

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6270

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As of January 25, 2012

**Title:** An act relating to health care professionals not being required to participate in any public or private third-party reimbursement program as a condition of licensure.

**Brief Description:** Providing that health care professional licensees may not be required to participate in any public or private third-party reimbursement program.

**Sponsors:** Senators Becker, Keiser, Sheldon, Haugen, Shin, Parlette, Fain, Delvin, Schoesler, Carrell, Holmquist Newbry, Honeyford, Morton and Kline.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long-Term Care: 1/25/12.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

**Staff:** Kathleen Buchli (786-7488)

**Background:** The Uniform Disciplinary Act (UDA) provides standardized procedures for the licensure of health care professionals and the enforcement of laws to assure the public of the adequacy of professional competence and conduct in the health professions. It also establishes a list of actions that may result in a finding of unprofessional conduct, including false advertising, malpractice, and violations of any rule establishing standards of patient care or professional conduct or practice. The UDA does not include a requirement that the health care professional participate in any public or private third-party reimbursement program. Violations of the UDA may result in revocation or suspension of licensure.

**Summary of Bill:** Licensees subject to the UDA are not required to participate in any public or private third-party reimbursement program as a condition of licensure.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

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

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*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: Physicians are concerned that they will be forced to take contracts that will force them out of business. This bill makes Washington a physician friendly state.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Becker, prime sponsor; Carl Nelson, WA State Medical Assn.