
SENATE BILL 5448

State of Washington **55th Legislature** **1997 Regular Session**

By Senators Deccio, Wojahn, Wood and Fairley

Read first time 01/27/97. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to the merger of the health professions account and
2 the medical disciplinary account; amending RCW 18.71.310; adding a new
3 section to chapter 18.71 RCW; creating new sections; repealing RCW
4 18.71.400 and 18.71.410; providing an effective date; and declaring an
5 emergency.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.71 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 All assessments, fines, and other funds collected or received under
10 this chapter must be deposited in the health professions account and
11 used solely to administer and implement this chapter.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.71.310 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 330 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) The commission shall enter into a contract with the committee
15 to implement an impaired physician program. The impaired physician
16 program may include any or all of the following:

17 (a) Contracting with providers of treatment programs;

1 (b) Receiving and evaluating reports of suspected impairment from
2 any source;

3 (c) Intervening in cases of verified impairment;

4 (d) Referring impaired physicians to treatment programs;

5 (e) Monitoring the treatment and rehabilitation of impaired
6 physicians including those ordered by the commission;

7 (f) Providing post-treatment monitoring and support of
8 rehabilitative impaired physicians;

9 (g) Performing such other activities as agreed upon by the
10 commission and the committee; and

11 (h) Providing prevention and education services.

12 (2) A contract entered into under subsection (1) of this section
13 shall be financed by a surcharge of up to twenty-five dollars per year
14 on each license renewal or issuance of a new license to be collected by
15 the department of health from every physician and surgeon licensed
16 under this chapter in addition to other license fees (~~and the medical~~
17 ~~discipline assessment fee established under RCW 18.72.380~~). These
18 moneys shall be placed in the health professions account to be used
19 solely for the implementation of the impaired physician program.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of health shall merge the
21 medical license renewal fee and the medical disciplinary assessment fee
22 into a single medical renewal fee, which shall be deposited into the
23 health professions account. The initial amount of the merged fee shall
24 be the sum of the medical license renewal fee and the medical
25 disciplinary assessment fee as of January 1, 1997. The department may
26 make future adjustments to the amount of the merged fee pursuant to RCW
27 43.70.250.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of health shall transfer the
29 entire balance of the medical disciplinary account to the health
30 professions account to be used solely to administer and implement the
31 provisions of chapter 18.71 RCW. Until changes to fees are adopted by
32 rule under section 3 of this act, the department shall deposit any fees
33 intended for the medical disciplinary account into the health
34 professions account and utilize them solely to administer and implement
35 the provisions of chapter 18.71 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
2 repealed:

3 (1) RCW 18.71.400 and 1996 c 191 s 56, 1993 c 367 s 18, 1991 c 3 s
4 170, 1985 c 7 s 62, & 1983 c 71 s 1; and

5 (2) RCW 18.71.410 and 1991 sp.s. c 13 s 17, 1985 c 57 s 6, & 1983
6 c 71 s 2.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
9 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
10 July 1, 1997.

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