
SENATE BILL 5804

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senator Braun

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting gain-of-function research; adding
2 a new section to chapter 70.54 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) A person may not conduct gain-of-function research in the
7 state.

8 (2) A person who violates this section is subject to a civil
9 penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation, as determined by
10 the court.

11 (3)(a) The attorney general may receive, investigate, and
12 prosecute complaints against alleged violators of this section.

13 (b) The attorney general may institute and conduct an action in
14 the name of the state of Washington for any of the following:

15 (i) An injunction in any court of this state for injunctive
16 relief to restrain a person from continuing any activity that
17 violates this section;

18 (ii) The assessment and recovery of civil penalties provided in
19 subsection (2) of this section.

20 (c) The attorney general must be reimbursed through civil
21 penalties collected under this section for the costs incurred in

1 providing the services described in this subsection. Any remaining
2 funds must be deposited in the state general fund.

3 (4) For the purposes of this section, "gain-of-function research"
4 means experimentation that aims or is expected to increase the
5 transmissibility or virulence, or both, of a pathogen.

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