
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6428

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)

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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