

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SSB 5601

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As Passed Senate, March 9, 2001

**Title:** An act relating to a limited license to practice medicine.

**Brief Description:** Removing the two-year limited license renewal limit on teaching-research medical professionals.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Thibaudeau, Deccio, Franklin, Winsley, Costa, Fraser and Kohl-Welles).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long-Term Care: 2/8/01, 2/14/01 [DPS].

Passed Senate: 3/9/01, 43-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5601 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Thibaudeau, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Costa, Deccio, Fraser, Parlette and Winsley.

**Staff:** Joan K. Mell (786-7447)

**Background:** Medical doctors are licensed in this state through the Department of Health and the Medical Quality Assurance Commission. The commission is authorized by statute to issue a limited license to persons who possess certain specified qualifications. One of the specified qualifications requires nomination by the dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Washington for a nominee to serve as a teaching-research member of the institution's instructional staff if the sponsoring institution and the applicant give evidence that he or she has graduated from a recognized medical school and has been licensed or otherwise privileged to practice medicine at his or her location of origin. A limited license to practice may be granted, but for no more than two years.

Recruitment of specialized practitioners has been difficult, and the two-year limitation has been a barrier to finding qualified professionals.

**Summary of Bill:** The two-year limitation on a limited license to practice is eliminated.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

**Testimony For:** Shortages regarding available specialists, particularly in the field of anesthesiology, require flexibility and opportunities to encourage practitioners to come to this state.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** PRO: Jackie Der, Dr. Frederick Cheney, UW; Loretta Wasse, VA.