

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5232

As of January 21, 1998

Title: An act relating to completion of prescriptive authority for advanced registered nurse practitioners.

Brief Description: Completing the prescriptive authority of advanced registered nurse practitioners.

Sponsors: Senators Wood, Prentice, Deccio, Franklin, Fairley, Thibaudeau, Kohl and McAuliffe.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/4/97, 2/28/97 [DPS]; 1/22/98.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Rhoda Jones (786-7198)

Background: Advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNP) are registered nurses with formal specialized training which qualifies them to function more independently than a registered nurse in a variety of health care specialities. ARNPs may have specialities in such areas as pediatrics, geriatrics, midwifery, anesthesiology, neonatology. They must maintain a current certification in their specialized field in order to practice independently.

ARNPs have authority to prescribe legend drugs and controlled substances contained in schedule V of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, Chapter 69.50 RCW. ARNPs are required to have 30 hours of education in pharmacotherapeutics related to their scope of specialized and advance practice. All ARNPs, except nurse anesthetists, are prohibited from prescribing schedules I through IV. Certified registered nurse anesthetists may prescribe schedule II through IV drugs limited to those drugs which are to be directly administered to patients who require anesthesia.

In 1991 legislation proposed expanding the authority of ARNPs to prescribe Schedules II through IV. The Department of Health conducted a sunrise review to analyze issues of health and safety related to this request.

Summary of Bill: Advanced registered nurse practitioners are given expanded prescriptive authority to include schedule II through IV drugs of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

The dispensing of schedules II through IV controlled substances is limited to a maximum of a 72-hour supply of the prescribed controlled substance.

A temporary advisory committee is established to assist the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission implement this act. Membership includes three advanced registered nurse

practitioners with prescriptive authority, one physician, a pharmacist and the executive directors of their respective commissions and boards.

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission must prepare a report to the Legislature, due January 1, 2000, on the implementation of this act.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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