
HOUSE BILL 1032

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Campbell, Morrell, and Chase

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1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a study of holistic medicine; creating
2 a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The governor shall convene a work group
5 to study and make recommendations regarding the practice and discipline
6 of holistic physicians. The work group shall consist of twelve members
7 appointed by the governor as follows:

8 (a) Three physicians representing the Washington state medical
9 association;

10 (b) Three physicians who are members of the American college for
11 advancement in medicine, the American academy of environmental
12 medicine, or the American holistic medical association;

13 (c) Three persons who are not physicians selected from a list of
14 six names submitted by the Washington state medical association; and

15 (d) Three persons who are not physicians selected from a list of
16 six names submitted by the physicians appointed in (b) of this
17 subsection.

18 (2) The work group shall:

1 (a) Study the differences between holistic and nonholistic
2 physicians in terms of diagnostic and treatment methodologies to
3 determine whether a regulatory definition of a holistic physician is
4 advisable or feasible;

5 (b) Examine existing protections provided to physicians under RCW
6 18.130.180(4) and determine whether additional protections for holistic
7 physicians are warranted;

8 (c) Determine whether holistic physicians are being treated fairly
9 in the disciplinary process by reviewing and comparing:

10 (i) Prior cases against holistic and nonholistic physicians;

11 (ii) The number of investigations that were initiated neither by
12 patient complaint nor allegations of patient harm regarding holistic
13 and nonholistic physicians;

14 (iii) The percentage of complaints that led to formal
15 investigations of holistic and nonholistic physicians; and

16 (iv) The fairness of procedures and safeguards in the hearings
17 process with respect to holistic and nonholistic physicians;

18 (d) Examine and compare the safeguards provided to patients of
19 holistic and nonholistic physicians to confirm whether the safeguards
20 provided to patients of holistic physicians meet current professional
21 standards of patient safety; and

22 (e) Solicit and consider written comments from the public and
23 interested stakeholder groups.

24 (3) The work group shall submit its findings and recommendations to
25 the governor and the legislature by November 15, 2010. In addition to
26 the findings and recommendations related to the work group's tasks in
27 subsection (2) of this section, the recommendations shall include the
28 following, if warranted by the work group's findings:

29 (a) An identification of regulatory or other mechanisms to
30 accommodate the use of safe and effective holistic health care services
31 by physicians; and

32 (b) Recommendations for:

33 (i) Protecting the ability of patients to select their physician of
34 choice;

35 (ii) Assuring full disclosure of health care approaches and
36 alternatives; and

37 (iii) Ensuring fairness in the physician disciplinary process.

1 (4) The department of health shall provide administrative support
2 to the work group. The department of health shall also provide
3 informational support to the work group upon request.

4 (5) For purposes of this act, "physician" means a person licensed
5 to practice medicine under chapter 18.71 RCW or a person licensed to
6 practice osteopathic medicine and surgery under chapter 18.57 RCW.

7 (6) This section expires January 1, 2011.

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