

2015 State Board of Health Bill Tracking

A selection of the bills we followed this legislative session

1285 – Newborn heart disease

The bill requires hospitals and health care providers attending births outside of a hospital to perform Critical Congenital Heart Disease Screening using pulse oximetry according to recommended American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines. Results must be recorded in the newborn's medical record, and if the test indicates a suspicion of abnormality, the infant must be referred for appropriate care. Test results must be reported to the newborn's attending physician and parent or guardian. For births outside the hospital, an attending health care provider who does not have the equipment to perform the screening, must notify the parents in writing, and the infant should be tested by another health care provider between 24 and 48 hours after birth. The bill allows a parent who objects on religious grounds may opt out of the screening.

Action: Monitored the bill, signed in available for questions. Contacted sponsor and committee staff re: Board review of criteria, and commitment to review CCHD.

Status: Senate Rules

1295 – Breakfast after the Bell

The bill requires high-needs schools that have not reached target participation (70% of free or reduced-price eligible students) in both the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs to offer Breakfast after the Bell (BAB) and provide adequate time for students to eat. Breakfasts served under these programs must comply with federal meal patterns and nutrition standards. The bill requires the state to provide financial assistance to support implementation of BAB programs. It requires the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to develop and distribute procedures and guidelines and offer training and technical and marketing assistance to schools to implement BAB. The bill also directs OSPI and schools to partner with nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, and communities to implement these programs.

Action: Staff completed a Health Impact Review on the bill and testified about its findings. Signed in support.

Status: Dead

1356 Sick and safe employment leave

The bill requires employers with five or more full-time equivalent employees to provide paid sick and safe leave to employees. It allows employees to take paid sick leave to care for their own health or preventative care needs or those of specific family members. Allows employees to take paid safe leave due to 1) closure of the employee's place of business or a child's school or childcare due to a public health emergency or 2) for reasons permitted under RCW 49.76.030, which allows unpaid leave for purposes related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Action: Staff completed an HIR and testified about the findings.

Status: Dead

1449 Oil transportation safety

This bill is intended to prevent oil spills and improve the state's response to oil spills. Bill provisions included requiring oil spill prevention plans, financial responsibility requirements for railroads, advance notice to Ecology regarding crude oil transfers, a tax on rail tank cars and pipelines that receive oil, tug escort requirements, and more. (Governor Request)

Action: Staff completed an HIR, based on the assumption that the bill would meet the intent of preventing oil spills. Staff signed in to present the findings but was not called upon.

Status: Referred to Senate Ways and Means

1458 Tobacco and vapor products

Prohibits the sales of cigars, cigarettes, tobacco or vapor products to persons under 21. Defines vapor products, requires retailers and wholesalers to display signs that prohibit tobacco sales. Prohibits the sales of tobacco products through vending machines.

Action: Staff signed in support of the bill.

Status: Scheduled for executive session in House Finance.

1545 Public health nurse dispensing of certain medications (WSALPHO request)

Allows registered nurses employed by local health jurisdictions to dispense a drug or device for communicable disease prevention or treatment or for family planning. The bill requires the local health officer to establish policies on drug dispensing and that drugs be locked in a cabinet or drug room.

Action: Staff signed in support of the bill.

Status: Heard in Senate Health Care

HB 1620 Increasing the surcharge to fund biotoxin testing and monitoring (DOH request)

Increases the biotoxin testing and monitoring surcharge on recreational shellfish licenses is increased by \$1.

Action: Staff signed in support of the bill, and emailed committee members.

Status: Senate Ways and Means

HB 1671 Opioid antagonists

The bill allows practitioners to prescribe, distribute, and deliver opioid antagonists directly, through standing order, or collaborative drug therapy agreement to first responders, pharmacists, and other individuals at risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid overdose

Action: Staff conducted a health impact review and testified on findings. Signed in support.

Status: Senate Rules

1715 Protecting Puget Sound through funding and implementing local on-site sewage program management plans (DOH request)

The bill requires local boards of health in Puget Sound Counties to adopt a fee on on-site sewage systems. It also established a low interest loan programs for OSS owners.

Action: Staff signed in support on this bill, worked with the department and interested parties, emailed committee members. Chair testified in support.

Status: Dead

1865 Vision screening

The bill requires near vision screening as part of school vision screening.

Action: Staff monitored the hearings.

Status: Dead

2009 Exemptions from immunizations for school-age children

The bill eliminates the philosophical or personal objection exemption from child immunization requirements.

Action: Staff signed in support, emailed committee members.

Status: Dead

2061 Authorizing county legislative authorities to approve certain group B water systems based upon their delivery of water meeting safe drinking water standards.

The bill authorizes some county legislative authorities to approve Group B public water systems with nine or fewer connections based on the quality of the water delivered for potable use by the system if the groundwater source does not meet water quality standards.

Action: Staff testified on the bill, signed in opposed, checked in with local health jurisdictions impacted by the bill and shared concerns with legislators.

Status: Dead

5251 Transferring public water system financial assistance activities from the public works board and the department of commerce to the department of health (DOH request)

This bill transfers public water system financial assistance activities from the public works board and Department of Commerce to the Department of Health.

Action: Staff signed in support.

Status: Scheduled for executive session in Committee on General Government & Information Technology.

5477 Concerning the packaging, labeling and advertising of vapor products

The bill requires vapor products have child resistant packaging and imposes product labeling and advertising requirements. It prohibits vapor products on school property and of sales to minors. The bill also requires signage at retail. Vapor products must be sold through vendor-assisted sales (self-service not allowed).

Action: Staff signed in support.

Status: Uncertain, currently in House Committee on Commerce and Gaming.

5870 Prohibiting the use of aversion therapy in the treatment of minors

The bill expands the list of acts that constitute unprofessional conduct by a licensed health care provider to include performing prohibited aversion therapies, including sexual orientation change efforts, on a patient under age 18.

Action: Staff conducted a health impact review, testified on findings.

Status: House Rules

5917 Cigar bars

The bill allows a tobacco retailer to apply for a special endorsement as a cigar lounge or retail tobacconist shop, enabling the licensee to operate as a cigar lounge. The endorsement exempts the business from the smoking in public places act. Requires that the smoking area be physically separated from areas where smoking is prohibited by law and prohibits cigarettes from being smoked in the designated area. Minors under age 18 are prohibited from entering the designated smoking area. The designated smoking area must meet specific ventilation and air flow requirements. Employees who work in the designated area must sign an affidavit acknowledging that the employee has been advised and accepts that smoke may be present in their work area.

Staff signed in opposed.

Status: Uncertain, did not pass Senate.