

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5307

As of April 1, 2011

Title: An act relating to evaluating military training and experience toward meeting licensing requirements in medical professions.

Brief Description: Concerning evaluating military training and experience toward meeting licensing requirements in medical professions.

Sponsors: Senators Kilmer, Hewitt, Regala, Conway, Kastama, Hobbs, King, Rockefeller, Swecker and Roach.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 1/24/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Kathleen Buchli (786-7488)

Background: The Department of Health (DOH) licenses health care professionals in accordance with statutory requirements. These requirements often include educational components, successful passage of examinations, completed apprenticeship programs, and experience components.

Summary of Bill: DOH must develop a process to evaluate military training and experience to be applied toward meeting the training and education requirements of the following health care professions: dental hygienists, dispensing opticians, ocularists, pharmacy assistants, physician assistants, emergency medical technicians, nurses, radiologic technologists, nursing assistants, respiratory care practitioners, health care assistants, surgical technologists, and dental assistants.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 21, 2011.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill provides a way for DOH to recognize military experience for the purpose of professional licensing. They have relevant training and this would reward the training and knowledge these people bring to their professions. Military personnel should not be required to start over with their training; they have already been trained and bring skills that should be taken advantage of. There will be five winners from this bill: veterans, employers, agencies, health care professions, and consumers. The training provided to dental technicians are not equivalent to the training required of dental hygienists and they should be removed from the bill. Osteopathic physicians' assistants should be added to the bill.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Kilmer, prime sponsor; Mark San Souci, Department of Defense State Liaison Office; Steve Lindstrom, Northwest Career Colleges Federation; Jim Richards, Osteopathic Medical Association; Melissa Johnson, Washington State Dental Hygienists Association; Gary Brackett, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber.