

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1176

As Reported by House Committee On: Health Care & Wellness

Title: An act relating to providing licensed midwives online access to health care resources through the University of Washington health sciences library.

Brief Description: Providing licensed midwives online access to health care resources through the University of Washington health sciences library.

Sponsors: Representatives Green, Harris, Cody, Hinkle, Appleton, Roberts, Kenney and Kagi.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 1/26/11, 2/3/11 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Adds midwives to the list of health professionals who pay a license fee surcharge of up to \$25 for online access to selected clinical resources at the University of Washington Health Sciences Library.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Jinkins, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Hinkle, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Clibborn, Green, Harris, Kelley, Moeller and Van De Wege.

Staff: Chris Cordes (786-7103).

Background:

By law, the Department of Health (DOH) must charge fees to professionals licensed by the DOH. The fees must be based on the cost to the agency for the licensure of the activity or class of activities.

In 2007 a fee surcharge of up to \$25 was added to license fees for certain health professionals to pay for online access to selected clinical resources through the University of Washington

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Health Sciences Library. Beginning January 1, 2009, these licensees were given access to vital clinical resources, medical journals, decision-support tools, and evidence-based reviews of procedures, drugs, and devices.

This online access fee surcharge is charged to the license fee of physicians and osteopathic physicians, physician assistants, naturopaths, podiatrists, chiropractors, psychologists, registered nurses, optometrists, mental health counselors, clinical social workers, massage therapists, and East Asian medicine practitioners.

Summary of Bill:

Midwives are added to the list of health professionals whose license fee is increased by up to \$25 for online access to selected clinical resources at the University of Washington Health Sciences Library.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Midwives are asking to be included in this program so that they have access to up-to-date clinical information. Because they are generally in an independent practice, this access is an inexpensive way to practice evidence-based medicine. This access should be applied to all practitioners, which would spread the cost of the program among all of them.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Green, prime sponsor; Amber Ulvenes and Audrey Levine, Midwives Association of Washington State; and Melanie Stewart, American Massage Therapy Association.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.