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HOUSE BILL 3111

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representative Chase

Read first time 01/28/2004. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to population sustainability; and amending RCW  
2 43.70.130.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.70.130 and 1990 c 132 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 The secretary of health shall:

7 (1) Exercise all the powers and perform all the duties prescribed  
8 by law with respect to public health and vital statistics;

9 (2) Investigate and study factors relating to the preservation,  
10 promotion, and improvement of the health of the people, the causes of  
11 morbidity and mortality, and the effects of the environment and other  
12 conditions upon the public health, and report the findings to the state  
13 board of health for such action as the board determines is necessary;

14 (3) Strictly enforce all laws for the protection of the public  
15 health and the improvement of sanitary conditions in the state, and all  
16 rules, regulations, and orders of the state board of health;

17 (4) Enforce the public health laws of the state and the rules and  
18 regulations promulgated by the department or the board of health in  
19 local matters, when in its opinion an emergency exists and the local

1 board of health has failed to act with sufficient promptness or  
2 efficiency, or is unable for reasons beyond its control to act, or when  
3 no local board has been established, and all expenses so incurred shall  
4 be paid upon demand of the secretary of the department of health by the  
5 local health department for which such services are rendered, out of  
6 moneys accruing to the credit of the municipality or the local health  
7 department in the current expense fund of the county;

8 (5) Investigate outbreaks and epidemics of disease that may occur  
9 and advise local health officers as to measures to be taken to prevent  
10 and control the same;

11 (6) Exercise general supervision over the work of all local health  
12 departments and establish uniform reporting systems by local health  
13 officers to the state department of health;

14 (7) Have the same authority as local health officers, except that  
15 the secretary shall not exercise such authority unless the local health  
16 officer fails or is unable to do so, or when in an emergency the safety  
17 of the public health demands it, or by agreement with the local health  
18 officer or local board of health;

19 (8) Cause to be made from time to time, personal health and  
20 sanitation inspections at state owned or contracted institutions and  
21 facilities to determine compliance with sanitary and health care  
22 standards as adopted by the department, and require the governing  
23 authorities thereof to take such action as will conserve the health of  
24 all persons connected therewith, and report the findings to the  
25 governor;

26 (9) Review and approve plans for public water system design,  
27 engineering, operation, maintenance, financing, and emergency response,  
28 as required under state board of health rules;

29 (10) Take such measures as the secretary deems necessary in order  
30 to promote the public health, to establish or participate in the  
31 establishment of health educational or training activities, and to  
32 provide funds for and to authorize the attendance and participation in  
33 such activities of employees of the state or local health departments  
34 and other individuals engaged in programs related to or part of the  
35 public health programs of the local health departments or the state  
36 department of health. The secretary is also authorized to accept any  
37 funds from the federal government or any public or private agency made

1 available for health education training purposes and to conform with  
2 such requirements as are necessary in order to receive such funds;  
3 (~~and~~)

4 (11) Establish and maintain laboratory facilities and services as  
5 are necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the department; and

6 (12) Develop and distribute a pamphlet or other educational  
7 material that emphasizes the benefits and importance of couples  
8 limiting themselves to two or fewer children to promote population  
9 sustainability.

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