

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESHB 1852

C 278 L 03

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Facilitating collaboration among health care work force stakeholders to address the health care personnel shortage.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Conway, Cox, Cody, Kenney, Pflug, Clements, O'Brien, Chase, Morrell, Veloria and Skinner).

House Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

Background:

Health Personnel Resource Plan (HPRP). In 1991 the Legislature directed six state education and health agencies to develop a biennial plan for identifying shortages in health personnel and to design and implement activities intended to remedy those shortages. The legislation detailed numerous components expected in the plan, including assessment of future health care training needs; data on the number, type, and location of health personnel in the state; and strategies for providing necessary training and education for health personnel. Each higher education institution was expected to develop institution-level plans for curriculum, programs, and internship and residency opportunities to address the needs identified in the state plan.

Funding for the HPRP was eliminated in 1997-99 and, although references to the plan remain in statute, the planning has been discontinued.

Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force (Task Force). In 2002 four legislators requested that the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) convene a task force of labor, business, education, and health care leaders to address the health care personnel shortage in Washington. In January 2003 the Task Force reported back to the Legislature with a state strategic plan built on six goals and accompanying recommendations for action. The sixth goal was to "develop a mechanism to ensure continued collaboration among stakeholders, track progress, create accountability for fulfilling this plan, and plan for future health workforce needs."

Summary:

The WTECB is directed to facilitate ongoing collaboration among stakeholders to address the health care personnel shortage and to establish and maintain a state strategic plan for

ensuring an adequate supply of personnel. Reports are due to the Governor and Legislature by December 31, 2003, and annually thereafter, on the progress of the plan, along with any additional recommendations.

Statutes creating and referencing the HPRP are amended or repealed.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 96 0

Senate 49 0

Effective: July 27, 2003