

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5601

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Health & Long-Term Care, February 14, 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: 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].

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

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: An emergency clause is added.

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.