

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1534

As of March 27, 2013

Title: An act relating to the license surcharge for the impaired dentist program.

Brief Description: Increasing the impaired dentist program license or renewal surcharge.

Sponsors: Representatives Riccelli, Harris, Ryu and Jinkins.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/11/13, 94-3.

Committee Activity: Health Care: 3/26/13.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Staff: Kathleen Buchli (786-7488)

Background: The Dental Quality Assurance Commission (DQAC), the disciplining authority for licensed dentists in Washington, contracts with a voluntary substance abuse monitoring program for the purpose of implementing an impaired dentist program. The impaired dentist program may include referrals to substance abuse treatment, education and prevention, and post-treatment monitoring. If DQAC determines that the unprofessional conduct of a licensed dentist under investigation may be the result of substance abuse, DQAC may refer the licensed dentist to the program in lieu of disciplinary action. By rule, DQAC also permits licensed dentists who are not under investigation to voluntarily participate in the impaired dentist program.

The DQAC contract with the voluntary substance abuse monitoring program is financed by a surcharge of up to \$25 on the initial applications or renewals of licensed dentists.

Summary of Bill: The \$25 limit on the surcharge paid by licensed dentists for the impaired dentist program is increased to \$50.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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: Nobody is immune to the grasps of addiction. The fee increase is similar to the fee being paid by physicians and physician assistants for similar programs. The Washington State Dental Association supports the fee increase. The Washington Physician Health Program supports the fee increase to support the long-term financial viability of the program.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Riccelli, prime sponsor; Linda Hull, WA State Dental Assn.; Charles Meredith, WA Physician Health Program.