

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SB 5903

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### As Reported by House Committee On:

Health Care

**Title:** An act relating to increasing the license surcharge for the impaired physician program.

**Brief Description:** Changing physician license fees.

**Sponsors:** By Senators Winsley, Franklin, Costa and Thibaudeau.

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

Health Care: 3/29/01 [DP].

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Raises the \$25 annual surcharge on physician licenses to no more than \$35 to fund the Impaired Physicians Program.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 14 members: Representatives Campbell, Republican Co-Chair; Cody, Democratic Co-Chair; Schual-Berke, Democratic Vice Chair; Skinner, Republican Vice Chair; Alexander, Ballasiotes, Conway, Darneille, Edmonds, Edwards, Marine, McMorris, Pennington and Ruderman.

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

### Background:

A statutory surcharge of \$25 is added to a licensing fee or license renewal fee of physicians for financing the Impaired Physician Program. The Medical Quality Assurance Commission is required by law to enter into a contract with a professional entity which provides evaluation and treatment services to physicians impaired as a result of chemical abuse or mental illness to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to their patients.

**Summary of Bill:**

The statutory surcharge of \$25 for financing the Impaired Physician Program is raised to no more than \$35.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Raises in the surcharge for funding the impaired physician program are necessary to provide needed services to impaired physicians.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Senator Winsley, prime sponsor; and Carl Nelson, Washington State Medical Association.