturers must be chosen by the secretary from a list of three nominees submitted collectively by vaccine manufacturers on an annual basis.

(2) In selecting vaccines to purchase, the following factors should be strongly considered by the committee: Patient safety and clinical efficacy, public health and purchaser value, compliance with RCW 70.95M.115, patient and provider choice, and stability of vaccine supply. [2010 c 174 § 5.]

**70.290.060 Additional duties and powers of the association and secretary—Penalty—Rules.** In addition to the duties and powers enumerated elsewhere in this chapter:

(1) The association may, pursuant to either vote of its board of directors or request of the secretary, audit compliance with reporting obligations established under the association's plan of operation. Upon failure of any entity that has been audited to reimburse the costs of such audit as certified by vote of the association's board of directors within forty-five days of notice of such vote, the secretary shall assess a civil penalty of one hundred fifty percent of the amount of such costs.

(2) The association may establish an interest charge for late payment of any assessment under this chapter. The secretary shall assess a civil penalty against any health carrier or third-party administrator that fails to pay an assessment within three months of notification under RCW 70.290.030. The civil penalty under this subsection is one hundred fifty percent of such assessment.

(3) The secretary and the association are authorized to file liens and seek judgment to recover amounts in arrears and civil penalties, and recover reasonable collection costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. Civil penalties so levied must be deposited in the universal vaccine purchase account created in RCW 43.70.720.

(4) The secretary may adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW as necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. [2010 c 174 § 6.]

**70.290.070 Board shall submit financial report to the secretary.** The board of directors of the association shall submit to the secretary, no later than one hundred twenty days after the close of the association's fiscal year, a financial report in a form approved by the secretary. [2010 c 174 § 7.]

**70.290.075 Third-party administrators—Registration and reporting.** (1) A third-party administrator must register with the association. Registrants must report a change of legal name, business name, business address, or business telephone number to the association within ten days after the change.

(2) The association must establish data elements and procedures for the registration of third-party administrators necessary to implement this section in its plan of operation. [2013 c 144 § 47.]

**70.290.080 Limitation of liability.** No liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature, shall arise against any member of the board of the association, against an employee or agent of the association, or against any health care provider for any lawful action taken by them in the performance of their duties or required activities under this chapter. [2010 c 174 § 8.]

**70.290.090 Vote to recommend termination of the association—Disposition of funds.** (1) The association board may, on or after June 30, 2015, vote to recommend termination of the association if it finds that the original intent of its formation and operation, which is to ensure more cost-effective purchase and distribution of vaccine than if provided through uncoordinated purchase by health care providers, has not been achieved. The association board shall provide notice of the recommendation to the relevant policy and fiscal committees of the legislature within thirty days of the

vote being taken by the association board. If the legislature has not acted by the last day of the next regular legislative session to reject the board's recommendation, the board may vote to permanently dissolve the association.

(2) In the event of a voluntary or involuntary dissolution of the association, funds remaining in the universal purchase vaccine account created in RCW 43.70.720 that were collected under this chapter must be returned to the member health carrier and third-party administrators in proportion to their previous year's contribution, from any balance remaining following the repayment of any prepayments for start-up funding not previously recouped by such member. [2010 c 174 § 12.]

**70.290.100 Physicians and clinics ordering state supplied vaccine—Tracking of vaccine delivered—Documentation.** Physicians and clinics ordering state supplied vaccine must ensure they have billing mechanisms and practices in place that enable the association to accurately track vaccine delivered to association members' covered lives and must submit documentation in such a form as may be prescribed by the board in consultation with state physician organizations. Physicians and other persons providing childhood immunization are strongly encouraged to use state supplied vaccine whenever possible. Nothing in this chapter prohibits health carriers and third-party administrators from denying claims for vaccine serum costs when the serum or serums providing similar protection are provided or available via state supplied vaccine. [2010 c 174 § 13.]

**70.290.110 Judicial invalidation of program's funding—Termination of program.** If the requirement that any segment of health carriers, third-party administrators, or state or local governmental entities provide funding for the program established in this chapter is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, the board of the association may terminate the program one hundred twenty days following a final judicial determination on the matter. [2010 c 174 § 14.]

**70.290.900 Effective date—2010 c 174.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 23, 2010]. [2010 c 174 § 17.]

### Chapter 70.295 RCW

#### STORM WATER POLLUTION—COAL TAR

##### Sections

70.295.010	Definitions.
70.295.020	Coal tar pavement product—Sale or application prohibited—Notice of corrective action—Authority to adopt ordinance to enforce section.

**70.295.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Coal tar" means a viscous substance obtained by the destructive distillation of coal and containing levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in excess of ten thousand milligrams per kilogram. "Coal tar" includes, but is not limited to, refined coal tar, high temperature coal tar, coal tar pitch, or

any substance identified by chemical abstract number 65996-93-2.

(2) "Coal tar pavement product" means a material that contains coal tar that is intended for use as a pavement sealant.

(3) "Department" means the department of ecology. [2011 c 268 § 1.]

**70.295.020 Coal tar pavement product—Sale or application prohibited—Notice of corrective action—Authority to adopt ordinance to enforce section.** (1) After January 1, 2012, no person may sell at wholesale or retail a coal tar pavement product that is labeled as containing coal tar.

(2) After July 1, 2013, a person may not apply a coal tar pavement product on a driveway or parking area.

(3) The department may issue a notice of corrective action to a person in violation of subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

(4) A city or county may adopt an ordinance providing for enforcement of the requirements of subsection (1) or (2) of this section. A city or county adopting an ordinance has jurisdiction concurrent with the department to enforce this section. [2011 c 268 § 2.]

### Chapter 70.300 RCW RECREATIONAL WATER VESSELS— ANTIFOULING PAINTS

##### Sections

70.300.005	Intent.
70.300.010	Definitions.
70.300.020	Antifouling paint containing copper.
70.300.030	Recreational water vessel hull cleaning—Best practices.
70.300.040	Civil penalty.
70.300.050	Statewide advisory committee—Survey—Report to the legislature.
70.300.060	Rule-making authority.

**70.300.005 Intent.** The legislature intends to phase out the use of copper-based antifouling paints used on recreational water vessels. [2011 c 248 § 1.]

**70.300.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(2) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology.

(3)(a) "Recreational water vessel" means any vessel that is no more than sixty-five feet in length and is: (i) Manufactured or used primarily for pleasure; or (ii) leased, rented, or chartered by a person for the pleasure of that person.

(b) "Recreational water vessel" does not include a vessel that is subject to United States coast guard inspection and that: (i) Is engaged in commercial use; or (ii) carries paying passengers. [2011 c 248 § 2.]

**70.300.020 Antifouling paint containing copper.** (1) Beginning January 1, 2018, no manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or distributor may sell or offer for sale in this state any new recreational water vessel manufactured on or after January 1, 2018, with antifouling paint containing copper.

(2) Beginning January 1, 2020, no antifouling paint that is intended for use on a recreational water vessel and that contains more than 0.5 percent copper may be offered for sale in this state.

(3) Beginning January 1, 2020, no antifouling paint containing more than 0.5 percent copper may be applied to a recreational water vessel in this state. [2011 c 248 § 3.]

**70.300.030 Recreational water vessel hull cleaning—Best practices.** The department, in consultation and cooperation with other state natural resources agencies, must increase educational efforts regarding recreational water vessel hull cleaning to reduce the spread of invasive species. This effort must include a review of best practices that consider the type of antifouling paint used and recommendations regarding appropriate hull cleaning that includes in-water methods. [2011 c 248 § 4.]

**70.300.040 Civil penalty.** (1) The department shall enforce the requirements of this chapter.

(2)(a) A person or entity that violates this chapter is subject to a civil penalty. The department may assess and collect a civil penalty of up to ten thousand dollars per day per violation.

(b) All penalties collected by the department under this chapter must be deposited in the state toxics control account created in RCW 70.105D.070. [2011 c 248 § 5.]

**70.300.050 Statewide advisory committee—Survey—Report to the legislature.** (1) On or after January 1, 2016, the director may establish and maintain a statewide advisory committee to assist the department in implementing the requirements of this chapter.

(2)(a) By January 1, 2017, the department shall survey the manufacturers of antifouling paints sold or offered for sale in this state to determine the types of antifouling paints that are available in this state. The department shall also study how antifouling paints affect marine organisms and water quality. The department shall report its findings to the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, by December 31, 2017.

(b) If the statewide advisory committee authorized under subsection (1) of this section is established by the director, the department may consult with the statewide advisory committee to prepare the report required under (a) of this subsection. [2011 c 248 § 6.]

**70.300.060 Rule-making authority.** The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this chapter. [2011 c 248 § 7.]

## Chapter 70.305 RCW

### ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

#### Sections

70.305.005	Finding—Purpose.
70.305.010	Definitions.
70.305.020	Preventing and mitigating the effects of adverse childhood experiences—Planning group—Report to the legislature—Secretary's authority.

**70.305.005 Finding—Purpose.** The legislature finds that adverse childhood experiences are a powerful common determinant of a child's ability to be successful at school and, as an adult, to be successful at work, to avoid behavioral and chronic physical health conditions, and to build healthy relationships. The purpose of this chapter is to identify the primary causes of adverse childhood experiences in communities and to mobilize broad public and private support to prevent harm to young children and reduce the accumulated harm of adverse experiences throughout childhood. A focused effort is needed to: (1) Identify and promote the use of innovative strategies based on evidence-based and research-based approaches and practices; and (2) align public and private policies and funding with approaches and strategies which have demonstrated effectiveness.

The legislature recognizes that many community public health and safety networks across the state have knowledge and expertise regarding the reduction of adverse childhood experiences and can provide leadership on this initiative in their communities. In addition, a broad range of community coalitions involved with early learning, child abuse prevention, and community mobilization have coalesced in many communities. The adverse childhood experiences initiative should coordinate and assemble the strongest components of these networks and coalitions to effectively respond to the challenge of reducing and preventing adverse childhood experiences while providing flexibility for communities to design responses that are appropriate for their community. [2011 1st sp.s. c 32 § 1.]

**Transition plan—Report to the legislature—2011 1st sp.s. c 32:** "(1) Beginning July 1, 2011, the council for children and families and the department of early learning shall develop a plan for transitioning the work of the council for children and families, including public awareness campaigns, to the department of early learning. The council for children and families and the department of early learning shall participate in the development of the private-public initiative in order to streamline efforts around the prevention of child abuse and neglect and avoid duplication of effort.

(2) The executive director of the council for children and families and the director of the department of early learning shall consult with the planning group convened in section 3 of this act to develop strategies to maximize Washington's leverage and match of federal child abuse and neglect prevention moneys.

(3) No later than January 1, 2012, the council for children and families and the department of early learning shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on its transition plan." [2011 1st sp.s. c 32 § 9.]

**70.305.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Adverse childhood experiences" means the following indicators of severe childhood stressors and family dysfunction that, when experienced in the first eighteen years of life and taken together, are proven by public health research to be powerful determinants of physical, mental, social, and behavioral health across the lifespan: Child physical abuse; child sexual abuse; child emotional abuse; child emotional or physical neglect; alcohol or other substance abuse in the home; mental illness, depression, or suicidal behaviors in the home; incarceration of a family member; witnessing intimate partner violence; and parental divorce or separation. Adverse childhood experiences have been demonstrated to affect the development of the brain and other major body systems.

(2) "Community public health and safety networks" or "networks" means the organizations authorized under RCW 70.190.060.

(3) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(4) "Director" means the director of the department of early learning.

(5) "Evidence-based" has the same meaning as in RCW 43.215.146.

(6) "Research-based" has the same meaning as in RCW 43.215.146.

(7) "Secretary" means the secretary of social and health services. [2011 1st sp.s. c 32 § 2.]

**Transition plan—Report to the legislature—2011 1st sp.s. c 32:** See note following RCW 70.305.005.

**70.305.020 Preventing and mitigating the effects of adverse childhood experiences—Planning group—Report to the legislature—Secretary's authority.** (1)(a) The secretary of the department of social and health services and the director of the department of early learning shall actively participate in the development of a nongovernmental private-public initiative focused on coordinating government and philanthropic organizations' investments in the positive development of children and preventing and mitigating the effects of adverse childhood experiences. The secretary and director shall convene a planning group to work with interested private partners to: (i) Develop a process by which the goals identified in RCW 70.305.005 shall be met; and (ii) develop recommendations for inclusive and diverse governance to advance the adverse childhood experiences initiative.

(b) The secretary and director shall select no more than twelve to fifteen persons as members of the planning group. The members selected must represent a diversity of interests including: Early learning coalitions, community public health and safety networks, organizations that work to prevent and address child abuse and neglect, tribes, representatives of public agency agencies involved with interventions in or prevention of adverse childhood experiences, philanthropic organizations, and organizations focused on community mobilization.

(c) The secretary and director shall cochair the planning group meetings and shall convene the first meeting.

(2) The planning group shall submit a report on its progress and recommendations to the appropriate legislative committees no later than December 15, 2011.

(3) In addition to other powers granted to the secretary, the secretary may:

(a) Enter into contracts on behalf of the department to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

(b) Provide funding to communities or any governance entity that is created as a result of the partnership; and

(c) Accept gifts, grants, or other funds for the purposes of this chapter. [2011 1st sp.s. c 32 § 3.]

**Transition plan—Report to the legislature—2011 1st sp.s. c 32:** See note following RCW 70.305.005.

## Chapter 70.310 RCW LABELING OF BUILDING MATERIALS CONTAINING ASBESTOS

### Sections

70.310.010	Purpose of chapter.
70.310.020	Definitions.
70.310.030	Labeling requirement for asbestos-containing building materials.
70.310.040	Placement of label—Content of label's notice—Tampering with label unlawful.
70.310.050	Enforcement of chapter—Penalties.

**70.310.010 Purpose of chapter.** Asbestos is a known human carcinogen that causes painful, premature deaths due to diseases such as asbestosis, mesothelioma, lung and gastrointestinal cancers, and other diseases and cancers. Activities that can lead to the release of asbestos fibers include installation, use, maintenance, repair, removal, and disposal of asbestos-containing building materials.

Many people are unaware that asbestos-containing building materials are still imported, sold, and used in the United States. Because few regulations exist that require the disclosure of asbestos in building materials, people can unknowingly be exposed to asbestos. Asbestos is generally invisible, odorless, very durable, and highly aerodynamic. Exposure can occur well after it has been disturbed and long distances from where the asbestos release occurred.

The purpose of this chapter is to allow people to make informed decisions regarding whether or not they purchase or use building materials containing asbestos. More specifically, building materials that contain asbestos must be clearly labeled as such by manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors. [2013 c 51 § 1.]

**70.310.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Asbestos" includes the asbestiform varieties of actinolite, amosite (cummingtonite-grunerite), tremolite, chrysotile (serpentine), crocidolite (riebeckite), anthophyllite, and any of these minerals that have been chemically treated or altered. The chemical abstracts service registry number for each is as follows: Asbestos (1332-21-4), actinolite (13768-00-8), amosite (12172-73-5), tremolite (14567-73-8), chrysotile (12001-29-5), crocidolite (12001-28-4), and anthophyllite (17068-78-9).

(2) "Asbestos-containing building material" means any building material to which asbestos is deliberately added in any concentration or that contains more than one percent asbestos by weight or area as determined using the United States environmental protection agency method for the determination of asbestos in building materials, EPA/600/R-93/116, July 1993.

(3) "Building material" includes materials designed for, or used in, construction, renovation, repair, or maintenance of institutional, commercial, public, industrial, or residential buildings and structures. The term does not include automobiles, recreational vehicles, boats, or other mobile means of transportation.

(4) "Consumer" means any person that acquires a building material for direct use or ownership, rather than for resale or use in production and manufacturing.

(5) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(6) "Person" means any individual, firm, public or private corporation, association, partnership, political subdivision, municipality, or government agency.

(7) "Retailer" means any person that sells goods or commodities directly to consumers. [2013 c 51 § 2.]

**70.310.030 Labeling requirement for asbestos-containing building materials.** (1) Effective January 1, 2014, it is unlawful to manufacture, wholesale, or distribute for sale an asbestos-containing building material that is not labeled as required by RCW 70.310.040 or as required under federal law, 40 C.F.R. part 763, subpart I, Sec. 173.171 (1994). The labeling requirement also applies to stock-on-hand, meaning any asbestos-containing building material in their possession or control after December 31, 2013, must be labeled. Retailers that do not manufacture, wholesale, or distribute asbestos-containing building materials are exempt from this chapter.

(2)(a) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to asbestos-containing building materials that have already been installed, applied, or used by the consumer.

(b) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to asbestos-containing building materials used solely for United States military purposes.

(3) Any manufacturer, wholesaler, or distributor may submit a written request for an exemption from the labeling requirements of this chapter, and the department may grant such an exemption if it determines that the labeling requirements are technically infeasible or create an undue economic hardship. Each exemption is in effect for a period not to exceed three years from the date issued and is subject to the terms and conditions prescribed by the department. [2013 c 51 § 3.]

**70.310.040 Placement of label—Content of label's notice—Tampering with label unlawful.** (1) A label must be placed in a prominent location adjacent to the product name or description on the exterior of the wrapping and packaging in which the asbestos-containing building material is placed for storage, shipment, and sale.

(2) A label must also be placed on the exterior surface of the asbestos-containing building material itself unless it is sold as a liquid or paste, is sand or gravel, or an exemption is granted pursuant to RCW 70.310.030(3).

(3) Asbestos-containing building materials must have a legible label that clearly identifies it as containing asbestos. The department may adopt rules regarding the implementation of this chapter. At a minimum, the label must state the following:

**CAUTION!**

This product contains ASBESTOS which is known to cause cancer and lung disease. Avoid creating dust. Intentionally removing or tampering with this label is a violation of state law.

(4) It is unlawful for any person to remove, deface, cover, or otherwise obscure or tamper with a label or sticker that has been applied in compliance with this section, unless the asbestos-containing building material is in the possession of the end user. [2013 c 51 § 4.]

(2016 Ed.)

**70.310.050 Enforcement of chapter—Penalties.** (1)

The provisions of this chapter may be enforced by the department, local air authorities, or their designees.

(2) A person found in violation of this chapter is subject to the penalties provided under RCW 70.94.431. [2013 c 51 § 5.]

**Chapter 70.315 RCW**

**WATER PURVEYORS—FIRE SUPPRESSION  
WATER FACILITIES**

Sections

70.315.010	Findings and declaration of purpose.
70.315.020	Definitions.
70.315.030	Cost allocation and recovery.
70.315.040	Contracts to provide for facilities and services.
70.315.050	Payment by counties.
70.315.060	Liability protection for fire suppression water facilities and services.
70.315.900	Liberal construction.
70.315.901	Powers conferred by chapter are supplemental.
70.315.902	Ratification of prior acts.

**70.315.010 Findings and declaration of purpose.** (1)

The legislature finds that historically governmental and non-governmental water purveyors have played two key public service roles: Providing safe drinking water and providing water for fire protection. This dual function approach is a deeply embedded and state-regulated feature of water system planning, engineering, operation, and maintenance. This dual function enables purveyors to provide these critical public services in a cost-effective way that protects public health and safety, promotes economic development, and supports appropriate land use planning.

(2) The legislature finds that the provision of integrated, dual function water facilities and services benefits all customers of a purveyor, similar to other benefits provided to water system customers in response to regulation regarding safe drinking water such as treatment and water quality monitoring.

(3) The legislature finds that water purveyors plan, construct, acquire, operate, and maintain fire suppression water facilities in response to regulatory requirements, including without limitation the public water system coordination act, RCW 70.116.080, the design of public water systems and water system operations requirements, chapter 246-290 WAC, Parts 3 and 5, the state building code, chapter 19.27 RCW, and the international fire code. The availability of infrastructure and water to fight fires allows for the development and habitability of property, increases property values, and benefits customers and property through lower casualty insurance rates.

(4) The legislature finds that recent Washington supreme court decisions, including *Lane v. City of Seattle*, 164 Wn.2d 875 (2008), and *City of Tacoma v. City of Bonney Lake, et al.*, 173 Wn.2d 584 (2012), have created uncertainty and confusion as to the role, responsibilities, cost allocation, and recovery authority of water purveyors. If left unresolved, the absence of legal clarity will adversely affect the availability and condition of fire suppression infrastructure necessary to protect life and property.

(5) It is the legislature's intent to determine appropriate methods of organizing public services and the authority of

water purveyors with respect to critical public services. The legislature further intends this chapter to clarify the authority of water purveyors to provide fire suppression water facilities and services and to recover the costs for those facilities and services. The legislature also intends to provide liability protections appropriate for water purveyors engaged in this vital public service. [2013 c 127 § 1.]

**70.315.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Fire suppression water facilities" means water supply transmission and distribution facilities, interties, pipes, valves, control systems, lines, storage, pumps, fire hydrants, and other facilities, or any part thereof, used or usable for the delivery of water for fire suppression purposes.

(2) "Fire suppression water services" or "services" means operation and maintenance of fire suppression water facilities and the delivery of water for fire suppression purposes.

(3) "Municipal corporation" means any city, town, county, water-sewer district, port district, public utility district, irrigation district, and any other municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, or political subdivision of the state.

(4) "Purveyor" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW 70.116.030(4). [2013 c 127 § 2.]

**70.315.030 Cost allocation and recovery.** A purveyor may allocate and recover the costs of fire suppression water facilities and services from all customers as costs of complying with state laws and regulations, or from customers based on service to, benefits conferred upon, and burdens and impacts caused by various classes of customers, or both. [2013 c 127 § 3.]

**70.315.040 Contracts to provide for facilities and services.** A city, town, or county may contract with purveyors for the provision of fire suppression water facilities, services, or both. The contract may take the form of a franchise agreement, an interlocal agreement pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW, or an agreement under other contracting authority, and may provide for funding or cost recovery of fire suppression water facilities, services, or both, as the parties may agree. [2013 c 127 § 4.]

**70.315.050 Payment by counties.** A county is not required to pay for fire suppression water facilities or services except: (1) As a customer of a purveyor; (2) in areas where a county is acting as a purveyor; or (3) where a county has agreed to do so consistent with RCW 70.315.040. [2013 c 127 § 5.]

**70.315.060 Liability protection for fire suppression water facilities and services.** (1) A purveyor that is a municipal corporation is not liable for any damages that arise out of a fire event and relate to the operation, maintenance, and provision of fire suppression water facilities and services that are located within or outside its corporate boundaries.

(2) A purveyor that is not a municipal corporation is not liable for any damages that arise out of a fire event and relate

to the operation, maintenance, and provision of fire suppression water facilities and services if the purveyor has a description of fire hydrant maintenance measures. The description of fire hydrant maintenance measures must be kept on file by the water purveyor and be available to the public, and may be included within the purveyor's most recently approved water system plan or small water system management program.

(3) Consistent with RCW 36.55.060, with respect to counties and notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of this section, agreements or franchises may, as the parties mutually agree, include indemnification, hold harmless, or other risk management provisions under which purveyors indemnify and hold harmless cities, towns, and counties against damages arising from fire suppression activities during fire events. Such provisions are unaffected by subsections (1) and (2) of this section. [2013 c 127 § 6.]

**70.315.900 Liberal construction.** This chapter is exempted from the rule of strict construction and must be liberally construed to give full effect to the objectives and purposes for which it was enacted. [2013 c 127 § 7.]

**70.315.901 Powers conferred by chapter are supplemental.** (1) The powers and authority conferred by this chapter are supplemental to powers and authority conferred by other law, and nothing contained in this chapter may be construed as limiting any other powers or authority of any municipal corporation or other entity under applicable law.

(2) As to water companies that are regulated by the utilities and transportation commission under Title 80 RCW, nothing in this chapter is intended to change or limit the authority or jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission. [2013 c 127 § 8.]

**70.315.902 Ratification of prior acts.** To the extent that they provide for or address funding, cost allocation, and recovery of fire suppression water facilities and services, all ordinances, resolutions, and contracts adopted, entered, implemented, or performed prior to July 28, 2013, are hereby validated, ratified, and confirmed. This chapter must not affect or impair any ordinance, resolution, or contract lawfully entered into prior to July 28, 2013. [2013 c 127 § 9.]

## Chapter 70.320 RCW

### SERVICE COORDINATION ORGANIZATIONS— ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

#### Sections

70.320.010	Definitions.
70.320.020	Contract performance measures developed under RCW 70.320.030 based on outcomes.
70.320.030	Adoption of performance measures.
70.320.040	Contract requirements.
70.320.050	Report to the legislature.
70.320.060	Civil actions—Outcomes and performance measures do not establish a standard of care.
70.320.070	Record retention—Requirements.

**70.320.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Authority" means the health care authority.

(2) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(3) "Emerging best practice" or "promising practice" means a program or practice that, based on statistical analyses or a well-established theory of change, shows potential for meeting the evidence-based or research-based criteria, which may include the use of a program that is evidence-based for outcomes other than those listed in this section.

(4) "Evidence-based" means a program or practice that has been tested in heterogeneous or intended populations with multiple randomized, or statistically controlled evaluations, or both; or one large multiple site randomized, or statistically controlled evaluation, or both, where the weight of the evidence from a systemic review demonstrates sustained improvements in at least one outcome. "Evidence-based" also means a program or practice that can be implemented with a set of procedures to allow successful replication in Washington and, when possible, is determined to be cost-beneficial.

(5) "Research-based" means a program or practice that has been tested with a single randomized, or statistically controlled evaluation, or both, demonstrating sustained desirable outcomes; or where the weight of the evidence from a systemic review supports sustained outcomes as described in this subsection but does not meet the full criteria for evidence-based.

(6) "Service coordination organization" or "service contracting entity" means the authority and department, or an entity that may contract with the state to provide, directly or through subcontracts, a comprehensive delivery system of medical, behavioral, long-term care, or social support services, including entities such as behavioral health organizations as defined in RCW 71.24.025, managed care organizations that provide medical services to clients under chapter 74.09 RCW, counties providing chemical dependency services under chapters 74.50 and \*70.96A RCW, and area agencies on aging providing case management services under chapter 74.39A RCW. [2014 c 225 § 73; 2013 c 320 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 70.96A RCW was repealed and/or recodified in its entirety pursuant to 2016 1st sp.s. c 29 §§ 301, effective April 1, 2018, 601, and 701.

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**70.320.020 Contract performance measures developed under RCW 70.320.030 based on outcomes.** (1) The authority and the department shall base contract performance measures developed under RCW 70.320.030 on the following outcomes when contracting with service contracting entities: Improvements in client health status and wellness; increases in client participation in meaningful activities; reductions in client involvement with criminal justice systems; reductions in avoidable costs in hospitals, emergency rooms, crisis services, and jails and prisons; increases in stable housing in the community; improvements in client satisfaction with quality of life; and reductions in population-level health disparities.

(2) The performance measures must demonstrate the manner in which the following principles are achieved within each of the outcomes under subsection (1) of this section:

(a) Maximization of the use of evidence-based practices will be given priority over the use of research-based and

promising practices, and research-based practices will be given priority over the use of promising practices. The agencies will develop strategies to identify programs that are effective with ethnically diverse clients and to consult with tribal governments, experts within ethnically diverse communities and community organizations that serve diverse communities;

(b) The maximization of the client's independence, recovery, and employment;

(c) The maximization of the client's participation in treatment decisions; and

(d) The collaboration between consumer-based support programs in providing services to the client.

(3) In developing performance measures under RCW 70.320.030, the authority and the department shall consider expected outcomes relevant to the general populations that each agency serves. The authority and the department may adapt the outcomes to account for the unique needs and characteristics of discrete subcategories of populations receiving services, including ethnically diverse communities.

(4) The authority and the department shall coordinate the establishment of the expected outcomes and the performance measures between each agency as well as each program to identify expected outcomes and performance measures that are common to the clients enrolled in multiple programs and to eliminate conflicting standards among the agencies and programs.

(5)(a) The authority and the department shall establish timelines and mechanisms for service contracting entities to report data related to performance measures and outcomes, including phased implementation of public reporting of outcome and performance measures in a form that allows for comparison of performance measures and levels of improvement between geographic regions of Washington.

(b) The authority and the department may not release any public reports of client outcomes unless the data have [has] been deidentified and aggregated in such a way that the identity of individual clients cannot be determined through directly identifiable data or the combination of multiple data elements. [2014 c 225 § 107; 2013 c 320 § 2.]

**70.320.030 Adoption of performance measures.** By September 1, 2014:

(1) The authority shall adopt performance measures to determine whether service contracting entities are achieving the outcomes described in RCW 70.320.020 and 41.05.690 for clients enrolled in medical managed care programs operated according to Title XIX or XXI of the federal social security act.

(2) The department shall adopt performance measures to determine whether service contracting entities are achieving the outcomes described in RCW 70.320.020 for clients receiving mental health, long-term care, or chemical dependency services. [2015 c 209 § 1; 2013 c 320 § 3.]

**70.320.040 Contract requirements.** By July 1, 2015, the authority and the department shall require that contracts with service coordination organizations include provisions requiring:

(1) The adoption of the outcomes and performance measures developed under this chapter and RCW 41.05.690 and

mechanisms for reporting data to support each of the outcomes and performance measures; and

(2) That an initial health screen be conducted for new enrollees pursuant to the terms and conditions of the contract. [2015 c 209 § 2; 2013 c 320 § 4.]

**70.320.050 Report to the legislature.** (1) By December 1, 2014, the department and the authority shall report jointly to the legislature on the expected outcomes and the performance measures. The report must identify the performance measures and the expected outcomes established for each program, the relationship between the performance measures and expected improvements in client outcomes, mechanisms for reporting outcomes and measuring performance, and options for applying the performance measures and expected outcomes development process to other health and social service programs.

(2) By December 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the department and the authority shall report to the legislature on the incorporation of the performance measures into contracts with service coordination organizations and progress toward achieving the identified outcomes. The report shall include:

(a) The number of medicaid clients enrolled over the previous year;

(b) The number of enrollees who received a baseline health assessment over the previous year;

(c) An analysis of trends in health improvement for medicaid enrollees in accordance with the measure set established under \*RCW 41.05.065; and

(d) Recommendations for improving the health of medicaid enrollees. [2015 c 209 § 3; 2013 c 320 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to RCW 41.05.065 appears to be erroneous. A reference to RCW 41.05.690 was apparently intended.

**70.320.060 Civil actions—Outcomes and performance measures do not establish a standard of care.** The outcomes and performance measures established pursuant to this chapter do not establish a standard of care in any civil action brought by a recipient of services. The failure of a service coordination organization to meet the outcomes and performance measures established pursuant to this chapter does not create civil liability on the part of the service coordination organization in a claim brought by a recipient of services. [2013 c 320 § 6.]

**70.320.070 Record retention—Requirements.** The authority, the department, and service contracting entities shall establish record retention schedules for maintaining data reported by service contracting entities under RCW 70.320.020. For data elements related to the identity of individual clients, the schedules may not allow the retention of data for longer than required by law unless the authority, the department, or service contracting entities require the data for purposes contemplated by RCW 70.320.020 or to meet other service requirements. Regardless of how long data reported by service contracting entities under RCW 70.320.020 is kept, it must be protected in a way that prevents improper use or disclosure of confidential client information. [2014 c 225 § 109.]

## Chapter 70.325 RCW DIESEL EMISSIONS—AIR POLLUTION REDUCTION

### Sections

70.325.010	Findings—Intent.
70.325.020	Definitions.
70.325.030	Diesel idle emission reduction technologies and infrastructure—Loans.
70.325.040	Diesel idle reduction account.
70.325.050	Adoption of rules.

**70.325.010 Findings—Intent.** The legislature finds that investments in diesel engine idling reduction projects cost-effectively improve public health by reducing harmful diesel emissions. The legislature further finds that these investments also result in long-term savings in fuel and maintenance costs. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to establish a stable, wholly self-sustaining account for the department of ecology to use for investments in diesel idle reduction projects. [2014 c 74 § 1.]

**70.325.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Account" means the diesel idle reduction account created in RCW 70.325.040.

(2) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(3) "Loan recipient" means a state, local, or other governmental entity that owns diesel vehicles or equipment. [2014 c 74 § 2.]

**70.325.030 Diesel idle emission reduction technologies and infrastructure—Loans.** (1) The department shall use the moneys in the account to provide loans with low or no interest to loan recipients for the purpose of reducing exposure to diesel emissions and improving public health by investing in diesel idle emission reduction technologies and infrastructure. The department shall, to the extent practical, integrate communications, outreach, and other aspects of the administration of loans from the account with the administration of existing grant programs to reduce diesel emissions from vehicles and equipment. In selecting loan recipients, the department shall consider anticipated human health, environmental, and greenhouse gas benefits from reduced exposure to harmful air emissions associated with diesel idling.

(2) The department shall make loans in such a manner that the remittances from loan recipients are of equal value over a long-term planning horizon to the disbursements from the fund.

(3) Loan moneys may not be spent on vehicles or equipment that spend less than one-half of their operating time in Washington. Permissible diesel idle reduction expenditures include, but are not limited to:

(a) Electrified parking spaces and truck stops;

(b) Shore connection systems and alternative maritime power;

(c) Shore connection systems for locomotives;

(d) Auxiliary power units and generator sets;

(e) Fuel-operated heaters or direct-fired heaters, including engine fluid preheaters and cab air heaters;

(f) Battery powered systems, including battery powered heating and air conditioning systems;

- (g) Thermal storage systems;
- (h) Automatic engine start-up and shutdown systems;
- (i) Projects to augment or replace diesel engines or power systems with engines or power systems that use liquefied or compressed natural gas; and
- (j) Other operation or maintenance efficiencies that achieve emission reduction benefits for the public. [2014 c 74 § 3.]

**70.325.040 Diesel idle reduction account.** The diesel idle reduction account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from remittances made by loan recipients pursuant to RCW 70.325.030 and any moneys appropriated to the account by law must be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes of this chapter, including the costs of program administration. [2014 c 74 § 4.]

**70.325.050 Adoption of rules.** The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this chapter only after the legislature appropriates moneys to the account created in RCW 70.325.040. [2014 c 74 § 7.]

### Chapter 70.330 RCW

## DIABETES—PLANNING AND REPORTS

### Sections

- 70.330.010 Identification of goals and benchmarks—Agency plans.
- 70.330.020 Reports to governor and legislature.

**70.330.010 Identification of goals and benchmarks—Agency plans.** The health care authority, department of social and health services, and department of health shall collaborate to identify goals and benchmarks while also developing individual agency plans to reduce the incidence of diabetes in Washington, improve diabetes care, and control complications associated with diabetes. [2016 c 56 § 1.]

**70.330.020 Reports to governor and legislature.** The health care authority, department of social and health services, and department of health shall each submit a report to the governor and the legislature by December 31, 2019, and every second year thereafter, on the following:

(1) The financial impact and reach diabetes of all types is having on programs administered by each agency and individuals enrolled in those programs. Items included in this assessment must include the number of lives with diabetes impacted or covered by programs administered by the agency, the number of lives with diabetes and family members impacted by prevention and diabetes control programs implemented by the agency, the financial toll or impact diabetes and its complications places on these programs, and the financial toll or impact diabetes and its complications places on these programs in comparison to other chronic diseases and conditions;

(2) An assessment of the benefits of implemented programs and activities aimed at controlling diabetes and preventing the disease. This assessment must also document the amount and source for any funding directed to the agency for

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programs and activities aimed at reaching those with diabetes;

(3) A description of the level of coordination existing between the agencies on activities, programmatic activities, and messaging on managing, treating, or preventing all forms of diabetes and its complications;

(4) A development or revision of detailed action plans for battling diabetes with a range of actionable items for consideration by the legislature. The plans must identify proposed action steps to reduce the impact of diabetes, prediabetes, and related diabetes complications. The plan must also identify expected outcomes of the action steps proposed in the following biennium while also establishing benchmarks for controlling and preventing relevant forms of diabetes; and

(5) An estimate of costs and resources required to implement the plan identified in subsection (4) of this section. [2016 c 56 § 2.]

### Chapter 70.335 RCW

## BLOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

### Sections

- 70.335.010 Findings—Intent.
- 70.335.020 Definitions.
- 70.335.030 Registration required—Applications for registration—Criteria—Suspension—Expiration—Fees.
- 70.335.040 Public registry—Notification of changes.
- 70.335.050 Enforcement.

**70.335.010 Findings—Intent.** The legislature finds that maintaining public trust and confidence in the safety of the community blood supply is important to the health care system. Patients in Washington needing lifesaving transfusions rightly expect safe blood and blood donors in Washington rightly expect their contributions will be managed with diligent care and compliance with all regulatory standards and expectations so their donation will benefit patients in need. The United States food and drug administration establishes regulations, good manufacturing practices, and guidance that defines the minimum standards for blood establishments and, in cases of repeated violations and noncompliance by licensed blood establishments, may impose measures that include fines, judicial consent decrees, and suspension or revocation of licensure. It is therefore the intent of the legislature that blood-collecting or distributing establishments be registered with the department of health to help ensure public transparency. [2016 c 47 § 1.]

**70.335.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Blood-collecting or distributing establishment" or "establishment" means any organization that collects or distributes blood for allogeneic transfusion in Washington. This chapter does not apply to a hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 or 71.12 RCW unless the hospital collects blood directly from donors for the purpose of allogeneic transfusions. For the purposes of this chapter, "blood-collecting or distributing establishment" or "establishment" does not include organizations that collect source plasma for the production of plasma derivatives by fractionation.

(2) "Change in standing" means that a blood-collecting or distributing establishment is the subject of titled letters, fines, suspensions, or revocations of its United States food and drug administration license, or judicial consent decrees.

(3) "Department" means the Washington state department of health. [2016 c 47 § 2.]

**70.335.030 Registration required—Applications for registration—Criteria—Suspension—Expiration—Fees.**

(1) A blood-collecting or distributing establishment may not collect or distribute blood for transfusion in Washington, unless it is registered by the department.

(2) A blood-collecting or distributing establishment shall submit an application for registration to the department on a form prescribed by the department. The application must, at a minimum, contain the following information:

(a) The name, address, and telephone number of the blood-collecting or distributing establishment;

(b) A copy of the establishment's United States food and drug administration license, unless the applicant is a hospital that meets the criteria in RCW 70.335.020(1);

(c) A list of the establishment's clients in Washington;

(d) Any of the following issued upon, or active against, the establishment in the two years prior to the application:

(i) Titled letters, fines, or license suspensions or revocations issued by the United States food and drug administration; or

(ii) Judicial consent decrees; and

(e) Any other information required by the department.

(3) The department shall register a blood-collecting or distributing establishment if it holds a license issued by the United States food and drug administration, or if the applicant is a hospital that meets the criteria in RCW 70.335.020(1), and submits an application and fees as required by this section.

(4) The department shall deny or revoke the registration of an establishment upon a determination that it no longer holds a license issued by the United States food and drug administration.

(5) The department shall issue a summary suspension of the registration if the blood-collecting or distributing establishment no longer holds a license issued by the United States food and drug administration. The summary suspension remains in effect until proceedings under RCW 43.70.115 have been completed by the department. The issue in the proceedings is limited to whether the blood-collecting or distributing establishment is qualified to hold a registration under this section.

(6) A registration expires annually on the date specified on the registration. The department shall establish the administrative procedures and requirements for registration renewals, including a requirement that the establishment update the information provided under subsection (2) of this section both annually and within fourteen days of a change in standing of the establishment's United States food and drug administration license.

(7) An establishment applying for or renewing a registration under this section shall pay a fee in an amount set by the department in rule. In no case may the fee exceed the amount necessary to defray the costs of administering this chapter.

(8) This section does not apply in the case of individual patient medical need, as determined by a qualified provider. [2016 c 47 § 3.]

**70.335.040 Public registry—Notification of changes.**

(1) The department shall create and maintain an online public registry of all registered blood-collecting or distributing establishments that supply blood products for transfusion in Washington.

(2) The department shall, within fourteen days of receipt, publish in the public registry the information received from each registered blood-collecting or distributing establishment under RCW 70.335.030, including changes in the standing of the establishment's United States food and drug administration license.

(3) The department shall notify all of a blood-collecting or distributing establishment's Washington clients within fourteen days of receiving notice under RCW 70.335.030 that the establishment has experienced a change in standing in its United States food and drug administration license or no longer holds a license issued by the United States food and drug administration. [2016 c 47 § 4.]

**70.335.050 Enforcement.** The department may, in the manner provided by law and upon the advice of the attorney general, who shall represent the department in the proceedings, maintain an action in the name of the state for an injunction or other process against any blood-collecting or distributing establishment to restrain or prevent the operation of the establishment without a registration issued under this chapter. [2016 c 47 § 5.]

**Chapter 70.340 RCW**

**UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REVOLVING LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM**

Sections

70.340.010	Intent.
70.340.020	Definitions.
70.340.030	Program established—Purpose—Maximum amount of loans and grants.
70.340.040	Use of funds—Restrictions.
70.340.050	Program administration—Loan origination fees.
70.340.060	Remedial actions—Release or threatened release of hazardous substance.
70.340.070	Lien for cost of remedial action—Procedure—Notice.
70.340.080	Pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account.
70.340.090	Report on agency activities.
70.340.100	Adoption of rules—Memorandum of agreement—Interpretative guidance.
70.340.110	Civil liability of state.
70.340.120	Applicability of chapter—Authority of the department of ecology.
70.340.130	Pollution liability insurance program trust account—Transfers to revolving account.
70.340.900	Expiration date—Savings clause—Reversion of revolving account funds.

**70.340.010 Intent. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** The legislature intends for the pollution liability insurance agency to establish a revolving loan and grant program to assist owners and operators of petroleum underground storage tank systems to: (1) Remediate past releases; (2) upgrade, replace, or remove petroleum underground storage tank systems to prevent future releases; and (3) install new infrastructure or ret-

rofit existing infrastructure for dispensing renewable or alternative energy. [2016 c 161 § 1.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** "Sections 1 through 13 of this act take effect July 1, 2016." [2016 c 161 § 23.]

**70.340.020 Definitions. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agency" means the Washington state pollution liability insurance agency.

(2) "Local government" means any political subdivision of the state, including a town, city, county, special purpose district, or other municipal corporation.

(3) "Operator" means any person in control of, or having responsibility for, the daily operation of a petroleum underground storage tank system.

(4) "Owner" means any person who owns a petroleum underground storage tank system.

(5) "Petroleum underground storage tank system" means an underground storage tank system regulated under chapter 90.76 RCW or subtitle I of the solid waste disposal act (42 U.S.C. chapter 82, subchapter IX) that is used for storing petroleum.

(6) "Release" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 70.105D.020.

(7) "Remedial action" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 70.105D.020.

(8) "Underground storage tank facility" means the location where one or more underground storage tank systems are installed. A facility encompasses all contiguous real property under common ownership associated with the operation of the underground storage tank system or systems.

(9) "Underground storage tank system" means an underground storage tank, connected underground piping, underground ancillary equipment, and containment system, if any, and includes any aboveground ancillary equipment connected to the underground storage tank or piping, such as dispensers. [2016 c 161 § 2.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

**70.340.030 Program established—Purpose—Maximum amount of loans and grants. (Expires July 1, 2030.)**

(1) The agency shall establish an underground storage tank revolving loan and grant program to provide loans or grants to owners or operators to:

(a) Conduct remedial actions in accordance with chapter 70.105D RCW, including investigations and cleanups of any release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at or affecting an underground storage tank facility, provided that at least one of the releases or threatened releases involves petroleum;

(b) Upgrade, replace, or permanently close a petroleum underground storage tank system in accordance with chapter 90.76 RCW or subtitle I of the solid waste disposal act (42 U.S.C., chapter 82, subchapter IX), as applicable;

(c) Install new infrastructure or retrofit existing infrastructure at an underground storage tank facility for dispensing renewable or alternative energy for motor vehicles, including electric vehicle charging stations, when conducted in conjunction with either (a) or (b) of this subsection; or

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(d) Install and subsequently remove a temporary petroleum aboveground storage tank system in compliance with applicable laws, when conducted in conjunction with either (a) or (b) of this subsection.

(2) The maximum amount that may be loaned or granted under this program to an owner or operator for a single underground storage tank facility is two million dollars. [2016 c 161 § 3.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

**70.340.040 Use of funds—Restrictions. (Expires July 1, 2030.)**

(1) A recipient of a loan or grant may not use these funds to conduct remedial actions of a release or threatened release from a petroleum underground storage tank system requiring financial assurances under chapter 90.76 RCW or subtitle I of the solid waste disposal act (42 U.S.C., chapter 82, subchapter IX) unless the owner or operator:

(a) Agrees to first expend all moneys available under the required financial assurances;

(b) Demonstrates that all moneys available under the required financial assurances have been expended; or

(c) Demonstrates that a claim has been made under the required financial assurances and the claim has been rejected by the provider.

(2) A recipient must use a loan or grant for a project that develops and acquires assets that have a useful life of at least thirteen years. [2016 c 161 § 4.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

**70.340.050 Program administration—Loan origination fees. (Expires July 1, 2030.)**

The agency shall partner and enter into a memorandum of agreement with the department of health to implement the revolving loan and grant program.

(1) The agency shall select loan and grant recipients and manage the work conducted under RCW 70.340.030(1).

(2) The department of health shall administer the loans and grants to qualified recipients as determined by the agency.

(3) The department of health may collect, from persons requesting financial assistance, loan origination fees to cover costs incurred by the department of health in operating the financial assistance program.

(4) The agency may use the moneys in the pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account to fund the department of health's operating costs for the program. [2016 c 161 § 5.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

**70.340.060 Remedial actions—Release or threatened release of hazardous substance. (Expires July 1, 2030.)**

(1) The agency may conduct remedial actions and investigate or clean up a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at or affecting an underground storage tank facility if the following conditions are met:

(a) The owner or operator received a loan or grant for the underground storage tank facility under the revolving program created in this chapter for two million dollars or less;

(b) The remedial actions are conducted in accordance with the rules adopted under chapter 70.105D RCW;

(c) The owner of real property subject to the remedial actions provides consent for the agency to:

(i) Recover the remedial action costs from the owner; and

(ii) Enter upon the real property to conduct remedial actions limited to those authorized by the owner or operator. Remedial actions must be focused on maintaining the economic vitality of the property. The agency or the agency's authorized representatives shall give reasonable notice before entering property unless an emergency prevents the notice; and

(d) The owner of the underground storage tank facility consents to the agency filing a lien on the underground storage tank facility to recover the agency's remedial action costs.

(2) The agency may conduct the remedial actions authorized under subsection (1) of this section using the moneys in the pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account, as required under RCW 70.340.050. However, for any remedial action where the owner or operator has received a loan or grant, the agency may not expend more than the difference between the amount loaned or granted and two million dollars.

(3) The agency may request informal advice and assistance and written opinions on the sufficiency of remedial actions from the department of ecology under RCW 70.105D.030(1)(i). [2016 c 161 § 6.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

**70.340.070 Lien for cost of remedial action—Procedure—Notice. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** (1) The agency may file a lien against the underground storage tank facility if the agency incurs remedial action costs and those costs are unrecovered by the agency.

(a) A lien filed under this section may not exceed the remedial action costs incurred by the agency.

(b) A lien filed under this section has priority in rank over all other privileges, liens, monetary encumbrances, or other security interests affecting the real property, whenever incurred, filed, or recorded, except for local and special district property tax assessments.

(2) Before filing a lien under this section, the agency shall give notice of its intent to file a lien to the owner of the underground storage tank facility on which the lien is to be filed, mortgagees, and lien holders of record.

(a) The agency shall send the notice by certified mail to the underground storage tank facility owner and mortgagees of record at the addresses listed in the recorded documents. If the underground storage tank facility owner is unknown or if a mailed notice is returned as undeliverable, the agency shall provide notice by posting a legal notice in the newspaper of largest circulation in the county in which the site is located. The notice must provide:

(i) A statement of the purpose of the lien;

(ii) A brief description of the real property to be affected by the lien; and

(iii) A statement of the remedial action costs incurred by the agency.

(b) If the agency has reason to believe that exigent circumstances require the filing of a lien prior to giving notice under this subsection, the agency may file the lien immediately. Exigent circumstances include, but are not limited to, an imminent bankruptcy filing by the underground storage tank facility owner or the imminent transfer or sale of the real property subject to lien by the underground storage tank facility owner, or both.

(3) A lien filed under this section is effective when a statement of lien is filed with the county auditor in the county where the underground storage tank facility is located. The statement of lien must include a description of the real property subject to lien and the amount of the lien.

(4) Unless the agency determines it is in the public interest to remove the lien, the lien continues until the liabilities for the remedial action costs have been satisfied through sale of the real property, foreclosure, or other means agreed to by the agency. Any action for foreclosure of the lien must be brought by the attorney general in a civil action in the court having jurisdiction and in the manner prescribed for judicial foreclosure of a mortgage under chapter 61.24 RCW.

(5) The agency may not file a lien under this section against an underground storage tank facility owned by a local government. [2016 c 161 § 7.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

**70.340.080 Pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** (1) The pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from sources identified under subsection (2) of this section must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for items identified under subsection (3) of this section.

(2) The following receipts must be deposited into the account:

(a) All moneys appropriated by the legislature to pay for the agency's operating costs to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

(b) All moneys appropriated by the legislature to provide loans and grants under RCW 70.340.030;

(c) Any repayment of loans provided under RCW 70.340.030;

(d) All moneys appropriated by the legislature to conduct remedial actions under RCW 70.340.060;

(e) Any recovery of the costs of remedial actions conducted under RCW 70.340.060;

(f) Any grants provided by the federal government to the agency to achieve the purposes of this chapter; and

(g) Any other deposits made from a public or private entity to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

(3) Moneys in the account may be used by the agency only to carry out the purposes of this chapter including, but not limited to:

(a) The costs of the agency and department of health to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

(b) Loans and grants under RCW 70.340.030;

(c) Remedial actions under RCW 70.340.060; and

(d) State match requirements for grants provided to the agency by the federal government. [2016 c 161 § 8.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

**70.340.090 Report on agency activities. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** By September 1st of each even-numbered year, the agency must provide the office of financial management and the appropriate legislative committees a report on the agency's activities supported by expenditures from the pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account. The report must at a minimum include:

(1) The amount of money the legislature appropriated from the pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account under RCW 70.340.080 during the last biennium;

(2) For the previous biennium, the total number of loans and grants, the amounts loaned or granted, sites cleaned up, petroleum underground storage tank systems upgraded, replaced, or permanently closed, and jobs preserved;

(3) For each loan and grant awarded during the previous biennium, the name of the recipient, the location of the underground storage tank facility, a description of the project and its status, the amount loaned, and the amount repaid;

(4) For each underground storage tank facility where the agency conducted remedial actions under RCW 70.340.060 during the previous biennium, the name and location of the site, the amount of money used to conduct the remedial actions, the status of remedial actions, whether liens were filed against the underground storage tank facility under RCW 70.340.070, and the amount of money recovered; and

(5) The operating costs of the agency and department of health to carry out the purposes of this chapter during the last biennium. [2016 c 161 § 9.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

**70.340.100 Adoption of rules—Memorandum of agreement—Interpretative guidance. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** The agency must adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. To accelerate remedial actions, the agency shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the department of health under RCW 70.340.050 within one year of July 1, 2016. To ensure the adoption of rules will not delay the award of a loan or grant, the agency may implement the underground storage tank revolving program through interpretative guidance pending adoption of rules. [2016 c 161 § 10.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

**70.340.110 Civil liability of state. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** Officers, employees, and authorized representatives of the agency and the department of health, and the state of Washington are immune from civil liability and no cause of action of any nature may arise from any act or omission in exercising powers and duties under this chapter. [2016 c 161 § 11.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

(2016 Ed.)

**70.340.120 Applicability of chapter—Authority of the department of ecology. (Expires July 1, 2030.)** Nothing in this chapter limits the authority of the department of ecology under chapter 70.105D RCW. [2016 c 161 § 12.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

**70.340.130 Pollution liability insurance program trust account—Transfers to revolving account.** (1) On July 1, 2016, if the cash balance amount in the pollution liability insurance program trust account exceeds seven million five hundred thousand dollars after excluding the reserves under RCW 70.148.020(2), the state treasurer shall transfer the amount exceeding seven million five hundred thousand dollars, up to a transfer of ten million dollars, from the pollution liability insurance program trust account into the pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account.

(2) On July 1, 2017, and every two years thereafter at the start of each successive biennium, if the cash balance amount in the pollution liability insurance program trust account exceeds seven million five hundred thousand dollars, the state treasurer shall transfer the amount exceeding seven million five hundred thousand dollars after excluding the reserves under RCW 70.148.020(2), up to a transfer of twenty million dollars, from the pollution liability insurance program trust account into the pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account. If twenty million dollars is not available to be transferred at the beginning of the first fiscal year of the biennium, on July 1st of the subsequent fiscal year, if the cash balance amount in the pollution liability insurance program trust account exceeds seven million five hundred thousand dollars after excluding the reserves under RCW 70.148.020(2), the state treasurer shall transfer the amount exceeding seven million five hundred thousand dollars from the pollution liability insurance program trust account into the pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account. The total amount transferred in a biennium from the pollution liability insurance program trust account into the pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account may not exceed twenty million dollars. [2016 c 161 § 21.]

**70.340.900 Expiration date—Savings clause—Reversion of revolving account funds.** (1) RCW 70.340.010 through 70.340.120 expire July 1, 2030.

(2) The expiration of RCW 70.340.010 through 70.340.120 does not terminate any of the following rights, obligations, authorities or any provision necessary to carry out:

(a) The repayment of loans due and payable to the lender or the state of Washington;

(b) The resolution of any cost recovery action or the initiation of any action or other collection process to recover defaulted loan moneys due to the state of Washington; and

(c) The resolution of any action or the initiation of any action to recover the agency's remedial actions costs under RCW 70.340.070.

(3) On July 1, 2030, the pollution liability insurance agency underground storage tank revolving account and all

moneys due that account revert to, and accrue to the benefit of, the department of health. [2016 c 161 § 13.]

**Effective date—2016 c 161 §§ 1-13:** See note following RCW 70.340.010.

### Chapter 70.345 RCW VAPOR PRODUCTS

#### Sections

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**70.345.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Board" means the Washington state liquor and cannabis board.

(2) "Business" means any trade, occupation, activity, or enterprise engaged in for the purpose of selling or distributing vapor products in this state.

(3) "Child care facility" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 70.140.020.

(4) "Closed system nicotine container" means a sealed, prefilled, and disposable container of nicotine in a solution or other form in which such container is inserted directly into an electronic cigarette, electronic nicotine delivery system, or other similar product, if the nicotine in the container is inaccessible through customary or reasonably foreseeable handling or use, including reasonably foreseeable ingestion or other contact by children.

(5) "Delivery sale" means any sale of a vapor product to a purchaser in this state where either:

(a) The purchaser submits the order for such sale by means of a telephonic or other method of voice transmission, the mails or any other delivery service, or the internet or other online service; or

(b) The vapor product is delivered by use of the mails or of a delivery service. The foregoing sales of vapor products constitute a delivery sale regardless of whether the seller is located within or without this state. "Delivery sale" does not

include a sale of any vapor product not for personal consumption to a retailer.

(6) "Delivery seller" means a person who makes delivery sales.

(7) "Distributor" means any person who:

(a) Sells vapor products to persons other than ultimate consumers; or

(b) Is engaged in the business of selling vapor products in this state and who brings, or causes to be brought, into this state from outside of the state any vapor products for sale.

(8) "Liquid nicotine container" means a package from which nicotine in a solution or other form is accessible through normal and foreseeable use by a consumer and that is used to hold soluble nicotine in any concentration. "Liquid nicotine container" does not include closed system nicotine containers.

(9) "Manufacturer" means a person who manufactures and sells vapor products.

(10) "Minor" refers to an individual who is less than eighteen years old.

(11) "Person" means any individual, receiver, administrator, executor, assignee, trustee in bankruptcy, trust, estate, firm, copartnership, joint venture, club, company, joint stock company, business trust, municipal corporation, the state and its departments and institutions, political subdivision of the state of Washington, corporation, limited liability company, association, society, any group of individuals acting as a unit, whether mutual, cooperative, fraternal, nonprofit, or otherwise.

(12) "Place of business" means any place where vapor products are sold or where vapor products are manufactured, stored, or kept for the purpose of sale.

(13) "Playground" means any public improved area designed, equipped, and set aside for play of six or more children which is not intended for use as an athletic playing field or athletic court, including but not limited to any play equipment, surfacing, fencing, signs, internal pathways, internal land forms, vegetation, and related structures.

(14) "Retail outlet" means each place of business from which vapor products are sold to consumers.

(15) "Retailer" means any person engaged in the business of selling vapor products to ultimate consumers.

(16)(a) "Sale" means any transfer, exchange, or barter, in any manner or by any means whatsoever, for a consideration, and includes and means all sales made by any person.

(b) The term "sale" includes a gift by a person engaged in the business of selling vapor products, for advertising, promoting, or as a means of evading the provisions of this chapter.

(17) "School" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 70.140.020.

(18) "Self-service display" means a display that contains vapor products and is located in an area that is openly accessible to customers and from which customers can readily access such products without the assistance of a salesperson. A display case that holds vapor products behind locked doors does not constitute a self-service display.

(19) "Vapor product" means any noncombustible product that may contain nicotine and that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit, or other electronic, chemical, or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size,

that can be used to produce vapor or aerosol from a solution or other substance.

(a) "Vapor product" includes any electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device and any vapor cartridge or other container that may contain nicotine in a solution or other form that is intended to be used with or in an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device.

(b) "Vapor product" does not include any product that meets the definition of marijuana, useable marijuana, marijuana concentrates, marijuana-infused products, cigarette, or tobacco products.

(c) For purposes of this subsection (19), "marijuana," "useable marijuana," "marijuana concentrates," and "marijuana-infused products" have the same meaning as provided in RCW 69.50.101. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 4.]

**70.345.020 Types of licenses—Applications—License expiration and display.** (1) The licenses issuable by the board under this chapter are as follows:

- (a) A vapor product retailer's license;
- (b) A vapor product distributor's license; and
- (c) A vapor product delivery sale license.

(2) Application for the licenses must be made through the business licensing system under chapter 19.02 RCW. The board may adopt rules regarding the regulation of the licenses. The board may refuse to issue any license under this chapter if the board has reasonable cause to believe that the applicant has willfully withheld information requested for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the applicant to receive a license, or if the board has reasonable cause to believe that information submitted in the application is false or misleading or is not made in good faith. In addition, for the purpose of reviewing an application for a distributor's license, retailer's license, or delivery seller's license, and for considering the denial, suspension, or revocation of any such license, the board may consider criminal conduct of the applicant, including an administrative violation history record with the board and a criminal history record information check within the previous five years, in any state, tribal, or federal jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or possessions, and the provisions of RCW 9.95.240 and chapter 9.96A RCW do not apply to such cases. The board may, in its discretion, issue or refuse to issue the retailer's license, distributor's license, and delivery sale license subject to the provisions of RCW 70.155.100.

(3) The application processes for the retailer license and the distributor license, and any forms used for such processes, must allow the applicant to simultaneously apply for a delivery sale license without requiring the applicant to undergo a separate licensing application process in order to be licensed to conduct delivery sales. However, a delivery sale license obtained in conjunction with a retailer or distributor license under this subsection remains a separate license subject to the delivery sale licensing fee established under this chapter.

(4) No person may qualify for a retailer's license, distributor's license, or delivery sale license under this section without first undergoing a criminal background check. The background check must be performed by the board and must dis-

close any criminal conduct within the previous five years in any state, tribal, or federal jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or possessions. If the applicant or licensee also has a license issued under chapter 66.24, 69.50, 82.24, or 82.26 RCW, the background check done under the authority of chapter 66.24, 69.50, 82.24, or 82.26 RCW satisfies the requirements of this subsection.

(5) Each license issued under this chapter expires on the business license expiration date. The license must be continued annually if the licensee has paid the required fee and complied with all the provisions of this chapter and the rules of the board adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(6) Each license and any other evidence of the license required under this chapter must be exhibited in each place of business for which it is issued and in the manner required for the display of a business license. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 5.]

**Contingent effective date—2016 1st sp.s. c 38 §§ 5-10 and 28:** "(1) Sections 5 through 10 and 28 of this act take effect thirty days after the Washington state liquor and cannabis board prescribes the form for an application for a license required under section 6 of this act.

(2) The Washington state liquor and cannabis board must provide written notice of the effective date of sections 5 through 10 and 28 of this act to affected parties, the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, the office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by the department." [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 32.] Written notice of the effective date, August 1, 2016, for sections 5 through 10 and 28, chapter 38, Laws of 2016 1st sp.s. required by section 32, chapter 38, Laws of 2016 1st sp.s. was provided by the liquor and cannabis board to the office of the code reviser on June 27, 2016.

**70.345.030 License required—Must allow inspections—Sale of certain substances prohibited—Penalties.**

(1)(a) No person may engage in or conduct business as a retailer, distributor, or delivery seller in this state without a valid license issued under this chapter, except as otherwise provided by law. Any person who sells vapor products to ultimate consumers by a means other than delivery sales must obtain a retailer's license under this chapter. Any person who sells vapor products to persons other than ultimate consumers or who meets the definition of distributor under this chapter must obtain a distributor's license under this chapter. Any person who conducts delivery sales of vapor products must obtain a delivery sale license.

(b) A violation of this subsection is punishable as a class C felony according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(2) No person engaged in or conducting business as a retailer, distributor, or delivery seller in this state may refuse to allow the enforcement officers of the board, on demand, to make full inspection of any place of business or vehicle where any of the vapor products regulated under this chapter are sold, stored, transported, or handled, or otherwise hinder or prevent such inspection. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(3) Any person licensed under this chapter as a distributor, any person licensed under this chapter as a retailer, and any person licensed under this chapter as a delivery seller may not operate in any other capacity unless the additional appropriate license is first secured, except as otherwise provided by law. A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

(4) No person engaged in or conducting business as a retailer, distributor, or delivery seller in this state may sell or give, or permit to sell or give, a product that contains any

amount of any cannabinoid, synthetic cannabinoid, cathinone, or methcathinone, unless otherwise provided by law. A violation of this subsection (4) is punishable according to RCW 69.50.401.

(5) The penalties provided in this section are in addition to any other penalties provided by law for violating the provisions of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 6.]

**Contingent effective date—2016 1st sp.s. c 38 §§ 5-10 and 28:** See note following RCW 70.345.020.

**70.345.040 Licensing fee—Distributors.** A fee of one hundred fifty dollars must accompany each vapor product distributor's license application or license renewal application under RCW 70.345.020. If a distributor sells or intends to sell vapor products at two or more places of business, whether established or temporary, a separate license with a license fee of one hundred dollars is required for each additional place of business. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 7.]

**Contingent effective date—2016 1st sp.s. c 38 §§ 5-10 and 28:** See note following RCW 70.345.020.

**70.345.050 Licensing fee—Retailers.** (1) A fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars must accompany each vapor product retailer's license application or license renewal application under RCW 70.345.020. A separate license is required for each separate location at which the retailer operates.

(2) A retailer applying for, or renewing, both a vapor products retailer's license under RCW 70.345.020 and retailer's license under RCW 82.24.510 may pay a combined application fee of two hundred fifty dollars for both licenses. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 8.]

**Contingent effective date—2016 1st sp.s. c 38 §§ 5-10 and 28:** See note following RCW 70.345.020.

**70.345.060 Licensing fee—Delivery sales.** A fee of two hundred fifty dollars must accompany each vapor product delivery sale license application or license renewal application under RCW 70.345.020. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 10.]

**Contingent effective date—2016 1st sp.s. c 38 §§ 5-10 and 28:** See note following RCW 70.345.020.

**70.345.070 Retail signage.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a person who holds a retailer's license issued under this chapter must display a sign concerning the prohibition of vapor product sales to minors. Such sign must:

(a) Be posted so that it is clearly visible to anyone purchasing vapor products from the licensee;

(b) Be designed and produced by the department of health to read: "The sale of vapor products to persons under age eighteen is strictly prohibited by state law. If you are under age eighteen, you could be penalized for purchasing a vapor product; photo id required;" and

(c) Be provided free of charge by the department of health.

(2) For persons also licensed under RCW 82.24.510 or 82.26.150, the board may issue a sign to read: "The sale of tobacco or vapor products to persons under age eighteen is strictly prohibited by state law. If you are under age eighteen, you could be penalized for purchasing a tobacco or vapor

product; photo id required," provided free of charge by the board.

(3) A person who holds a license issued under this chapter must display the license or a copy in a prominent location at the outlet for which the license is issued. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 12.]

**70.345.075 Product labeling. (Contingent expiration date.)** (1) A manufacturer or distributor that sells, offers for sale, or distributes liquid nicotine containers shall label the vapor product with a: (a) Warning regarding the harmful effects of nicotine; (b) warning to keep the vapor product away from children; (c) warning that vaping is illegal for those under the legal age to use the product; and (d) except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the amount of nicotine in milligrams per milliliter of liquid along with the total volume of the liquid contents of the product expressed in milliliters.

(2) For closed system nicotine containers as defined in RCW 70.345.010, a manufacturer that sells, offers for sale, or distributes vapor products in this state must annually provide the department of health with a disclosure of the nicotine content of such vapor product based on measurement standards to be established by the department of health.

(3)(a) This section expires on the effective date of the final regulations issued by the United States food and drug administration or by any other federal agency, when such regulations mandate warning or advertisement requirements for vapor products.

(b) The board must provide notice of the expiration date of this section to affected parties, the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, the office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by the board. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 13.]

**Reviser's note:** On May 5, 2016, the United States food and drug administration issued final regulations regarding certain vapor products, including requirements for product labeling. 81 Fed. Reg. 28973. The final regulation's product labeling requirements take effect May 10, 2018, but apply only to vapor products containing nicotine.

**70.345.080 Vendor assistance required for sales—Exception.** (1) No person may offer a tobacco product or a vapor product for sale in an open, unsecured display that is accessible to the public without the intervention of a store employee.

(2) It is unlawful to sell or distribute vapor products from self-service displays.

(3) Retail establishments are exempt from subsections (1) and (2) of this section if minors are not allowed in the store and such prohibition is posted clearly on all entrances. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 16.]

**70.345.090 Mail and internet sales—License required—Age and identity verification—Penalties—Enforcement—Application of consumer protection act—Rules.** (1) No person may conduct a delivery sale or otherwise ship or transport, or cause to be shipped or transported, any vapor product ordered or purchased by mail or through the internet to any person unless such seller has a valid delivery sale license as required under this chapter.

(2) No person may conduct a delivery sale or otherwise ship or transport, or cause to be shipped or transported, any

vapor product ordered or purchased by mail or through the internet to any person under the minimum age required for the legal sale of vapor products as provided under RCW 70.345.140.

(3) A delivery sale licensee must provide notice on its mail order or internet sales forms of the minimum age required for the legal sale of vapor products in Washington state as provided by RCW 70.345.140.

(4) A delivery sale licensee must not accept a purchase or order from any person without first obtaining the full name, birth date, and residential address of that person and verifying this information through an independently operated third-party database or aggregate of databases, which includes data from government sources, that are regularly used by government and businesses for the purpose of age and identity verification and authentication.

(5) A delivery sale licensee must accept payment only through a credit or debit card issued in the purchaser's own name. The licensee must verify that the card is issued to the same person identified through identity and age verification procedures in subsection (4) of this section.

(6) Before a delivery sale licensee delivers an initial purchase to any person, the licensee must verify the identity and delivery address of the purchaser by mailing or shipping to the purchaser a notice of sale and certification form confirming that the addressee is in fact the person placing the order. The purchaser must return the signed certification form to the licensee before the initial shipment of product. Certification forms are not required for repeat customers. In the alternative, before a seller delivers an initial purchase to any person, the seller must first obtain from the prospective customer an electronic certification, such as by email, that includes a declaration that, at a minimum, the prospective customer is over the minimum age required for the legal sale of a vapor product, and the credit or debit card used for payment has been issued in the purchaser's name.

(7) A delivery sale licensee must include on shipping documents a clear and conspicuous statement which includes, at a minimum, that the package contains vapor products, Washington law prohibits sales to those under the minimum age established by this chapter, and violations may result in sanctions to both the licensee and the purchaser.

(8) A person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a class C felony, except that the maximum fine that may be imposed is five thousand dollars.

(9) In addition to or in lieu of any other civil or criminal remedy provided by law, a person who has violated this section is subject to a civil penalty of up to five thousand dollars for each violation. The attorney general, acting in the name of the state, may seek recovery of the penalty in a civil action in superior court.

(10) The attorney general may seek an injunction in superior court to restrain a threatened or actual violation of this section and to compel compliance with this section.

(11) Any violation of this section is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business and is an unfair and deceptive act or practice and an unfair method of competition in the conduct of trade or commerce in violation of RCW 19.86.020. Standing to bring an action to enforce RCW 19.86.020 for violation of this section lies

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solely with the attorney general. Remedies provided by chapter 19.86 RCW are cumulative and not exclusive.

(12)(a) In any action brought under this section, the state is entitled to recover, in addition to other relief, the costs of investigation, expert witness fees, costs of the action, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

(b) If a court determines that a person has violated this section, the court shall order any profits, gain, gross receipts, or other benefit from the violation to be disgorged and paid to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund.

(13) Unless otherwise expressly provided, the penalties or remedies, or both, under this section are in addition to any other penalties and remedies available under any other law of this state.

(14) A licensee who violates this section is subject to license suspension or revocation by the board.

(15) The board may adopt by rule additional requirements for mail or internet sales.

(16) The board must not adopt rules prohibiting internet sales. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 17.]

**70.345.100 Product tastings—Requirements—Penalty.** (1) No person may offer a tasting of vapor products to the general public unless:

(a) The person is a licensed retailer under RCW 70.345.020;

(b) The tastings are offered only within the licensed premises operated by the licensee and the products tasted are not removed from within the licensed premises by the customer;

(c) Entry into the licensed premises is restricted to persons eighteen years of age or older;

(d) The vapor product being offered for tasting contains zero milligrams per milliliter of nicotine or the customer explicitly consents to a tasting of a vapor product that contains nicotine; and

(e) If the customer is tasting from a vapor device owned and maintained by the retailer, a disposable mouthpiece tip is attached to the vapor product being used by the customer for tasting or the vapor device is disposed of after each tasting.

(2) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 19.]

**70.345.110 Coupons for free of charge products.** (1) No person may give or distribute vapor products to a person free of charge by coupon, unless the vapor product was provided to the person as a contingency of prior or the same purchase as part of an in-person transaction or delivery sale.

(2) This section does not prohibit the use of coupons to receive a discount on a vapor product as part of an in-person transaction or delivery sale. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 20.]

**70.345.120 Verification of age—Permitted forms of identification—Defense.** (1) When there may be a question of a person's right to purchase or obtain vapor products by reason of age, the retailer or agent thereof, must require the purchaser to present any one of the following officially issued forms of identification that shows the purchaser's age and bears his or her signature and photograph: (a) Liquor control authority card of identification of a state or province of Canada; (b) driver's license, instruction permit, or identifi-

cation card of a state or province of Canada; (c) "identocard" issued by the Washington state department of licensing under chapter 46.20 RCW; (d) United States military identification; (e) passport; (f) enrollment card, issued by the governing authority of a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Washington, that incorporates security features comparable to those implemented by the department of licensing for Washington drivers' licenses. At least ninety days prior to implementation of an enrollment card under this subsection, the appropriate tribal authority must give notice to the board. The board must publish and communicate to licensees regarding the implementation of each new enrollment card; or (g) merchant marine identification card issued by the United States coast guard.

(2) It is a defense to a prosecution under RCW 26.28.080 that the person making a sale reasonably relied on any of the officially issued identification as defined in subsection (1) of this section. The board must waive the suspension or revocation of a license if the licensee clearly establishes that he or she acted in good faith to prevent violations and a violation occurred despite the licensee's exercise of due diligence. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 15.]

**70.345.130 Child-resistant packaging required—Penalty.** (1) Any liquid nicotine container that is sold at retail shall be packaged in accordance with the child-resistant effectiveness standards set forth in 16 C.F.R. Sec. 1700.15, as in effect on June 28, 2016, as determined through testing in accordance with the method described in 16 C.F.R. Sec. 1700.20, as in effect on June 28, 2016.

(2) Any person that engages in retail sales of liquid nicotine containers in violation of this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 18.]

**70.345.140 Purchase or possession by persons under eighteen—Penalty—Jurisdiction.** (1) A person under the age of eighteen who purchases or attempts to purchase, possesses, or obtains or attempts to obtain vapor products commits a class 3 civil infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW and is subject to a fine as set out in chapter 7.80 RCW or participation in up to four hours of community restitution, or both. The court may also require participation in a smoking cessation program. This provision does not apply if a person under the age of eighteen, with parental authorization, is participating in a controlled purchase as part of a board, law enforcement, or local health department activity.

(2) Municipal and district courts within the state have jurisdiction for enforcement of this section. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 14.]

**70.345.150 Use of products in public places—When prohibited.** (1) Indoor areas.

(a) The use of vapor products is prohibited in the following indoor areas:

(i) Inside a child care facility, provided that a child care facility that is home-based is excluded from this paragraph when children enrolled in such child care facility are not present;

(ii) Schools;

(iii) Within five hundred feet of schools;

(iv) Schools buses; and

(v) Elevators.

(b) The use of vapor products is permitted for tasting and sampling in indoor areas of retail outlets.

(2) Outdoor areas. The use of vapor products is prohibited in the following outdoor areas:

(a) Real property that is under the control of a child care facility and upon which the child care facility is located, provided that a child care facility that is home-based is excluded from this paragraph when children enrolled in such child care facility are not present;

(b) Real property that is under the control of a school and upon which the school is located; and

(c) Playgrounds, during the hours between sunrise and sunset, when one or more persons under twelve years of age are present at such playground. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 21.]

**70.345.160 Enforcement—Authority of liquor and cannabis board—Detention to determine identity and age—Inspections—Products injurious to health.** (1) The board must have, in addition to the board's other powers and authorities, the authority to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(2) The board and the board's authorized agents or employees have full power and authority to enter any place of business where vapor products are sold for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter.

(3) For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter, a peace officer or enforcement officer of the board who has reasonable grounds to believe a person observed by the officer purchasing, attempting to purchase, or in possession of vapor products is under eighteen years of age, may detain such person for a reasonable period of time and in such a reasonable manner as is necessary to determine the person's true identity and date of birth. Further, vapor products possessed by persons under eighteen years of age are considered contraband and may be seized by a peace officer or enforcement officer of the board.

(4) The board may work with local county health departments or districts and local law enforcement agencies to conduct random, unannounced, inspections to assure compliance.

(5) Upon a determination by the secretary of health or a local health jurisdiction that a vapor product may be injurious to human health or poses a significant risk to public health:

(a) The board, in consultation with the department of health and local county health jurisdictions, may cause a vapor product substance or solution sample, purchased or obtained from any vapor product retailer, distributor, or delivery sale licensee, to be analyzed by an analyst appointed or designated by the board;

(b) If the analyzed vapor product contains an ingredient, substance, or solution present in quantities injurious to human health or posing a significant risk to public health, as determined by the secretary of health or a local health jurisdiction, the board may suspend the license of the retailer or delivery sale licensee unless the retailer or delivery sale licensee agrees to remove the product from sales; and

(c) If upon a finding from the secretary of health or local health jurisdiction that the vapor product poses an injurious risk to public health or significant public health risk, the retailer or delivery sale licensee does not remove the product

from sale, the secretary of health or local health officer may file for an injunction in superior court prohibiting the sale or distribution of that specific vapor product substance or solution.

(6) Nothing in subsection (5) of this section permits a total ban on the sale or use of vapor products. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 24.]

**70.345.170 Enforcement—License suspension and revocation—Appeal.** (1) The board, or its enforcement officers, has the authority to enforce provisions of this chapter.

(2) The board may revoke or suspend a retailer's, distributor's, or delivery seller's license issued under this chapter upon sufficient cause showing a violation of this chapter.

(3) A license may not be suspended or revoked except upon notice to the licensee and after a hearing as prescribed by the board.

(4) Any retailer's licenses issued under chapter 82.24 or 82.26 RCW to a person whose vapor product retailer's license or licenses have been suspended or revoked for violating RCW 26.28.080 must also be suspended or revoked during the period of suspension or revocation under this section.

(5) Any person whose license or licenses have been revoked under this section may reapply to the board at the expiration of two years of the license or licenses, unless the license was revoked pursuant to RCW 70.345.180(2)(e). The license or licenses may be approved by the board if it appears to the satisfaction of the board that the licensee will comply with the provisions of this chapter.

(6) A person whose license has been suspended or revoked may not sell vapor products or permit vapor products to be sold during the period of suspension or revocation on the premises occupied by the person or upon other premises controlled by the person or others or in any other manner or form.

(7) Any determination and order by the board, and any order of suspension or revocation by the board of the license or licenses issued under this chapter, or refusal to reinstate a license or licenses after revocation is reviewable by an appeal to the superior court of Thurston county. The superior court must review the order or ruling of the board and may hear the matter de novo, having due regard to the provisions of this chapter and the duties imposed upon the board.

(8) If the board makes an initial decision to deny a license or renewal, or suspend or revoke a license, the applicant may request a hearing subject to the applicable provisions under Title 34 RCW. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 11.]

**70.345.180 Enforcement—Penalties, sanctions, and actions against licensees.** (1) The board may impose a monetary penalty as set forth in subsection (2) of this section, if the board finds that the licensee has violated RCW 26.28.080 or any other provision of this chapter.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, the sanctions that the board may impose against a person licensed under this chapter based upon one or more findings under subsection (1) of this section may not exceed the following:

(a) A monetary penalty of two hundred dollars for the first violation within any three-year period;

(b) A monetary penalty of six hundred dollars for the second violation within any three-year period;

(c) A monetary penalty of two thousand dollars for the third violation within any three-year period and suspension of the license for a period of six months for the third violation of RCW 26.28.080 within any three-year period;

(d) A monetary penalty of three thousand dollars for the fourth or subsequent violation within any three-year period and suspension of the license for a period of twelve months for the fourth violation of RCW 26.28.080 within any three-year period;

(e) Revocation of the license with no possibility of reinstatement for a period of five years for the fifth or more violation within any three-year period.

(3) If the board finds that a person licensed under this chapter and chapter 82.24 or 82.26 RCW has violated RCW 26.28.080, each subsequent violation of either of the person's licenses counts as an additional violation within that three-year period.

(4) Any retailer's licenses issued under chapter 82.24 or 82.26 RCW to a person whose vapor product retailer's license or licenses have been suspended or revoked for violating RCW 26.28.080 must also be suspended or revoked during the period of suspension or revocation under this section.

(5) The board may impose a monetary penalty upon any person other than a licensed retailer if the board finds that the person has violated RCW 26.28.080.

(6) The monetary penalty that the board may impose based upon one or more findings under subsection (5) of this section may not exceed fifty dollars for the first violation and one hundred dollars for each subsequent violation.

(7) The board may develop and offer a class for retail clerks and use this class in lieu of a monetary penalty for the clerk's first violation.

(8) The board may issue a cease and desist order to any person who is found by the board to have violated or intending [intends] to violate the provisions of this chapter or RCW 26.28.080, requiring such person to cease specified conduct that is in violation. The issuance of a cease and desist order does not preclude the imposition of other sanctions authorized by this statute or any other provision of law.

(9) The board may seek injunctive relief to enforce the provisions of RCW 26.28.080 or this chapter. The board may initiate legal action to collect civil penalties imposed under this chapter if the same have not been paid within thirty days after imposition of such penalties. In any action filed by the board under this chapter, the court may, in addition to any other relief, award the board reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

(10) All proceedings under subsections (1) through (8) of this section must be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

(11) The board may reduce or waive either the penalties or the suspension or revocation of a license, or both, as set forth in this chapter where the elements of proof are inadequate or where there are mitigating circumstances. Mitigating circumstances may include, but are not limited to, an exercise of due diligence by a retailer. Further, the board may exceed penalties set forth in this chapter based on aggravating circumstances. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 22.]

**70.345.190 Disposition of license fees and monetary penalties.** All license fees collected and funds collected by the board from the imposition of monetary penalties pursuant to this chapter must be deposited into the youth tobacco and vapor products prevention account created in RCW 70.155.120. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 25.]

**70.345.200 Exemptions.** This chapter does not apply to a motor carrier or a freight forwarder as defined in 49 U.S.C. Sec. 13102 or an air carrier as defined in 49 U.S.C. Sec. 40102. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 26.]

**70.345.210 State preemption—Exceptions.** (1) This chapter preempts political subdivisions from adopting or enforcing requirements for the licensure and regulation of vapor product promotions and sales at retail. No political subdivision may impose fees or license requirements on retail outlets for possessing or selling vapor products, other than general business taxes or license fees not primarily levied on such products.

(2) No political subdivision may regulate the use of vapor products in outdoor public places, unless the public place is an area where children congregate, such as schools, playgrounds, and parks.

(3) Subject to RCW 70.345.150, political subdivisions may regulate the use of vapor products in indoor public places. [2016 1st sp.s. c 38 § 3.]