
HOUSE BILL 2315

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Cody, McDermott, Kenney and Tokuda

Read first time 01/14/2002. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to recreation therapy; and adding a new chapter to
2 Title 18 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The overriding mission of therapeutic
5 recreation is the provision of purposeful intervention designed to help
6 clients grow and to assist them to prevent or relieve problems through
7 recreation and leisure. It is a systematic methodology through a
8 progression of phases, including assessment, planning, implementation,
9 and evaluation. It is not a limited or restricted concept of service
10 carried out only within the constraints of institutional care, but is
11 a client-centered model that reflects a concern for the total well-
12 being of the client. Recreation therapy is cost-effective and can
13 decrease the costs of health care services by reducing primary and
14 secondary disabilities. In anticipation of the expansion in long-term
15 care, physical and psychiatric rehabilitation, and services for people
16 with disabilities, the legislature finds and declares that the
17 registration of recreational therapists is in the interest of the
18 public health and safety.

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

3 (1) "Department" means the department of health.

4 (2) "Recreation therapy" means the prescribed use of recreational
5 and other activities, including counseling and independent living
6 skills, as treatment intervention to improve functional living
7 competence of persons with a physical, cognitive, emotional,
8 behavioral, or social disability. The primary purpose of recreation
9 therapy is to restore, remediate, or rehabilitate persons in order to
10 improve functioning and independence as well as reduce or eliminate the
11 effects of illness or disability.

12 (3) "Recreational therapist" means a person registered under this
13 chapter.

14 (4) "Registration" means the registration issued to a person under
15 this chapter.

16 (5) "Secretary" means the secretary of health or the secretary's
17 designee.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** No person may practice or represent oneself
19 as a registered recreational therapist by use of any title or
20 description of services without being registered to practice by the
21 department of health, unless otherwise exempted by this chapter.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Nothing in this chapter may be construed to
23 prohibit or restrict:

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

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

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

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

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

3 (2) Establish all registration and renewal fees in accordance with
4 RCW 43.70.250;

5 (3) Establish forms and procedures necessary to administer this
6 chapter;

7 (4) Register any applicants who have met the requirements for
8 registration and to deny registration to applicants who do not meet the
9 requirements of this chapter, except that proceedings concerning the
10 denial of registration based upon unprofessional conduct or impairment
11 is governed by the uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW;

12 (5) Hire clerical, administrative, investigative, and other staff
13 as needed to implement this chapter; and

14 (6) Maintain the official department record of all applicants and
15 persons registered under this chapter.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The secretary must keep an official record
17 of all proceedings. A part of the record shall consist of a register
18 of all applicants for registration under this chapter and the results
19 of each application.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) Applicants for registration under this
21 chapter are subject to the grounds for denial of a registration under
22 chapter 18.130 RCW.

23 (2) The secretary must issue a registration to an applicant who
24 completes an application form that identifies the name and address of
25 the applicant, the registration requested, and information required by
26 the secretary necessary to establish whether there are grounds for
27 denial of a registration. An applicant must present with the
28 application for registration a certificate or other documentation
29 verifying that the applicant is currently certified as a recreational
30 therapist by a nationally recognized professional recreation therapy
31 credentialing organization.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Applications for registration must be
33 submitted on forms provided by the secretary. The secretary may
34 require any information and documentation that reasonably relates to
35 the need to determine whether the applicant meets the criteria for
36 registration provided for in this chapter and chapter 18.130 RCW. Each

1 applicant must pay a fee determined by the secretary under RCW
2 43.70.250. The fee must accompany the application.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The secretary must establish by rule the
4 procedural requirements and fees for renewal of a registration.
5 Failure to renew invalidates the registration and all privileges
6 granted by the registration.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** The uniform disciplinary act, chapter
8 18.130 RCW, governs the issuance and denial of a registration,
9 unauthorized practice, and the discipline of persons registered under
10 this chapter. The secretary is the disciplining authority under this
11 chapter.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** If any provision of this act or its
13 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
14 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
15 persons or circumstances is not affected.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Sections 1 through 11 of this act
17 constitute a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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