

SHB 2711 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

1       Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3       "NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** Washington state is experiencing a critical  
4 shortage of registered nurses. To safeguard and promote patient safety  
5 and quality of care, the legislature finds that a central resource  
6 center for the nursing work force is critical and essential in  
7 addressing the nursing shortage and ensuring that the public continue  
8 to receive safe, quality care.

9       **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.70.110 and 1993 sp.s. c 24 s 918 are each amended  
10 to read as follows:

11       (1) The secretary shall charge fees to the licensee for obtaining  
12 a license. After June 30, 1995, municipal corporations providing  
13 emergency medical care and transportation services pursuant to chapter  
14 18.73 RCW shall be exempt from such fees, provided that such other  
15 emergency services shall only be charged for their pro rata share of  
16 the cost of licensure and inspection, if appropriate. The secretary  
17 may waive the fees when, in the discretion of the secretary, the fees  
18 would not be in the best interest of public health and safety, or when  
19 the fees would be to the financial disadvantage of the state.

20       (2) Except as provided in section 4 of this act, fees charged shall  
21 be based on, but shall not exceed, the cost to the department for the  
22 licensure of the activity or class of activities and may include costs  
23 of necessary inspection.

24       (3) Department of health advisory committees may review fees  
25 established by the secretary for licenses and comment upon the  
26 appropriateness of the level of such fees.

27       **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.70.250 and 1996 c 191 s 1 are each amended to read  
28 as follows:

1           It shall be the policy of the state of Washington that the cost of  
2 each professional, occupational, or business licensing program be fully  
3 borne by the members of that profession, occupation, or business. The  
4 secretary shall from time to time establish the amount of all  
5 application fees, license fees, registration fees, examination fees,  
6 permit fees, renewal fees, and any other fee associated with licensing  
7 or regulation of professions, occupations, or businesses administered  
8 by the department. In fixing said fees, the secretary shall set the  
9 fees for each program at a sufficient level to defray the costs of  
10 administering that program except as provided in section 4 of this act.  
11 All such fees shall be fixed by rule adopted by the secretary in  
12 accordance with the provisions of the administrative procedure act,  
13 chapter 34.05 RCW.

14           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.79 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16           (1) In addition to the licensing fee for registered nurses and  
17 licensed practical nurses licensed under this chapter, the department  
18 shall impose an additional surcharge of five dollars per year on all  
19 initial licenses and renewal licenses for registered nurses and  
20 licensed practical nurses issued under this chapter. Advanced  
21 registered nurse practitioners are only required to pay the surcharge  
22 on their registered nurse licenses.

23           (2) The department, in consultation with the commission, shall use  
24 the proceeds from the surcharge to contract with a central nursing  
25 resource center to conduct the following activities:

26           (a) Maintain information on the current and projected supply and  
27 demand of nurses through the collection and analysis of data regarding  
28 the nursing work force including but not limited to education level,  
29 race and ethnicity, employment settings, and nursing positions. This  
30 data collection and analysis shall complement other state activities to  
31 produce data on the nursing work force.

32           (b) Facilitate partnership between the nursing community and other  
33 health care providers, business and industry, consumers, legislators,  
34 and educators to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity within the  
35 profession, and enhance nursing career mobility and nursing leadership  
36 development.

1 (c) Evaluate the effectiveness of nursing education and  
2 articulation among programs to increase access to nursing education and  
3 enhance career mobility, especially for populations that are  
4 underrepresented in the nursing profession.

5 (d) Provide consultation, technical assistance, data, and  
6 information related to Washington state and national nursing resources.

7 (e) Promote initiatives to ensure a safe, healthy, and respectful  
8 workplace environment for nurses.

9 (f) Promote a positive image of the nursing profession and educate  
10 the public including students in K-12 about careers in nursing.

11 (3) The nursing resource center account is created in the custody  
12 of the state treasurer. All receipts from the surcharge in subsection  
13 (1) of this section must be deposited in the account. Expenditures  
14 from the account may be used only for contracting with an organization  
15 to conduct the specific activities listed in subsection (2) of this  
16 section and to compensate the department for the reasonable costs  
17 associated with the collection and distribution of the surcharge. Only  
18 the secretary or the secretary's designee may authorize expenditures  
19 from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under  
20 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for  
21 expenditures.

22 (4) The central nursing resource center shall submit a report of  
23 all progress and activities conducted by the center to the relevant  
24 committees of the legislature by November 30, 2007.

25 (5) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this  
26 act."

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27 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "force;" strike the remainder  
28 of the title and insert "amending RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.250; adding  
29 a new section to chapter 18.79 RCW; and creating a new section."

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