
SENATE BILL 5480

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Conway and Keiser

Read first time 01/26/11. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to physician and physician assistants license
2 renewal requirements; amending RCW 18.71A.020; and reenacting and
3 amending RCW 18.71.080.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.71.080 and 2009 c 492 s 5 and 2009 c 403 s 2 are
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1)(a) Every person licensed to practice medicine in this state
8 shall pay licensing fees and renew his or her license in accordance
9 with administrative procedures and administrative requirements adopted
10 as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

11 (b) The commission shall request licensees to submit information
12 about their current professional practice at the time of license
13 renewal. This information may include practice setting, medical
14 specialty, board certification, or other relevant data determined by
15 the commission.

16 (c) A physician who resides and practices in Washington and obtains
17 or renews a retired active license shall be exempt from licensing fees
18 imposed under this section. The commission may establish rules
19 governing mandatory continuing education requirements which shall be

1 met by physicians applying for renewal of licenses. The rules shall
2 provide that mandatory continuing education requirements may be met in
3 part by physicians showing evidence of the completion of approved
4 activities relating to professional liability risk management. The
5 number of hours of continuing education for a physician holding a
6 retired active license shall not exceed fifty hours per year.

7 (2) The office of crime victims advocacy shall supply the
8 commission with information on methods of recognizing victims of human
9 trafficking, what services are available for these victims, and where
10 to report potential trafficking situations. The information supplied
11 must be culturally sensitive and must include information relating to
12 minor victims. The commission shall disseminate this information to
13 licensees by: Providing the information on the commission's web site;
14 including the information in newsletters; holding trainings at meetings
15 attended by organization members; or (~~through~~) another distribution
16 method determined by the commission. The commission shall report to
17 the office of crime victims advocacy on the method or methods it uses
18 to distribute information under this subsection.

19 (3) The commission, in its sole discretion, may permit an applicant
20 who has not renewed his or her license to be licensed without
21 examination if it is satisfied that such applicant meets all the
22 requirements for licensure in this state, and is competent to engage in
23 the practice of medicine.

24 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.71A.020 and 2009 c 98 s 2 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (1) The commission shall adopt rules fixing the qualifications and
27 the educational and training requirements for licensure as a physician
28 assistant or for those enrolled in any physician assistant training
29 program. The requirements shall include completion of an accredited
30 physician assistant training program approved by the commission and
31 within one year successfully take and pass an examination approved by
32 the commission, if the examination tests subjects substantially
33 equivalent to the curriculum of an accredited physician assistant
34 training program. An interim permit may be granted by the department
35 of health for one year provided the applicant meets all other
36 requirements. Physician assistants licensed by the board of medical

1 examiners, or the medical quality assurance commission as of July 1,
2 1999, shall continue to be licensed.

3 (2)(a) The commission shall adopt rules governing the extent to
4 which:

5 (i) Physician assistant students may practice medicine during
6 training; and

7 (ii) Physician assistants may practice after successful completion
8 of a physician assistant training course.

9 (b) Such rules shall provide:

10 (i) That the practice of a physician assistant shall be limited to
11 the performance of those services for which he or she is trained; and

12 (ii) That each physician assistant shall practice medicine only
13 under the supervision and control of a physician licensed in this
14 state, but such supervision and control shall not be construed to
15 necessarily require the personal presence of the supervising physician
16 or physicians at the place where services are rendered.

17 (3) Applicants for licensure shall file an application with the
18 commission on a form prepared by the secretary with the approval of the
19 commission, detailing the education, training, and experience of the
20 physician assistant and such other information as the commission may
21 require. The application shall be accompanied by a fee determined by
22 the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. A surcharge
23 of fifty dollars per year shall be charged on each license renewal or
24 issuance of a new license to be collected by the department and
25 deposited into the impaired physician account for physician assistant
26 participation in the impaired physician program. Each applicant shall
27 furnish proof satisfactory to the commission of the following:

28 (a) That the applicant has completed an accredited physician
29 assistant program approved by the commission and is eligible to take
30 the examination approved by the commission;

31 (b) That the applicant is of good moral character; and

32 (c) That the applicant is physically and mentally capable of
33 practicing medicine as a physician assistant with reasonable skill and
34 safety. The commission may require an applicant to submit to such
35 examination or examinations as it deems necessary to determine an
36 applicant's physical or mental capability, or both, to safely practice
37 as a physician assistant.

1 (4)(a) The commission may approve, deny, or take other disciplinary
2 action upon the application for license as provided in the Uniform
3 Disciplinary Act, chapter 18.130 RCW.

4 (b) The license shall be renewed as determined under RCW 43.70.250
5 and 43.70.280. The commission shall request licensees to submit
6 information about their current professional practice at the time of
7 license renewal. This information may include practice setting,
8 medical specialty, or other relevant data determined by the commission.

9 (c) The commission may authorize the use of alternative supervisors
10 who are licensed either under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW.

11 (5) All funds in the impaired physician account shall be paid to
12 the contract entity within sixty days of deposit.

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