
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2399

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Morrell, Green and Schual-Berke)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to health care providers; adding a new section to
2 chapter 43.70 RCW; providing an effective date; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department, in collaboration with the work force training
8 and education coordinating board, shall distribute survey questions for
9 the purpose of gathering data related to work force supply and
10 demographics to all health care providers who hold a license to
11 practice a health profession. The department shall adopt a schedule
12 for distributing surveys by profession so that each profession is
13 surveyed every two years. In developing the survey, the department
14 shall seek advice from researchers that are likely to use the survey
15 data.

16 (2)(a) At a minimum, the survey shall include questions related to
17 understanding the following characteristics of individuals in the
18 health care work force:

19 (i) Specialty;

1 (ii) Birthdate and gender;
2 (iii) Race and ethnicity;
3 (iv) Hours in practice per week;
4 (v) Practice statistics, including hours spent in direct patient
5 care;
6 (vi) Zip codes of the location where the provider practices;
7 (vii) Years in practice, years in practice in Washington, location
8 and years in practice in other jurisdictions;
9 (viii) Education and training background, including the location
10 and types of education and training received; and
11 (ix) Type of facilities where the provider practices.

12 (b) The department may approve proposals for the distribution of
13 surveys containing additional data elements to selected health care
14 professions if it determines that there is a legitimate research
15 interest in obtaining the information, the additional burden on members
16 of the health care profession is not unreasonable, the effect on survey
17 response rates is not unreasonable, and there are funds available. The
18 department may accept funds through contracts, grants, donations, or
19 other forms of contributions to support more detailed surveys.

20 (3) The department must make a public data set available that meets
21 the confidentiality requirements of subsection (5) of this section.
22 The department may respond to requests for data and other information
23 from the registry for special studies and analysis pursuant to a data-
24 sharing agreement. Any use of the data by the requestor must comply
25 with the confidentiality requirements of subsection (5) of this
26 section. The department may require requestors to pay any or all of
27 the reasonable costs associated with such requests that may be
28 approved.

29 (4) The failure to complete or return the survey may not be grounds
30 to withhold, fail to renew, or revoke a license or to impose any other
31 disciplinary sanctions against a credentialed health care provider.

32 (5) The department must process the surveys that it receives in
33 such a way that the identity of individual providers remains
34 confidential. Data elements related to the identification of
35 individual providers are confidential and are exempt from RCW 42.56.040
36 through 42.56.570 and 42.17.350 through 42.17.450, except as provided
37 in a data-sharing agreement approved by the department pursuant to
38 subsection (3) of this section.

1 (6) By July 1, 2009, the department shall provide a report to the
2 appropriate committees of the legislature on the effectiveness of using
3 a survey to obtain information on the supply of health care
4 professionals, the distribution and use of the information obtained by
5 the surveys by employers and health professions education and training
6 programs and the extent to which the surveys have alleviated identified
7 shortages of trained health care providers.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Section 1 of this act takes effect July
9 1, 2006.

10 (2) This act expires January 1, 2012.

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