
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: S-3636.2/14 2nd draft

ATTY/TYPIST: AL:akl

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Creating the breastfeeding-friendly Washington designation for hospitals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (e) Show mothers how to breastfeed and how to maintain lactation,
2 even if they are separated from their infants;
3 (f) Give newborn infants no food or drink other than breast milk,
4 unless medically indicated;
5 (g) Practice rooming in by allowing mothers and infants to remain
6 together twenty-four hours a day;
7 (h) Encourage breastfeeding on demand;
8 (i) Give no pacifiers or artificial nipples to breastfeeding
9 infants; or
10 (j) Foster the establishment of breastfeeding support groups and
11 refer mothers to them on discharge from the hospital or clinic.
12 (3)(a) A hospital seeking to use the breastfeeding-friendly
13 Washington designation must submit its breastfeeding policy and
14 supporting documentation with its application to the department of
15 health for approval. The department shall review and approve those
16 policies and supporting documents that meet the requirements of this
17 section and issue a designation based on the number of steps met by the
18 hospital.
19 (b) The department shall issue two types of breastfeeding-friendly
20 Washington designations based on the number of steps met by a hospital:
21 (i) A designation recognizing a hospital that meets the criteria for
22 five steps or less; and (ii) a designation recognizing a hospital that
23 meets all the criteria for all ten steps.
24 (4) The department of health must submit a report to the
25 legislature by December 31, 2016, on the levels of achievement by and
26 locations of participating hospitals and with recommendations to
27 improve or expand the program.
28 (5) For the purposes of this section, "hospital" means the
29 maternity or newborn service of a facility licensed under chapter 70.41
30 RCW and includes "birthing center" or "childbirth center" as defined in
31 RCW 18.46.010.

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