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HOUSE BILL 2570

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representative Cody

Read first time 01/21/14. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to term limits for members of the medical quality  
2 assurance commission; and amending RCW 18.71.015.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.71.015 and 2006 c 8 s 103 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 The Washington state medical quality assurance commission is  
7 established, consisting of thirteen individuals licensed to practice  
8 medicine in the state of Washington under this chapter, two individuals  
9 who are licensed as physician assistants under chapter 18.71A RCW, and  
10 six individuals who are members of the public. At least two of the  
11 public members shall not be from the health care industry. Each  
12 congressional district now existing or hereafter created in the state  
13 must be represented by at least one physician member of the commission.  
14 The terms of office of members of the commission are not affected by  
15 changes in congressional district boundaries. Public members of the  
16 commission may not be a member of any other health care licensing board  
17 or commission, or have a fiduciary obligation to a facility rendering  
18 health services regulated by the commission, or have a material or

1 financial interest in the rendering of health services regulated by the  
2 commission.

3 The members of the commission shall be appointed by the governor.  
4 Members of the initial commission may be appointed to staggered terms  
5 of one to four years, and thereafter all terms of appointment shall be  
6 for four years. The governor shall consider such physician and  
7 physician assistant members who are recommended for appointment by the  
8 appropriate professional associations in the state. In appointing the  
9 initial members of the commission, it is the intent of the legislature  
10 that, to the extent possible, the existing members of the board of  
11 medical examiners and medical disciplinary board repealed under section  
12 336, chapter 9, Laws of 1994 sp. sess. be appointed to the commission.  
13 No member may serve more than (~~two~~) three consecutive full terms.  
14 Each member shall hold office until a successor is appointed.

15 Each member of the commission must be a citizen of the United  
16 States, must be an actual resident of this state, and, if a physician,  
17 must have been licensed to practice medicine in this state for at least  
18 five years.

19 The commission shall meet as soon as practicable after appointment  
20 and elect officers each year. Meetings shall be held at least four  
21 times a year and at such place as the commission determines and at such  
22 other times and places as the commission deems necessary. A majority  
23 of the commission members appointed and serving constitutes a quorum  
24 for the transaction of commission business.

25 The affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the commission is  
26 required to carry any motion or resolution, to adopt any rule, or to  
27 pass any measure. The commission may appoint panels consisting of at  
28 least three members. A quorum for the transaction of any business by  
29 a panel is a minimum of three members. A majority vote of a quorum of  
30 the panel is required to transact business delegated to it by the  
31 commission.

32 Each member of the commission shall be compensated in accordance  
33 with RCW 43.03.265 and in addition thereto shall be reimbursed for  
34 travel expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of the commission  
35 in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Any such expenses  
36 shall be paid from funds appropriated to the department of health.

37 Whenever the governor is satisfied that a member of a commission  
38 has been guilty of neglect of duty, misconduct, or malfeasance or

1 misfeasance in office, the governor shall file with the secretary of  
2 state a statement of the causes for and the order of removal from  
3 office, and the secretary shall forthwith send a certified copy of the  
4 statement of causes and order of removal to the last known post office  
5 address of the member.

6 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled for  
7 the unexpired term by appointment by the governor.

8 The members of the commission are immune from suit in an action,  
9 civil or criminal, based on its disciplinary proceedings or other  
10 official acts performed in good faith as members of the commission.

11 Whenever the workload of the commission requires, the commission  
12 may request that the secretary appoint pro tempore members of the  
13 commission. When serving, pro tempore members of the commission have  
14 all of the powers, duties, and immunities, and are entitled to all of  
15 the emoluments, including travel expenses, of regularly appointed  
16 members of the commission.

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