
HOUSE BILL 1779

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Mosbrucker and Dye

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing toxic air pollution that threatens
2 human health; adding a new section to chapter 70A.15 RCW; creating
3 new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that carbon monoxide
6 poisoning kills at least 430 people in the United States every year
7 and 50,000 people seek medical care to treat the adverse effects of
8 carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide gas is odorless and
9 colorless, making it difficult for people to protect themselves and
10 detect an issue that can cause sudden illness, death, and lifelong
11 disability. Therefore, the legislature intends to direct state
12 agencies to collaborate on a study of what Washington state is doing
13 to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and what the state might
14 reasonably do to keep people safe.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70A.15
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) By September 1, 2023, the department must convene an
18 interagency carbon monoxide work group consisting of representatives
19 of the department of health, the director of the forensic laboratory
20 services at the Washington state patrol, the department of

1 transportation, and the office of the attorney general. The
2 interagency carbon monoxide work group must nominate a chair and the
3 chair may designate up to two additional participants with subject
4 matter expertise to participate on the work group.

5 (2) The purpose of the interagency carbon monoxide work group is
6 to produce a report regarding current and recommended future state
7 agency activities to:

8 (a) Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, including leaks from motor
9 vehicles;

10 (b) Increase awareness of carbon monoxide among the most at-risk
11 populations;

12 (c) Collect data on the number of incidents of carbon monoxide
13 poisoning and their causes in Washington, in order to track the
14 reduction of such incidents over time; and

15 (d) Identify any opportunities to seek federal grants or other
16 sources of funding available for public awareness campaigns related
17 to carbon monoxide harm avoidance.

18 (3) The interagency carbon monoxide work group must submit a
19 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature and the
20 governor by December 1, 2024, that contains recommendations on new
21 policy changes and other actions that could be taken to reduce carbon
22 monoxide poisoning in Washington.

23 (4) This section expires July 1, 2026.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as Mary's
25 law.

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