

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SHB 2315

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**As Passed House:**  
February 19, 2002

**Title:** An act relating to recreation therapy.

**Brief Description:** Providing for the registration of recreational therapists.

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, McDermott, Kenney and Tokuda).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care: 1/17/02, 1/25/02 [DPS];  
Appropriations: 2/4/02, 2/6/02 [DPS(HC)].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 2/19/02, 97-0.

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Establishes a registration program for recreation therapists under the Secretary of the Department of Health.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Schual-Berke, Vice Chair; Campbell, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Ballasiotes, Benson, Conway, Darneille, Edwards, Ruderman and Skinner.

**Staff:** John Welsh (786-7133).

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill by Committee on Health Care be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 24 members: Representatives Sommers, Chair; Doumit, 1st Vice Chair; Fromhold, 2nd Vice Chair; Sehlin, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Buck, Clements, Cody, Cox, Dunshee, Grant, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Linville, Lisk, Mastin, McIntire, Pearson, Pflug, Ruderman, Schual-Berke,

Talcott and Tokuda.

**Staff:** Amy Hanson (786-7118).

**Background:**

The services and activities of recreation therapy are not regulated by the state as a health profession. Recreation therapists provide the use of recreational and/or community counseling and community integration as treatment intervention to improve the functioning of persons with disabilities.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:**

A registration program for recreation therapy is established under the secretary of health. Persons who practice or represent themselves as a registered recreation therapist must register with the Department of Health.

A recreation therapist performs recreational and/or community activities to include leisure counseling and community integration as treatment intervention to improve functional leisure and community competence of persons with physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, or social disabilities.

The secretary is authorized to adopt rules implementing the registration program, establish registration fees, and procedures necessary to administer the program. The secretary must issue a registration to an applicant who complies with the requirements of the chapter.

The secretary is the disciplinary authority under the Uniform Discipline Act governing the issuance and denial of registration, unauthorized practice, and the discipline of persons registered under this act for unprofessional conduct.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not Requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on July 1, 2003.

**Testimony For:** (Health Care) Federal law requires recreational therapists to be subject to a disciplinary process in order to work directly with patients who are clients of federal medical programs.

**Testimony For:** (Appropriations) None.

**Testimony Against:** (Health Care) None.

**Testimony Against:** (Appropriations) None.

**Testified:** (Health Care) Kristine Kvitle and Carrie Booker, Washington State Therapeutic Recreation Association; Terry Raub; and Jodi McKenzie.

**Testified:** (Appropriations) None.