
SENATE BILL 5702

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau and Deccio

Read first time 02/03/1999. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to physician assistant licensing and practice
2 restrictions; and amending RCW 18.71A.020 and 18.57A.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.71A.020 and 1998 c 132 s 14 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The commission shall adopt rules fixing the qualifications and
7 the educational and training requirements for licensure as a physician
8 assistant or for those enrolled in any physician assistant training
9 program. The requirements shall include completion of an accredited
10 physician assistant training program approved by the commission and
11 ~~((eligibility to take))~~ within one year successfully take and pass an
12 examination approved by the commission, if the examination tests
13 subjects substantially equivalent to the curriculum of an accredited
14 physician assistant training program. An interim permit may be granted
15 by the department of health for one year provided the applicant meets
16 all other requirements. Physician assistants licensed by the board of
17 medical examiners, or the medical quality assurance commission as of
18 ~~((June 7, 1990))~~ July 1, 1999, shall continue to be licensed.

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

3 (i) Physician assistant students may practice medicine during
4 training; and

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

7 (b) Such rules shall provide:

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

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

15 (3) Applicants for licensure shall file an application with the
16 commission on a form prepared by the secretary with the approval of the
17 commission, detailing the education, training, and experience of the
18 physician assistant and such other information as the commission may
19 require. The application shall be accompanied by a fee determined by
20 the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. A surcharge
21 of twenty-five dollars per year shall be charged on each license
22 renewal or issuance of a new license to be collected by the department
23 and deposited into the impaired physician account for physician
24 assistant participation in the impaired physician program. Each
25 applicant shall furnish proof satisfactory to the commission of the
26 following:

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

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

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

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

1 determined under RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. The commission may
2 authorize the use of alternative supervisors who are licensed either
3 under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.57A.020 and 1998 c 132 s 13 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

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

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

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

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

23 (b) Such rules shall provide:

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

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

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

1 the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. A surcharge
2 of twenty-five dollars per year may be charged on each license renewal
3 or issuance of a new license to be collected by the department of
4 health for physician assistant participation in an impaired
5 practitioner program. Each applicant shall furnish proof satisfactory
6 to the board of the following:

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

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

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

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

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