
SENATE BILL 6554

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Parlette, Keiser, Winsley and Thibaudeau; by request of Department of Health

Read first time 01/23/2004. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating credentialing barriers for health
2 professions; amending RCW 18.06.050, 18.29.021, 18.29.180, 18.34.070,
3 18.79.160, 18.83.050, 18.83.070, 18.83.072, 18.83.082, and 18.83.170;
4 adding a new section to chapter 18.79 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the health care
7 work force shortage is contributing to the health care crisis. The
8 legislature also finds that some unnecessary barriers exist that slow
9 or prevent qualified applicants from becoming credentialed health care
10 providers. The legislature further finds that eliminating these
11 initial barriers to licensure will contribute to state initiatives
12 directed toward easing the health care personnel shortage in
13 Washington.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.06.050 and 1991 c 3 s 7 are each amended to read as
15 follows:

16 Any person seeking to be examined shall present to the secretary at
17 least forty-five days before the commencement of the examination:

1 (1) A written application on a form or forms provided by the
2 secretary setting forth under affidavit such information as the
3 secretary may require; and

4 (2) Proof that the candidate has:

5 (a) Successfully completed a course, approved by the secretary, of
6 didactic training in basic sciences and acupuncture over a minimum
7 period of two academic years. The training shall include such subjects
8 as anatomy, physiology, (~~bacteriology,~~) microbiology, biochemistry,
9 pathology, hygiene, and a survey of western clinical sciences. The
10 basic science classes must be equivalent to those offered at the
11 collegiate level. However, if the applicant is a licensed chiropractor
12 under chapter 18.25 RCW or a naturopath licensed under chapter 18.36A
13 RCW, the requirements of this subsection relating to basic sciences may
14 be reduced by up to one year depending upon the extent of the
15 candidate's qualifications as determined under rules adopted by the
16 secretary;

17 (b) Successfully completed (~~a course, approved by the secretary,~~)
18 five hundred hours of clinical training in acupuncture (~~over a minimum~~
19 ~~period of one academic year. The training shall include a minimum of:~~
20 ~~(i) Twenty nine quarter credits of supervised practice, consisting of~~
21 ~~at least four hundred separate patient treatments involving a minimum~~
22 ~~of one hundred different patients, and (ii) one hundred hours or nine~~
23 ~~quarter credits of observation which shall include case presentation~~
24 ~~and discussion)) that is approved by the secretary.~~

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.29.021 and 1996 c 191 s 10 are each amended to read
26 as follows:

27 (1) The department shall issue a license to any applicant who, as
28 determined by the secretary:

29 (a) Has successfully completed an educational program approved by
30 the secretary. This educational program shall include course work
31 encompassing the subject areas within the scope of the license to
32 practice dental hygiene in the state of Washington;

33 (b) Has successfully completed an examination administered or
34 approved by the dental hygiene examining committee; and

35 (c) Has not engaged in unprofessional conduct or is not unable to
36 practice with reasonable skill and safety as a result of a physical or
37 mental impairment.

1 (2) The department shall issue a limited license to any applicant
2 who, as determined by the secretary:

3 (a) Has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene educational
4 program approved by the secretary;

5 (b) Has successfully completed an examination administered or
6 approved by the dental hygiene committee which includes a patient
7 evaluation and prophylaxis and anesthesia/nitrous oxide; and

8 (c) Has not engaged in unprofessional conduct or is not unable to
9 practice with reasonable skill and safety as a result of a physical or
10 mental impairment.

11 A person practicing with a limited license granted under this
12 section may not place restorations or carve, contour, or adjust
13 contacts or the occlusion of the restoration.

14 (3) Applications for licensure must comply with administrative
15 procedures, administrative requirements, and fees established according
16 to RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

17 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.29.180 and 1991 c 3 s 57 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 The following practices, acts, and operations are excepted from the
20 operation of this chapter:

21 (1) The practice of dental hygiene in the discharge of official
22 duties by dental hygienists in the United States armed services, coast
23 guard, public health services, veterans' bureau, or bureau of Indian
24 affairs;

25 (2) Dental hygiene programs approved by the secretary and the
26 practice of dental hygiene by students in dental hygiene programs
27 approved by the secretary, when acting under the direction and
28 supervision of persons licensed under chapter 18.29 or 18.32 RCW acting
29 as instructors;

30 (3) The practice of dental hygiene by students in accredited dental
31 hygiene educational programs when acting under the direction and
32 supervision of instructors licensed under chapter 18.29 or 18.32 RCW.

33 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.34.070 and 1991 c 3 s 76 are each amended to read
34 as follows:

35 Any applicant for a license shall be examined if he or she pays an

1 examination fee determined by the secretary as provided in RCW
2 43.70.250 and certifies under oath that he or she:

- 3 (1) Is eighteen years or more of age; and
- 4 (2) Has graduated from an accredited high school; and
- 5 (3) ~~((Is a citizen of the United States or has declared his or her~~
6 ~~intention of becoming such citizen in accordance with law; and~~
7 ~~(4))~~) Is of good moral character; and
- 8 ~~((5))~~) (4) Has either:
 - 9 (a) Had at least three years of apprenticeship training; or
 - 10 (b) Successfully completed a prescribed course in opticianry in a
11 college or university approved by the secretary; or
 - 12 (c) Been principally engaged in practicing as a dispensing optician
13 not in the state of Washington for five years.

14 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.79.160 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 416 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) An applicant for a license to practice as a registered nurse
17 shall submit to the commission:

- 18 (a) An attested written application on a department form;
- 19 (b) ~~((Written))~~ An official ~~((evidence of a diploma from))~~
20 transcript demonstrating graduation and successful completion of an
21 approved ~~((school))~~ program of nursing; and

22 (c) Any other official records specified by the commission.

23 (2) An applicant for a license to practice as an advanced
24 registered nurse practitioner shall submit to the commission:

- 25 (a) An attested written application on a department form;
- 26 (b) ~~((Written))~~ An official ~~((evidence of))~~ transcript
27 demonstrating graduation and successful completion of an advanced
28 registered nurse practitioner ~~((training))~~ program meeting criteria
29 established by the commission; and

30 (c) Any other official records specified by the commission.

31 (3) An applicant for a license to practice as a licensed practical
32 nurse shall submit to the commission:

- 33 (a) An attested written application on a department form;
- 34 (b) Written official evidence that the applicant is over the age of
35 eighteen;

36 (c) ~~((Written official evidence of a high school diploma or general~~
37 ~~education development certificate or diploma;~~

1 ~~(d) Written~~) An official ((evidence of completion of)) transcript
2 demonstrating graduation and successful completion of an approved
3 practical nursing program, or its equivalent; and

4 ~~((e))~~ (d) Any other official records specified by the commission.

5 (4) At the time of submission of the application, the applicant for
6 a license to practice as a registered nurse, advanced registered nurse
7 practitioner, or licensed practical nurse must not be in violation of
8 chapter 18.130 RCW or this chapter.

9 (5) The commission shall establish by rule the criteria for
10 evaluating the education of all applicants.

11 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 18.79 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 A licensed practical nurse with an active license who is in the
14 process of completing or has completed the coursework of a
15 nontraditional registered nurse program approved by the commission can
16 obtain the required clinical experience when: (1) The experience is
17 obtained under the immediate supervision of a registered nurse who
18 agrees to act as the preceptor with the understanding that the licensed
19 practical nurse is practicing under the preceptor's registered nurse
20 license. The preceptor must have an unrestricted license with at least
21 two years of clinical practice in the same type of practice setting
22 where the preceptorship will occur; and (2) the experience is obtained
23 within six months of completion of the approved nontraditional program.

24 **Sec. 8.** RCW 18.83.050 and 1994 c 35 s 2 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (1) The board shall adopt such rules as it deems necessary to carry
27 out its functions.

28 (2) The board shall examine the qualifications of applicants for
29 licensing under this chapter, to determine which applicants are
30 eligible for licensing under this chapter and shall forward to the
31 secretary the names of applicants so eligible.

32 (3) The board shall administer examinations to qualified applicants
33 on at least an annual basis. The board shall determine the subject
34 matter and scope of the examination(~~s and shall require both written~~
35 ~~and oral examinations of each applicant~~), except as provided in RCW

1 18.83.170. The board may allow applicants to take the (~~written~~)
2 examination upon the granting of their doctoral degree before
3 completion of their internship for supervised experience.

4 (4) The board shall keep a complete record of its own proceedings,
5 of the questions given in examinations, of the names and qualifications
6 of all applicants, and the names and addresses of all licensed
7 psychologists. The examination paper of such applicant shall be kept
8 on file for a period of at least one year after examination.

9 (5) The board shall, by rule, adopt a code of ethics for
10 psychologists which is designed to protect the public interest.

11 (6) The board may require that persons licensed under this chapter
12 as psychologists obtain and maintain professional liability insurance
13 in amounts determined by the board to be practicable and reasonably
14 available.

15 **Sec. 9.** RCW 18.83.070 and 1995 c 198 s 11 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 An applicant for a license as "psychologist" must submit proof to
18 the board that:

19 (1) The applicant is of good moral character.

20 (2) The applicant holds a doctoral degree from a regionally
21 accredited institution, obtained from an integrated program of graduate
22 study in psychology as defined by rules of the board.

23 (3) The applicant has had no fewer than two years of supervised
24 experience(~~(, at least one of which shall have been obtained subsequent~~
25 ~~to the granting of the doctoral degree)~~). The board shall adopt rules
26 defining the circumstances under which supervised experience shall
27 qualify the candidate for licensure.

28 (4) The applicant has passed the (~~written or oral~~) examination or
29 examinations(~~(, or both, as prescribed)~~) required by the board.

30 Any person holding a valid license to practice psychology in the
31 state of Washington on June 7, 1984, shall be considered licensed under
32 this chapter.

33 **Sec. 10.** RCW 18.83.072 and 1996 c 191 s 65 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) Examination of applicants shall be held in Olympia, Washington,

1 or at such other place as designated by the secretary, at least
2 annually at such times as the board may determine.

3 ~~(2) ((Any applicant shall have the right to discuss with the board
4 his or her performance on the examination.~~

5 ~~(3))~~ Any applicant who fails to make a passing grade on the
6 examination may be allowed to retake the examination. Any applicant
7 who fails the examination a second time must obtain special permission
8 from the board to take the examination again.

9 ~~((4))~~ (3) The board may approve an examination prepared or
10 administered by a private testing agency or association of licensing
11 authorities.

12 **Sec. 11.** RCW 18.83.082 and 1996 c 191 s 67 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 A person, not licensed in this state, who wishes to perform
15 practices under the provisions of this chapter for a period not to
16 exceed ninety days within a calendar year, must petition the board for
17 a temporary permit to perform such practices. If the person is
18 licensed or certified in another state deemed by the board to have
19 standards equivalent to this chapter, or if the person is a member of
20 a professional organization and holds a certificate deemed by the board
21 to meet standards equivalent to this chapter, a permit may be issued.
22 No fee shall be charged for such temporary permit.

23 **Sec. 12.** RCW 18.83.170 and 1996 c 191 s 70 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Upon compliance with administrative procedures, administrative
26 requirements, and fees determined under RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280,
27 the board may grant a license, without ~~((written))~~ oral examination, to
28 any applicant who has not previously failed any examination held by the
29 board of psychology of the state of Washington and furnishes evidence
30 satisfactory to the board that the applicant:

31 (1) Holds a doctoral degree with primary emphasis on psychology
32 from an accredited college or university; and

33 (2)(a) Is licensed or certified to practice psychology in another
34 state or country in which the requirements for such licensing or
35 certification are, in the judgment of the board, essentially equivalent

1 to those required by this chapter and the rules and regulations of the
2 board. Such individuals must have been licensed or certified in
3 another state for a period of at least two years; or

4 ~~((3))~~ (b) Is a diplomate in good standing of the American Board
5 of Examiners in Professional Psychology; or

6 (c) Is a member of a professional organization and holds a
7 certificate deemed by the board to meet standards equivalent to this
8 chapter.

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