
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2711

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Kenney, Morrell, Cody, McIntire, Chase and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding a central resource center for the
2 nursing work force; amending RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.250; adding a new
3 section to chapter 18.79 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

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

13 (1) The secretary shall charge fees to the licensee for obtaining
14 a license. After June 30, 1995, municipal corporations providing
15 emergency medical care and transportation services pursuant to chapter
16 18.73 RCW shall be exempt from such fees, provided that such other
17 emergency services shall only be charged for their pro rata share of
18 the cost of licensure and inspection, if appropriate. The secretary

1 may waive the fees when, in the discretion of the secretary, the fees
2 would not be in the best interest of public health and safety, or when
3 the fees would be to the financial disadvantage of the state.

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

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

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

13 It shall be the policy of the state of Washington that the cost of
14 each professional, occupational, or business licensing program be fully
15 borne by the members of that profession, occupation, or business. The
16 secretary shall from time to time establish the amount of all
17 application fees, license fees, registration fees, examination fees,
18 permit fees, renewal fees, and any other fee associated with licensing
19 or regulation of professions, occupations, or businesses administered
20 by the department. In fixing said fees, the secretary shall set the
21 fees for each program at a sufficient level to defray the costs of
22 administering that program except as provided in section 4 of this act.
23 All such fees shall be fixed by rule adopted by the secretary in
24 accordance with the provisions of the administrative procedure act,
25 chapter 34.05 RCW.

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

28 (1) In addition to the licensing fee for registered nurses and
29 licensed practical nurses licensed under this chapter, the department
30 shall impose an additional surcharge of five dollars per year on all
31 initial licenses and renewal licenses for registered nurses and
32 licensed practical nurses issued under this chapter. Advanced
33 registered nurse practitioners are only required to pay the surcharge
34 on their registered nurse licenses.

35 (2) The department, in consultation with the commission, shall use

1 the proceeds from the surcharge to contract with a central nursing
2 resource center to conduct the following activities:

3 (a) Maintain information on the current and projected supply and
4 demand of nurses through the collection and analysis of data regarding
5 the nursing work force including but not limited to education level,
6 race and ethnicity, employment settings, and nursing positions. This
7 data collection and analysis shall complement other state activities to
8 produce data on the nursing work force.

9 (b) Facilitate partnership between the nursing community and other
10 health care providers, business and industry, consumers, legislators,
11 and educators to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity within the
12 profession, and enhance nursing career mobility and nursing leadership
13 development.

14 (c) Evaluate the effectiveness of nursing education and
15 articulation among programs to increase access to nursing education and
16 enhance career mobility, especially for populations that are
17 underrepresented in the nursing profession.

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

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

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

24 (3) The nursing resource center account is created in the custody
25 of the state treasurer. All receipts from the surcharge in subsection
26 (1) of this section must be deposited in the account. Expenditures
27 from the account may be used only for contracting with an organization
28 to conduct the specific activities listed in subsection (2) of this
29 section and to compensate the department for the reasonable costs
30 associated with the collection and distribution of the surcharge. Only
31 the secretary or the secretary's designee may authorize expenditures
32 from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under
33 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for
34 expenditures.

35 (4) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this
36 act.

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