
HOUSE BILL 2711

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Morrell, Cody, McIntire, Chase and Conway

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding a central resource center for the
2 nursing work force; adding a new section to chapter 18.79 RCW; and
3 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 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.79 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) In addition to the licensing fee for health care professionals
14 licensed under this chapter, the department shall impose an additional
15 surcharge of five dollars per year on all initial licenses and renewal
16 licenses issued under this chapter.

17 (2) The department shall use the proceeds from the surcharge to
18 contract with an organization to conduct the following activities:

1 (a) Maintain information on the current and projected supply and
2 demand of nurses through the collection and analysis of data regarding
3 the nursing work force including but not limited to education level,
4 employment settings, and nursing positions.

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

10 (c) Evaluate the effectiveness of nursing education and
11 articulation among programs to increase access to nursing education and
12 enhance career mobility.

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

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

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

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

30 (4) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this
31 act.

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