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**HOUSE BILL 1920**

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**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives S. Hunt, Appleton, Johnson, and Ormsby; by request of Office of Financial Management

AN ACT Relating to the use, acceptance, and removal of barriers to the use and acceptance of electronic signatures; amending RCW 18.25.020, 18.32.100, and 29A.72.010; reenacting and amending RCW 19.34.231; adding a new chapter to Title 19 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW 39.04.390, 19.34.300, 19.34.320, 19.34.321, 19.34.330, 19.34.350, 19.34.360, and 19.34.501.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature recognizes that the electronic signatures in global and national commerce act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 7001 et seq., applies to federal and state transactions, including certain governmental transactions, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce relating to this state. In part I of this act, the legislature, to the extent not already authorized, authorizes electronic dealings for governmental affairs and establishes the implementation framework for electronic transactions. In part II of this act, the legislature expands uniformity for transactions, including governmental transactions, by applying provisions of ESIGN to any state law aspects of interstate or foreign transactions and to intrastate transactions. Part III of this act is intended to promote electronic transactions and remove barriers that prevent electronic transactions with governmental entities.

**PART I**

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) Unless specifically provided otherwise by law or agency rule, whenever the use of a signature is authorized or required by this code in any written communication with a state agency, an electronic signature may be used with the same force and effect as the use of a signature affixed by hand, as long as the electronic signature conforms to the definition in section 3 of this act and the writing conforms to the definition in section 4 of this act.

(2) In a manner consistent with section 7004 of ESIGN, each state agency may determine whether, and to what extent, the agency will send and accept electronic records and electronic signatures to and from other persons and otherwise create, generate, communicate, store, process, use, and rely upon electronic records and electronic signatures. Nothing in this act requires a state agency to send or accept electronic records or electronic signatures for an agency transaction.

(3) For transactions with state agencies, the state agency shall establish the method that must be used for electronic submissions and electronic signatures. The method and process for electronic submissions and the use of electronic signatures must be established by policy or rule and be consistent with the policies, standards, or guidance established by the chief information officer required in subsection (4) of this section.

(4)(a) The chief information officer, in coordination with state agencies, must establish standards, guidelines, or policies for the electronic submittal and receipt of electronic records and electronic signatures.

(b) In order to provide a single point of access, the chief information officer must establish a web site that maintains or links to the agency rules and policies established pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) Unless specifically provided otherwise by law or rule or the context clearly indicates otherwise, whenever the term "signature" is used in this code, the term includes electronic signature as defined in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a contract or other record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) Unless specifically provided otherwise by law or rule or the context clearly indicates otherwise, whenever the term "writing" is used in this code, the term means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) Unless specifically provided otherwise by law or rule or the context clearly indicates otherwise, whenever the term "mail" is used in this code for transactions with state agencies, the term includes the use of mail delivered through an electronic system such as email or secure mail transfer if authorized by the state agency in rule.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

**PART II**

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) The following provisions of ESIGN, sections 7001, general rule of validity; 7003, specific exceptions; and 7021, transferable records; or as provided by rule consistent with the purposes and provisions of this act, apply to transactions in Washington, including with respect to intrastate transactions and with respect to state law aspects of interstate transactions.

(2) The specific exceptions in section 7003 of ESIGN are unaffected by this act which neither precludes nor authorizes the use of electronic records or signatures for the excepted items.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Consumer" means an individual who obtains, through a transaction, products or services which are used primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, and includes the legal representative of such an individual.

(2) "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

(3) "Electronic record" means a contract or other record created, generated, sent, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means.

(4) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a contract or other record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

(5) "ESIGN" means the electronic signatures in global and national commerce act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 7001 et seq., as in effect on June 13, 2002.

(6) "Information" means data, text, images, sounds, codes, computer programs, software, databases, or the like.

(7) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, governmental agency, public corporation, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(8) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form, except as otherwise defined for the purpose of state agency record retention, preservation, or disclosure.

(9) "Requirement" includes a prohibition.

(10) "Transaction" means an action or set of actions relating to the conduct of business, governmental, consumer, or commercial affairs between two or more persons, including any of the following types of conduct:

(a) The sale, lease, exchange, licensing, or other disposition, including governmental or other procurement and aspects thereof such as competitive bidding, of: (i) Personal property, including goods and intangibles; (ii) services; or (iii) any combination thereof; and

(b) The sale, lease, exchange, or other disposition of any interest in real property, or any combination thereof.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Nothing in this act is intended to be inconsistent with the federal electronic signatures in global and national commerce act and compliance with the federal act satisfies compliance with this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Sections 1 through 8 of this act may be known and cited as the Washington electronic commerce and governmental affairs act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Sections 1 through 8 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 19 RCW.

**PART III**

**Sec.**  RCW 18.25.020 and 1996 c 191 s 8 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Any person not now licensed to practice chiropractic in this state and who desires to practice chiropractic in this state, before it shall be lawful for him or her to do so, shall make application therefor to the secretary, upon such form and in such manner as may be adopted and directed by the secretary. Each applicant who matriculates to a chiropractic college ((~~after January 1, 1975~~)), shall have completed not less than one-half of the requirements for a baccalaureate degree at an accredited and approved college or university and shall be a graduate of a chiropractic school or college accredited and approved by the commission and shall show satisfactory evidence of completion by each applicant of a resident course of study of not less than four thousand classroom hours of instruction in such school or college. Applications shall be in writing and shall be signed by the applicant ((~~in his or her own handwriting and shall be sworn to before some officer authorized to administer oaths~~)), and shall recite the history of the applicant as to his or her educational advantages, his or her experience in matters pertaining to a knowledge of the care of the sick, how long he or she has studied chiropractic, under what teachers, what collateral branches, if any, he or she has studied, the length of time he or she has engaged in clinical practice; accompanying the same by reference therein, with any proof thereof in the shape of diplomas, certificates, and shall accompany said application with satisfactory evidence of good character and reputation.

(2) Applicants shall follow administrative procedures and administrative requirements and pay fees as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

**Sec.**  RCW 18.32.100 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 213 are each amended to read as follows:

The applicant for a dentistry license shall file an application on a form furnished by the secretary, stating the applicant's name, age, place of residence, the name of the school or schools attended by the applicant, the period of such attendance, the date of the applicant's graduation, whether the applicant has ever been the subject of any disciplinary action related to the practice of dentistry, and shall include a statement of all of the applicant's dental activities. This shall include any other information deemed necessary by the commission.

The application shall be signed by the applicant ((~~and sworn to by the applicant before some person authorized to administer oaths,~~)) and shall be accompanied by proof of the applicant's school attendance and graduation.

**Sec.**  RCW 19.34.231 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 809 and 2011 c 183 s 2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

((~~(1) If a signature of a unit of state or local government, including its appropriate officers or employees, is required by statute, administrative rule, court rule, or requirement of the office of financial management, that unit of state or local government may become a subscriber to a certificate issued by a licensed certification authority for purposes of conducting official public business with electronic records.~~

~~(2)~~)) A city or county may become a licensed certification authority under RCW 19.34.100 for purposes of providing services to local government, if authorized by ordinance adopted by the city or county legislative authority.

((~~(3) A unit of state government, except the secretary, may not act as a certification authority.~~))

**Sec.**  RCW 29A.72.010 and 2003 c 111 s 1802 are each amended to read as follows:

If any legal voter of the state, either individually or on behalf of an organization, desires to petition the legislature to enact a proposed measure, or submit a proposed initiative measure to the people, or order that a referendum of all or part of any act, bill, or law, passed by the legislature be submitted to the people, he or she shall file with the secretary of state:

(1) A legible copy of the measure proposed, or the act or part of such act on which a referendum is desired((~~, accompanied by an~~));

(2) A signed affidavit, or electronic submission, that the sponsor is a ((~~legal~~))registered voter; and

(3) A filing fee prescribed under RCW 43.07.120.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:

(1)RCW 39.04.390 (Electronic competitive bidding) and 2014 c 151 s 1;

(2)RCW 19.34.300 (Satisfaction of signature requirements) and 1997 c 27 s 16 & 1996 c 250 s 401;

(3)RCW 19.34.320 (Digital message as written on paper—Requirements—Other requirements not affected—Exception from uniform commercial code) and 1997 c 27 s 19 & 1996 c 250 s 403;

(4)RCW 19.34.321 (Acceptance of certified court documents in electronic form—Requirements—Rules of court on use in proceedings) and 1997 c 27 s 20;

(5)RCW 19.34.330 (Digital message deemed original) and 1999 c 287 s 15 & 1996 c 250 s 404;

(6)RCW 19.34.350 (Adjudicating disputes—Presumptions) and 1997 c 27 s 22 & 1996 c 250 s 406;

(7)RCW 19.34.360 (Presumptions of validity/limitations on liability—Conformance with chapter) and 1999 c 287 s 3; and

(8)RCW 19.34.501 (Chapter supersedes and preempts local actions) and 1997 c 27 s 25.

**--- END ---**