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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6428**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (originally sponsored by Senators Cleveland, Nguyen, Wilson, C., Das, and Saldaña)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing funding for medical evaluations of  
2 suspected victims of child abuse; adding new sections to chapter 7.68  
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the crime  
6 victims' compensation fund was established in 1973 to cover medical  
7 bills and other costs associated with being the victim of a crime.  
8 The legislature finds that state law requires the crime victims'  
9 compensation fund to pay the costs of sexual assault examinations of  
10 minors when they are performed to gather evidence for possible  
11 prosecution. The legislature finds that in 2015, the legislature  
12 passed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5897 to provide funding for medical  
13 evaluations of suspected child victims of physical abuse. The  
14 legislature finds that this law expired June 30, 2019, and was not  
15 extended in the omnibus operating appropriations act. The legislature  
16 recognizes that while sexual assault examinations are currently  
17 provided for by the crime victims' compensation fund, examinations  
18 for child victims of felony-level physical assault are not provided  
19 for. The legislature finds that medical examinations are important  
20 for children who may be victims of felony-level physical abuse. The  
21 legislature finds that contributing to the cost of these examinations

1 will incentivize timely evaluations, lead to early identification of  
2 abuse, and potentially prevent a child from further traumatization or  
3 injury. The legislature therefore resolves to reenact the provision  
4 of medical examinations of children who may be victims of felony-  
5 level physical abuse.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 7.68 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 No costs incurred by an institution as defined by RCW 26.44.020  
9 for the examination of a suspected victim of assault of a child under  
10 chapter 9A.36 RCW may be billed or charged directly or indirectly to  
11 the suspected victim of the assault. Subject to the availability of  
12 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department must  
13 pay all costs incurred by an institution as defined in RCW 26.44.020  
14 for the examination of a suspected victim of felony assault of a  
15 child.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 7.68 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

18 By November 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, and in compliance  
19 with RCW 43.01.036, the department must submit a report to the  
20 legislature and governor with the following information: The number  
21 of requests to pay for physical abuse exams for child victims of  
22 felony level physical assault pursuant to this act, how many of these  
23 requests are approved and denied including the reasons for denial,  
24 and any other information the department believes is beneficial.

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