
HOUSE BILL 2658

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Dyer, Cody, Backlund, Radcliff, Skinner, Kessler, Scott, H. Sommers, Quall, Hatfield, Kenney, O'Brien, Chopp, Conway, Keiser, Wood, Fisher, Poulsen, Anderson, Butler, Dickerson, Ogden, Costa, Murray, Regala, Constantine, Gombosky, Romero and Wolfe

Read first time 01/16/98. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to in-home care providers and workers; adding new
2 sections to chapter 70.127 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the recent trend
5 in long-term care is to provide a more complex level of direct in-home
6 care and support to a greater number of high acuity clients. The
7 legislature further finds that the thousands of in-home care assistants
8 who provide these needed long-term care services do so with wages that
9 often places them at or below the level of poverty and often without
10 paid sick leave, vacation, holiday leave, or retirement.

11 It is the intent of the legislature to increase wages and benefit
12 levels for home care assistants. Furthermore, it is the intent of the
13 legislature to improve the safety, health, and well-being of persons
14 receiving in-home assistance by recognizing the cost and oversight
15 necessary for higher level acuity clients.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.127 RCW
17 to read as follows:

1 The wages for all in-home care assistants of home care agencies
2 providing in-home care for state supported clients in chore services,
3 medicaid personal care services, respite services, or community options
4 programs entry system services shall be increased to eight dollars and
5 fifty cents an hour with appropriate annual cost of living adjustments
6 as determined by the office of financial management, by rule.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.127 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 The department of social and health services shall develop and
10 implement, by rule, a reimbursement scale for agencies providing in-
11 home services that recognizes the acuity level of the in-home care
12 clients and the requisite supervision and training necessary to insure
13 the quality of care and safety of the client.

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