
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 2711

Brief Description: Increasing the availability of sexual assault nurse examiners.

Sponsors: Representatives McCabe, Walsh, Orwall, Cody, McBride, Caldier, Kilduff, Wylie, Senn, Smith, Gregerson, Tarleton, Ormsby, Pollet and Goodman.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires the Department of Health to study and make recommendations regarding the availability of sexual assault nurse examiners.

Hearing Date: 1/27/16

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

A sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) is a registered nurse specially trained to provide evidentiary examinations of victims of sexual assaults. Although there is no state-issued license or endorsement for a SANE, the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) grants SANE certification to registered nurses who:

- complete training that meets the IAFN SANE Education Guidelines;
- meet clinical practice requirements;
- pass an examination; and
- comply with ongoing training requirements.

The only facility that offers SANE training in the state is Harborview Medical Center.

Summary of Bill:

The Department of Health (DOH) must study the availability of SANEs throughout the state. The study must:

- identify areas of the state that have an adequate number of SANEs;

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- identify areas of the state that have an inadequate number of SANEs;
- develop a list of available resources for facilities in need of SANEs or SANE training; and
- strategies for increasing the availability of SANEs in under-served areas.

When identifying strategies for increasing the availability of SANEs, the DOH must consider remote training or remote consultation via electronic means, mobile teams of SANEs, and funding options.

When performing the study, the DOH must consult with experts on sexual assault victims' advocacy, experts on sexual assault investigation, and providers, including;

- the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy;
- the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs;
- the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs;
- the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys;
- the Washington State Hospital Association;
- the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission; and
- the Washington State Nurses Association.

The DOH must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2016.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 21, 2016.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.