
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2419

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Rude, Macri, Kloba, Peterson, Springer, Cody, Ormsby, Riccelli, and Doglio)

1 AN ACT Relating to studying barriers to the use of the Washington
2 death with dignity act; adding a new section to chapter 70.245 RCW;
3 and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.245
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The University of Washington shall conduct a study, in
8 consultation with the department of health and with approval from the
9 Washington state institutional review board, of the ability of
10 Washington residents to make use of the rights established under this
11 chapter. The study shall review the extent to which there are
12 barriers to achieving full access to the Washington death with
13 dignity act, including:

14 (a) A lack of awareness of the Washington death with dignity act
15 and its provisions;

16 (b) Burdens for qualified patients to meet the fifteen-day
17 waiting period;

18 (c) The effectiveness of pain control medication used during the
19 fifteen-day waiting period;

20 (d) Concerns that inhibit the participation of health care
21 providers in the provisions of this chapter;

1 (e) Hospital, medical, hospice, and long-term care providers'
2 policies that restrict the participation in and the distribution of
3 information about the provisions of this chapter;

4 (f) Limited geographic access to compounding pharmacies or other
5 pharmacies that dispense medications under this chapter;

6 (g) Restrictions based on the requirement that the medications
7 under this chapter be self-administered;

8 (h) Lack of insurance coverage for the services and medications
9 necessary to participate in the provisions of this chapter;

10 (i) The need for improvements to the data collection system; and

11 (j) Any other barriers identified in the course of performing the
12 study.

13 (2) By June 30, 2021, the University of Washington shall report
14 its findings, as well as any legislative or administrative policy
15 recommendations, to the governor and the committees of the
16 legislature with jurisdiction over health policy. The report must
17 protect the confidentiality of the subjects of any data that it
18 receives while conducting its research, including the names of any
19 qualifying patients and health care providers. The department of
20 health and the University of Washington shall enter into a signed
21 data-sharing agreement for the purpose of this section. Data obtained
22 pursuant to this section is not subject to public disclosure.

23 (3) This section expires January 1, 2022.

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