

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2497

As Passed House:
February 13, 2008

Title: An act relating to the prescriptive authority of advanced registered nurse practitioners.

Brief Description: Repealing RCW 18.79.255.

Sponsors: By Representatives Green, Seaquist, Williams, Cody, Condotta, Hinkle, Morrell and Simpson.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 1/14/08, 1/21/08 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/13/08, 96-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Repeals the limit on advanced registered nurse practitioners dispensing more than a 72-hour supply of schedule II through IV controlled substances.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Hinkle, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Barlow, Campbell, Condotta, DeBolt, Green, Moeller, Pedersen, Schual-Berke and Seaquist.

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

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

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range of patient care beyond the practice of registered nurses, including the prescribing of medications.

Advanced registered nurse practitioners may prescribe schedule II through IV controlled substances in either of two circumstances. First, ARNPs who are certified registered nurse anesthetists 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, ARNPs may order or prescribe schedule II through IV controlled substances as permitted by their scope of practice, but are limited to dispensing no more than a 72-hour supply.

Summary of Bill:

The limitation on ARNPs dispensing more than a 72-hour supply of schedule II through IV controlled substances is repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) There have not been any problems with advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNP) having prescriptive authority that indicate a risk to patient safety. Many people have ARNPs as their primary care provider and giving them full prescriptive authority would provide affordability and access to care by not requiring them to go to another provider. This bill assures comprehensive care for patients. This bill makes the ARNP practice comparable to other independent providers. Removing limitations on dispensing medicines will help people in rural areas.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Brian Payton, Washington State Department of Health; and Aaron Huston and Tammie Warnke, Associate Registered Nurse Practitioners United of Washington State.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.