
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1071

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Campbell and Morrell)

READ FIRST TIME 03/09/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to the uniform disciplinary act for health
2 professions; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The uniform disciplinary act provides a
5 consistent process for addressing acts of unprofessional conduct
6 affecting fifty-nine health professions regulated by the state. The
7 disciplinary authorities include the secretary of health and sixteen
8 boards and commissions charged with protecting the health and safety of
9 patients from unprofessional conduct. It is recognized nationally as
10 a model law and has worked well over time to provide uniformity and
11 efficiency to the disciplinary process.

12 The legislature finds that there may be methods for increasing the
13 efficiency and effectiveness of this model through the redistribution
14 of duties between the secretary of health and the health profession
15 boards and commissions. In addition, there is an opportunity to
16 achieve greater consistency in the sanctions imposed across the health
17 professions through specifically identified sanctions for specific acts
18 of unprofessional conduct. A more consistent application of sanctions

1 across professions protects both the safety of the public and the due
2 process rights of all health care professionals.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The secretary of health shall establish a
4 work group to review the complaint processing and sanction
5 determination phases of the health professions disciplinary process.
6 At the secretary of health's discretion, the work group may include
7 representatives of different health profession boards and commissions,
8 professional associations, and other interested parties. The work
9 group shall submit a report to the legislature by December 1, 2005,
10 with recommendations for creating:

11 (1) Greater efficiencies between the health professions boards and
12 commissions and the secretary of health in processing complaints
13 against license holders; and

14 (2) More consistent sanction determinations that balance the
15 protection of the public's health and the rights of health care
16 providers among the different health professions, including
17 recommendations for specific ranges of sanctions for each act of
18 unprofessional conduct and the effect of any aggravating and mitigating
19 factors that may apply to each.

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