

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5465

*As Reported By House Committee on:
Health Care*

Title: An act relating to the required pharmacy assistant ratio.

Brief Description: Concerning the ratio of pharmacy assistants.

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators West, Moore, Conner, McDonald, Newhouse, Nelson, Bluechel, Johnson, Niemi, Wojahn and von Reichbauer).

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Health Care, April 4, 1991, DP.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH CARE**

Majority Report: *Do pass.* Signed by 11 members: Representatives Braddock, Chair; Day, Vice Chair; Moyer, Ranking Minority Member; Casada, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Cantwell; Edmondson; Franklin; Morris; Paris; Prentice; and Sprengle.

Staff: John Welsh (786-7133).

Background: The law specifies that a pharmacist employed in a hospital or mental health facility may not supervise more than three Level A pharmacy assistants in the preparation of medicines for in-patients, nor more than one Level A pharmacy assistant in the preparation of medicines for out-patients.

A Level A pharmacy assistant aids in the performance of manipulative and non-discretionary functions associated with the practice of pharmacy, under the supervision of pharmacists.

Summary of Bill: The law specifying the ratio of pharmacist supervision over Level A pharmacy assistants in hospitals and mental health facilities is extended to nursing homes and residential habilitation centers serving the developmentally disabled.

The preparation of medicines for in-patients in these institutions must be separated from any area of the pharmacy where the dispensing of prescriptions to out-patients occurs.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The bill will allow for more efficient operation of pharmacies in nursing homes and residential habilitation centers.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: Lars Hennem, Pharmacists of Washington (pro); and Steve Singer, Evergreen Pharmaceutical Services (pro).