
SENATE BILL 5917

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Winsley and Thibaudeau

Read first time 02/16/1999. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to compensation for the medical quality assurance
2 commission; and amending RCW 18.71.015.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.71.015 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 303 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The Washington state medical quality assurance commission is
7 established, consisting of thirteen individuals licensed to practice
8 medicine in the state of Washington under this chapter, two individuals
9 who are licensed as physician assistants under chapter 18.71A RCW, and
10 four individuals who are members of the public. Each congressional
11 district now existing or hereafter created in the state must be
12 represented by at least one physician member of the commission. The
13 terms of office of members of the commission are not affected by
14 changes in congressional district boundaries. Public members of the
15 commission may not be a member of any other health care licensing board
16 or commission, or have a fiduciary obligation to a facility rendering
17 health services regulated by the commission, or have a material or
18 financial interest in the rendering of health services regulated by the
19 commission.

1 The members of the commission shall be appointed by the governor.
2 Members of the initial commission may be appointed to staggered terms
3 of one to four years, and thereafter all terms of appointment shall be
4 for four years. The governor shall consider such physician and
5 physician assistant members who are recommended for appointment by the
6 appropriate professional associations in the state. In appointing the
7 initial members of the commission, it is the intent of the legislature
8 that, to the extent possible, the existing members of the board of
9 medical examiners and medical disciplinary board repealed under section
10 336, chapter 9, Laws of 1994 sp. sess. be appointed to the commission.
11 No member may serve more than two consecutive full terms. Each member
12 shall hold office until a successor is appointed.

13 Each member of the commission must be a citizen of the United
14 States, must be an actual resident of this state, and, if a physician,
15 must have been licensed to practice medicine in this state for at least
16 five years.

17 The commission shall meet as soon as practicable after appointment
18 and elect officers each year. Meetings shall be held at least four
19 times a year and at such place as the commission determines and at such
20 other times and places as the commission deems necessary. A majority
21 of the commission members appointed and serving constitutes a quorum
22 for the transaction of commission business.

23 The affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the commission is
24 required to carry any motion or resolution, to adopt any rule, or to
25 pass any measure. The commission may appoint panels consisting of at
26 least three members. A quorum for the transaction of any business by
27 a panel is a minimum of three members. A majority vote of a quorum of
28 the panel is required to transact business delegated to it by the
29 commission.

30 Each member of the commission shall be compensated in ((accordance
31 with RCW 43.03.240 and)) an amount not to exceed two hundred fifty
32 dollars per day during which the member attends an official meeting of
33 the group or performs statutorily prescribed duties approved by the
34 chair of the commission. In addition ((thereto)) each member shall be
35 reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of
36 the commission in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Any
37 such expenses shall be paid from funds appropriated to the department
38 of health.

1 Whenever the governor is satisfied that a member of a commission
2 has been guilty of neglect of duty, misconduct, or malfeasance or
3 misfeasance in office, the governor shall file with the secretary of
4 state a statement of the causes for and the order of removal from
5 office, and the secretary shall forthwith send a certified copy of the
6 statement of causes and order of removal to the last known post office
7 address of the member.

8 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled for
9 the unexpired term by appointment by the governor.

10 The members of the commission are immune from suit in an action,
11 civil or criminal, based on its disciplinary proceedings or other
12 official acts performed in good faith as members of the commission.

13 Whenever the workload of the commission requires, the commission
14 may request that the secretary appoint pro tempore members of the
15 commission. When serving, pro tempore members of the commission have
16 all of the powers, duties, and immunities, and are entitled to all of
17 the emoluments, including travel expenses, of regularly appointed
18 members of the commission.

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