

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1479

As Reported by House Committee On: Health Care

Title: An act relating to independent prescriptive authority for advanced registered nurse practitioners.

Brief Description: Regarding independent prescriptive authority for advanced registered nurse practitioners.

Sponsors: Representatives Morrell, Campbell, Schual-Berke, Nixon, Cody, Green, Appleton, Clibborn, Simpson and Moeller.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 2/10/05, 2/15/05 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows advanced registered nurse practitioners to prescribe Schedule II through IV controlled substances without a joint practice arrangement.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Campbell, Vice Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Curtis, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Clibborn, Green, Lantz, Moeller, Schual-Berke and Skinner.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 4 members: Representatives Bailey, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Condotta and Hinkle.

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

Advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNP) are registered nurses with formal specialized training which qualifies them to function more independently than a registered nurse in a variety of health care specialties. The ARNPs may have specialties in such areas as pediatrics, geriatrics, midwifery, anesthesiology, and neonatology. This additional training allows ARNPs to assume primary care responsibilities for a broad range of patient care beyond the practice of registered nurses.

The ARNPs may only prescribe legend drugs and controlled substances contained in Schedule V of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act. There are two exceptions to this limitation. First, an ARNP who is a certified registered nurse anesthetist may select, order, and administer Schedule II through IV controlled substances for anesthesia services at the request of a physician, osteopathic physician, dentist, or podiatrist. Second, an ARNP may order or prescribe Schedule II through IV controlled substances consistent with his or her scope of practice and in response to a request from a physician or osteopathic physician and an ARNP to enter into a joint practice arrangement. The joint practice arrangement must describe the collaboration between the ARNP and the physician or osteopathic physician, including when consultation shall occur, methods of communication, and documentation of the consultation.

Summary of Bill:

The ARNPs may prescribe Schedule II through IV controlled substances as consistent with their scope of practice without entering into a joint practice arrangement with a physician or osteopathic physician. Rulemaking authority related to joint practice arrangements is removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Allowing advanced registered nurse practitioners to prescribe drugs without a joint practice arrangement will increase access to health care. Data shows that advanced registered nurse practitioners do not need a joint practice arrangement to practice safely. Obtaining a joint practice arrangement has been difficult for many.

Testimony Against: This would allow advanced registered nurse practitioners to practice as physicians, despite the lack of training.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Morrell, prime sponsor; Dwight Bushue, Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses; Nick Federici, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners United; and Louise Kaplan, Washington State Nurses Association.

(Opposed) Carl Nelson, Washington State Medical Association.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.