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SENATE BILL 6205

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Pflug, Keiser, Kastama, Regala, Kohl-Welles, Prentice, Murray, and Kline

Read first time 01/14/08. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the joint select committee on sickle cell  
2 disease; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that sickle cell  
5 disease is a lifelong hereditary red blood cell disorder that  
6 predominantly affects African-Americans. The disease can cause a  
7 lifetime of severe medical complications that require painful and  
8 expensive treatment. The legislature further finds that Washington  
9 state screens newborn infants for sickle cell disease at birth but that  
10 this information is not adequately communicated between people who may  
11 not have the disease, but carry the genetic trait for it. While there  
12 is no cure for sickle cell disease, the legislature finds that the pain  
13 and suffering it causes may be controlled with better education,  
14 diagnosis, and treatment.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The joint select committee on sickle cell  
16 disease is created. The committee consists of two members of each  
17 caucus of the senate appointed by the president of the senate, and two  
18 members of each caucus of the house of representatives appointed by the

1 speaker of the house of representatives. The committee shall review  
2 current practices for screening, diagnosis, treatment, and education  
3 about sickle cell disease in Washington state. The committee shall  
4 also review issues related to access to appropriate treatment,  
5 dissemination of information related to the disease and family risk,  
6 insurance coverage for treatment, and morbidity and mortality rates.  
7 The committee shall make recommendations to the legislature by December  
8 1, 2008.

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