

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 1629

C 259 L 13
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning credentialing and continuing education requirements for long-term care workers.

Sponsors: House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Schmick, Jinkins, Tharinger, Green, Pollet, Morrell, Santos and Ryu).

House Committee on Health Care & Wellness
Senate Committee on Health Care

Background:

A long-term care worker is any person who provides paid, hands-on personal care services for the elderly or persons with disabilities. The term includes individual providers of home care services, direct care workers employed by home care agencies, providers of home care services to people with developmental disabilities, direct care workers in assisted-living facilities and adult family homes, and respite care providers. The term does not include employees of nursing homes, hospitals, acute care settings, residential habilitation centers, hospice agencies, adult day care centers, and adult day health centers.

Long-term care workers must become certified home care aides unless an exemption applies. Exempt individuals include registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants, home health aides, long-term care workers employed by community residential service businesses, and individual providers caring for only their biological, step, or adoptive child or parent. In many cases, individuals who are exempt from home care aide certification must still meet specific training requirements in order to provide caregiver activities.

Long-term care workers must be certified as home care aides within 150 days after the date of hire. To become certified as a home care aide, a long-term care worker must complete 75 hours of training, pass a certification examination, and pass state and federal background checks. Long-term care workers may work once they have completed five hours of safety and orientation training. Long-term care workers who have not received home care aide certification within 150 days from the date of hire are prohibited from working.

Summary:

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.

The time that a long-term care worker has to become a certified home care aide is increased from 150 to 200 days after the date of hire.

A provisional certification is established for long-term care workers who are limited English proficient and have complied with all other home care aide certification requirements. The provisional certification provides the long-term care worker with an additional 60 days to become certified as a home care aide. The provisional certification program expires on July 1, 2016.

Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses are exempt from the continuing education training that is required for long-term care workers.

Caregivers in adult family homes must practice under direct supervision, rather than indirect supervision, prior to demonstrating competence in basic training.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	96	0
Senate	47	1

Effective: July 28, 2013