
SENATE BILL 6497

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Winsley, Costa, Wojahn and Deccio

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to health; requiring registration of a school
2 health aide; and adding a new chapter to Title 18 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a
5 diminishing supply of school nurses serving the health needs of
6 students in the state's school districts. The supply of nurses has not
7 increased in proportion to school enrollment. In addition, the
8 increasingly complex health needs of students can no longer be
9 adequately met by the delegation of nursing tasks to unlicensed and
10 untrained school personnel, such as teachers, teacher's assistants, and
11 secretarial staff, without compromising the health of students and
12 exposing school districts to legal liability. The delegation practices
13 in public schools of complex nursing tasks are of questionable legality
14 and the opportunity for error has life-threatening consequences.
15 Removing health barriers to learning is essential to the successful
16 education of students, and should be addressed in the state's school
17 districts by recognizing established nursing practice standards and the
18 state's uniform professional accountability processes. The legislature

1 declares that the training of registered school health aides is in the
2 interest of public health and safety.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
4 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5 (1) "Commission" means the nursing care quality assurance
6 commission created in RCW 18.79.070.

7 (2) "Department" means the department of health.

8 (3) "School health aide" means a person registered under this
9 chapter who regularly performs ongoing nursing tasks delegated by a
10 licensed registered nurse as authorized by this chapter.

11 (4) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) No certificated or noncertificated
13 school district employee may practice or represent himself or herself
14 as a school health aide by use of any title or description of services
15 without being registered to practice by the department, unless
16 otherwise exempted by this chapter.

17 (2) Nursing tasks delegated to a school health aide include those
18 nursing procedures applicable to school districts provided by law,
19 including those tasks determined by the commission by rule in
20 consultation with the superintendent of public instruction.

21 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the scope
22 of nursing procedures applicable to school districts as provided by
23 law.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed
25 to prohibit or restrict:

26 (1) The practice by an individual licensed, certified, or
27 registered under the laws of this state and performing services within
28 the authorized scope of practice;

29 (2) The practice by an individual employed by the government of the
30 United States while engaged in the performance of duties prescribed by
31 the laws of the United States; or

32 (3) The practice by a person who is a regular student in an
33 educational program approved by the secretary, and whose performance of
34 services is pursuant to a regular course of instruction or assignments
35 from an instructor and under the general supervision of the instructor.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** In addition to any other authority provided
2 by law, the secretary has the authority to:

3 (1) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW necessary to implement this
4 chapter;

5 (2) Establish all registration, examination, and renewal fees in
6 accordance with RCW 43.70.250;

7 (3) Establish forms and procedures necessary to administer this
8 chapter;

9 (4) Register any applicants, and to deny registration to applicants
10 who do not meet the minimum qualifications, except that proceedings
11 concerning the denial of registration based upon unprofessional conduct
12 or impairment shall be governed by the uniform disciplinary act,
13 chapter 18.130 RCW;

14 (5) Hire clerical, administrative, investigative, and other staff
15 as needed to implement this chapter, and hire individuals registered
16 under this chapter to serve as examiners for any practical
17 examinations;

18 (6) Determine minimum education or training requirements;

19 (7) Determine whether alternative methods of training are
20 equivalent to formal education, and establish forms, procedures, and
21 criteria for evaluation of an applicant's alternative training to
22 determine the applicant's eligibility for registration;

23 (8) Implement and administer a program for consumer education;

24 (9) Adopt rules implementing a continuing competency program; and

25 (10) Maintain the official department record of all applicants and
26 persons registered under this chapter.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The secretary shall keep an official record
28 of all proceedings. A part of the record shall consist of a register
29 of all applicants for registration under this chapter and the results
30 of each application.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The secretary shall issue a registration to
32 any applicant who completes an application that identifies the name and
33 address of the applicant, the registration being requested, and
34 information required by the secretary necessary to establish whether
35 there are grounds for denial of a registration or issuance of a
36 conditional registration under chapter 18.130 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The commission, in consultation with the
2 superintendent of public instruction, shall establish by rule the
3 standards and procedures for approval of educational and alternative
4 training programs.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Applications for registration shall be
6 submitted on forms provided by the secretary. The secretary may
7 require any information and documentation that reasonably relates to
8 the need to determine whether the applicant meets the criteria for
9 registration provided for in this chapter and chapter 18.130 RCW. Each
10 applicant shall pay a fee determined by the secretary under RCW
11 43.70.250. The fee shall accompany the application.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** The secretary shall establish by rule the
13 procedural requirements and fees for renewal of a registration.
14 Failure to renew shall invalidate the registration and all privileges
15 granted by the registration. If a registration has lapsed for a period
16 longer than three years, the person shall demonstrate competence to the
17 satisfaction of the secretary by taking continuing education courses,
18 or meeting other standards determined by the secretary.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** The uniform disciplinary act, chapter
20 18.130 RCW, governs the issuance and denial of registrations,
21 unauthorized practice, and the discipline of persons registered under
22 this chapter. The secretary is the disciplining authority under this
23 chapter.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** This chapter only applies to a business or
25 profession regulated under the laws of this state if this chapter is
26 specifically referenced in the laws regulating that business or
27 profession.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** If any provision of this act or its
29 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
30 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
31 persons or circumstances is not affected.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Sections 1 through 13 of this act
2 constitute a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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