
HOUSE BILL 2469

State of Washington 56th Legislature 2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Cody, Carlson and Boldt

Read first time 01/13/2000. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the license surcharge for the
2 impaired physician program; and amending RCW 18.71.310, 18.71A.020, and
3 18.57A.020.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.71.310 and 1998 c 132 s 4 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The commission shall enter into a contract with the entity to
8 implement an impaired physician program. The commission may enter into
9 a contract with the entity for up to six years in length. The impaired
10 physician program may include any or all of the following:

11 (a) Entering into relationships supportive of the impaired
12 physician program with professionals who provide either evaluation or
13 treatment services, or both;

14 (b) Receiving and assessing reports of suspected impairment from
15 any source;

16 (c) Intervening in cases of verified impairment, or in cases where
17 there is reasonable cause to suspect impairment;

18 (d) Upon reasonable cause, referring suspected or verified impaired
19 physicians for evaluation or treatment;

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

3 (f) Providing monitoring and continuing treatment and
4 rehabilitative support of physicians;

5 (g) Performing such other activities as agreed upon by the
6 commission and the entity; and

7 (h) Providing prevention and education services.

8 (2) A contract entered into under subsection (1) of this section
9 shall be financed by a surcharge of (~~twenty-five~~) thirty-five dollars
10 per year on each license renewal or issuance of a new license to be
11 collected by the department of health from every physician and surgeon
12 licensed under this chapter in addition to other license fees. The
13 surcharge under this subsection may be increased annually to coincide
14 with the consumer price index for the Seattle, Washington area as
15 compiled by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States
16 department of labor. These moneys shall be placed in the impaired
17 physician account to be used solely for the implementation of the
18 impaired physician program.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.71A.020 and 1999 c 127 s 1 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 (1) The commission shall adopt rules fixing the qualifications and
22 the educational and training requirements for licensure as a physician
23 assistant or for those enrolled in any physician assistant training
24 program. The requirements shall include completion of an accredited
25 physician assistant training program approved by the commission and
26 within one year successfully take and pass an examination approved by
27 the commission, if the examination tests subjects substantially
28 equivalent to the curriculum of an accredited physician assistant
29 training program. An interim permit may be granted by the department
30 of health for one year provided the applicant meets all other
31 requirements. Physician assistants licensed by the board of medical
32 examiners, or the medical quality assurance commission as of July 1,
33 1999, shall continue to be licensed.

34 (2)(a) The commission shall adopt rules governing the extent to
35 which:

36 (i) Physician assistant students may practice medicine during
37 training; and

1 (ii) Physician assistants may practice after successful completion
2 of a physician assistant training course.

3 (b) Such rules shall provide:

4 (i) That the practice of a physician assistant shall be limited to
5 the performance of those services for which he or she is trained; and

6 (ii) That each physician assistant shall practice medicine only
7 under the supervision and control of a physician licensed in this
8 state, but such supervision and control shall not be construed to
9 necessarily require the personal presence of the supervising physician
10 or physicians at the place where services are rendered.

11 (3) Applicants for licensure shall file an application with the
12 commission on a form prepared by the secretary with the approval of the
13 commission, detailing the education, training, and experience of the
14 physician assistant and such other information as the commission may
15 require. The application shall be accompanied by a fee determined by
16 the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. A surcharge
17 of ~~((twenty-five))~~ thirty-five dollars per year shall be charged on
18 each license renewal or issuance of a new license to be collected by
19 the department and deposited into the impaired physician account for
20 physician assistant participation in the impaired physician program.
21 The surcharge under this subsection may be increased annually to
22 coincide with the consumer price index for the Seattle, Washington area
23 as compiled by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States
24 department of labor. Each applicant shall furnish proof satisfactory
25 to the commission of the following:

26 (a) That the applicant has completed an accredited physician
27 assistant program approved by the commission and is eligible to take
28 the examination approved by the commission;

29 (b) That the applicant is of good moral character; and

30 (c) That the applicant is physically and mentally capable of
31 practicing medicine as a physician assistant with reasonable skill and
32 safety. The commission may require an applicant to submit to such
33 examination or examinations as it deems necessary to determine an
34 applicant's physical or mental capability, or both, to safely practice
35 as a physician assistant.

36 (4) The commission may approve, deny, or take other disciplinary
37 action upon the application for license as provided in the Uniform
38 Disciplinary Act, chapter 18.130 RCW. The license shall be renewed as
39 determined under RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. The commission may

1 authorize the use of alternative supervisors who are licensed either
2 under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.57A.020 and 1999 c 127 s 2 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) The board shall adopt rules fixing the qualifications and the
6 educational and training requirements for licensure as an osteopathic
7 physician assistant or for those enrolled in any physician assistant
8 training program. The requirements shall include completion of an
9 accredited physician assistant training program approved by the board
10 and within one year successfully take and pass an examination approved
11 by the board, providing such examination tests subjects substantially
12 equivalent to the curriculum of an accredited physician assistant
13 training program. An interim permit may be granted by the department
14 of health for one year provided the applicant meets all other
15 requirements. Physician assistants licensed by the board of
16 osteopathic medicine as of July 1, 1999, shall continue to be licensed.

17 (2)(a) The board shall adopt rules governing the extent to which:

18 (i) Physician assistant students may practice medicine during
19 training; and

20 (ii) Physician assistants may practice after successful completion
21 of a training course.

22 (b) Such rules shall provide:

23 (i) That the practice of an osteopathic physician assistant shall
24 be limited to the performance of those services for which he or she is
25 trained; and

26 (ii) That each osteopathic physician assistant shall practice
27 osteopathic medicine only under the supervision and control of an
28 osteopathic physician licensed in this state, but such supervision and
29 control shall not be construed to necessarily require the personal
30 presence of the supervising physicians at the place where services are
31 rendered. The board may authorize the use of alternative supervisors
32 who are licensed either under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW.

33 (3) Applicants for licensure shall file an application with the
34 board on a form prepared by the secretary with the approval of the
35 board, detailing the education, training, and experience of the
36 physician assistant and such other information as the board may
37 require. The application shall be accompanied by a fee determined by
38 the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. A surcharge

1 of (~~twenty-five~~) thirty-five dollars per year may be charged on each
2 license renewal or issuance of a new license to be collected by the
3 department of health for physician assistant participation in an
4 impaired practitioner program. The surcharge under this subsection may
5 be increased annually to coincide with the consumer price index for the
6 Seattle, Washington area as compiled by the bureau of labor statistics
7 of the United States department of labor. Each applicant shall furnish
8 proof satisfactory to the board of the following:

9 (a) That the applicant has completed an accredited physician
10 assistant program approved by the board and is eligible to take the
11 examination approved by the board;

12 (b) That the applicant is of good moral character; and

13 (c) That the applicant is physically and mentally capable of
14 practicing osteopathic medicine as an osteopathic physician assistant
15 with reasonable skill and safety. The board may require any applicant
16 to submit to such examination or examinations as it deems necessary to
17 determine an applicant's physical and/or mental capability to safely
18 practice as an osteopathic physician assistant.

19 (4) The board may approve, deny, or take other disciplinary action
20 upon the application for a license as provided in the uniform
21 disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW. The license shall be renewed as
22 determined under RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

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