
HOUSE BILL 1852

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Conway, Cox, Cody, Kenney, Pflug, Clements, O'Brien, Chase, Morrell, Veloria and Skinner

Read first time 02/12/2003. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

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
17 retirement age, and an increasing proportion of health care personnel
18 will also reach retirement age; and

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

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

5 The board shall facilitate ongoing collaboration among stakeholders
6 in order to address the health care personnel shortage. The
7 stakeholders shall:

8 (1) Establish and maintain a state strategic plan for ensuring an
9 adequate supply of health care personnel that safeguards the ability of
10 the health care delivery system in Washington state to provide quality,
11 accessible health care to residents of Washington;

12 (2) Develop and implement a work force data collection and analysis
13 system to assess health care work force supply and demand; and

14 (3) Report to the governor and legislature by December 31, 2004,
15 and by December 31, 2006, on progress on the state plan and make
16 additional recommendations as necessary.

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

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

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

1 until they are no longer eligible or until their service obligation has
2 been completed;

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 (1) RCW 28B.125.005 (Intent) and 1991 c 332 s 4;
- 2 (2) RCW 28B.125.010 (Statewide health personnel resource plan--
- 3 Committee) and 1998 c 245 s 15, 1993 c 492 s 270, & 1991 c 332 s 5;
- 4 (3) RCW 28B.125.020 (Institutional plans--Implementation) and 1991
- 5 sp.s. c 27 s 1; and
- 6 (4) RCW 28B.125.030 (New training programs) and 1993 c 323 s 5.

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