

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SB 5092

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C 229 L 13  
Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Providing an exemption from continuing competency requirements for registered nurses who seek advanced nursing degrees.

**Sponsors:** Senators Benton, Shin, Braun, Roach and Honeyford.

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

**Background:** The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (Commission) regulates the nursing profession by setting licensing requirements, standards of practice, continuing competency requirements, and disciplinary standards. Rules, policies, and procedures developed by the Commission must promote the delivery of quality health care to Washington citizens. The 15 commission members are appointed by the Governor to four year terms and include 12 nurses and three public members.

The Commission determines licensing examination requirements for registered nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, and licensed practical nurse applicants. Registered nurses must renew their registration every year on or before their birthday. In order to renew their registration, registered nurses must complete 531 practice hours and 45 continuing education hours every three years. Nursing practice means the performance of acts requiring substantial specialized nursing knowledge, judgment, and skills as set by current law under RCW 18.70.040 through 18.79.060. The Commission permits nurses to meet the practice hours for continuing competency requirements by working in paid or unpaid positions which require a nursing license.

**Summary:** The Commission must adopt rules on continuing competency which include exemptions from the continuing competency requirements for nurses seeking advanced nursing degrees. The Commission may adopt rules regarding other exemptions for nurses enrolled in advanced education programs as well.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	49	0	
House	97	0	(House amended)
Senate	48	0	(Senate concurred)

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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.*

**Effective:** July 28, 2013.