
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1852

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

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)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to facilitating collaboration among health care
2 work force stakeholders to address the health care personnel shortage;
3 amending RCW 28B.115.070 and 28B.115.090; adding a new section to
4 chapter 28C.18 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW
5 28B.125.005, 28B.125.010, 28B.125.020, and 28B.125.030.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares:

8 (1) There is a severe shortage of health care personnel in
9 Washington state;

10 (2) The shortage contributes to increased costs in health care and
11 threatens the ability of the health care system to provide adequate and
12 accessible services;

13 (3) The current shortage of health care personnel is structural
14 rather than the cyclical shortages of the past, and this is due to
15 demographic changes that will increase demand for health care services;

16 (4) An increasing proportion of the population will reach

1 retirement age, and an increasing proportion of health care personnel
2 will also reach retirement age; and

3 (5) There should be continuing collaboration among health care work
4 force stakeholders to address the shortage of health care personnel.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The board shall:

8 (1) Facilitate ongoing collaboration among stakeholders in order to
9 address the health care personnel shortage;

10 (2) In collaboration with stakeholders, establish and maintain a
11 state strategic plan for ensuring an adequate supply of health care
12 personnel that safeguards the ability of the health care delivery
13 system in Washington state to provide quality, accessible health care
14 to residents of Washington; and

15 (3) Report to the governor and legislature by December 31, 2003,
16 and annually thereafter, on progress on the state plan and make
17 additional recommendations as necessary.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.115.070 and 1991 c 332 s 20 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 After June 1, 1992, the department, in consultation with the board
21 and the department of social and health services, shall:

22 (1) Determine eligible credentialed health care professions for the
23 purposes of the loan repayment and scholarship program authorized by
24 this chapter. Eligibility shall be based upon an assessment that
25 determines that there is a shortage or insufficient availability of a
26 credentialed profession so as to jeopardize patient care and pose a
27 threat to the public health and safety. The department shall consider
28 the relative degree of shortages among professions when determining
29 eligibility. ~~((This determination shall be based upon health
30 professional shortage needs identified in the health personnel resource
31 plan authorized by RCW 28B.125.010.))~~ The department may add or remove
32 professions from eligibility based upon the determination that a
33 profession is no longer in shortage ~~((as determined by the health
34 personnel resource plan))~~. Should a profession no longer be eligible,
35 participants or eligible students who have received scholarships shall

1 be eligible to continue to receive scholarships or loan repayments
2 until they are no longer eligible or until their service obligation has
3 been completed;

4 (2) Determine health professional shortage areas for each of the
5 eligible credentialed health care professions.

6 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.115.090 and 1991 c 332 s 22 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The board may grant loan repayment and scholarship awards to
9 eligible participants from the funds appropriated for this purpose, or
10 from any private or public funds given to the board for this purpose.
11 Participants are ineligible to receive loan repayment if they have
12 received a scholarship from programs authorized under this chapter or
13 chapter (~~((28B.104 or))~~) 70.180 RCW or are ineligible to receive a
14 scholarship if they have received loan repayment authorized under this
15 chapter or chapter (~~((18.150))~~) 28B.115 RCW.

16 (2) Funds appropriated for the program, including reasonable
17 administrative costs, may be used by the board for the purposes of loan
18 repayments or scholarships. The board shall annually establish the
19 total amount of funding to be awarded for loan repayments and
20 scholarships and such allocations shall be established based upon the
21 best utilization of funding for that year (~~((and based upon the health
22 personnel resource plan authorized in RCW 28B.125.010))~~).

23 (3) One portion of the funding appropriated for the program shall
24 be used by the board as a recruitment incentive for communities
25 participating in the community-based recruitment and retention program
26 as authorized by chapter 70.185 RCW; one portion of the funding shall
27 be used by the board as a recruitment incentive for recruitment
28 activities in state-operated institutions, county public health
29 departments and districts, county human service agencies, federal and
30 state contracted community health clinics, and other health care
31 facilities, such as rural hospitals that have been identified by the
32 department, as providing substantial amounts of charity care or
33 publicly subsidized health care; one portion of the funding shall be
34 used by the board for all other awards. The board shall determine the
35 amount of total funding to be distributed between the three portions.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
2 repealed:

3 (1) RCW 28B.125.005 (Intent) and 1991 c 332 s 4;

4 (2) RCW 28B.125.010 (Statewide health personnel resource plan--
5 Committee) and 1998 c 245 s 15, 1993 c 492 s 270, & 1991 c 332 s 5;

6 (3) RCW 28B.125.020 (Institutional plans--Implementation) and 1991
7 sp.s. c 27 s 1; and

8 (4) RCW 28B.125.030 (New training programs) and 1993 c 323 s 5.

--- END ---