
HOUSE BILL 1873

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Tharinger, Cody, Riccelli, and Ormsby; by request of Department of Health

Read first time 02/02/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring physicians and physician assistants
2 to provide requested demographic information at the time of license
3 renewal; and amending RCW 18.71.080 and 18.71A.020.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.71.080 and 2011 c 178 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) Every person licensed to practice medicine in this state
8 shall pay licensing fees and renew his or her license in accordance
9 with administrative procedures and administrative requirements
10 adopted as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

11 (b) The commission shall request licensees to submit information
12 about their current professional practice at the time of license
13 renewal and licensees must provide the information requested. This
14 information may include practice setting, medical specialty, board
15 certification, or other relevant data determined by the commission.

16 (c) A physician who resides and practices in Washington and
17 obtains or renews a retired active license shall be exempt from
18 licensing fees imposed under this section. The commission may
19 establish rules governing mandatory continuing education requirements
20 which shall be met by physicians applying for renewal of licenses.
21 The rules shall provide that mandatory continuing education

1 requirements may be met in part by physicians showing evidence of the
2 completion of approved activities relating to professional liability
3 risk management. The number of hours of continuing education for a
4 physician holding a retired active license shall not exceed fifty
5 hours per year.

6 (2) The office of crime victims advocacy shall supply the
7 commission with information on methods of recognizing victims of
8 human trafficking, what services are available for these victims, and
9 where to report potential trafficking situations. The information
10 supplied must be culturally sensitive and must include information
11 relating to minor victims. The commission shall disseminate this
12 information to licensees by: Providing the information on the
13 commission's web site; including the information in newsletters;
14 holding trainings at meetings attended by organization members; or
15 another distribution method determined by the commission. The
16 commission shall report to the office of crime victims advocacy on
17 the method or methods it uses to distribute information under this
18 subsection.

19 (3) The commission, in its sole discretion, may permit an
20 applicant who has not renewed his or her license to be licensed
21 without examination if it is satisfied that such applicant meets all
22 the requirements for licensure in this state, and is competent to
23 engage in the practice of medicine.

24 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.71A.020 and 2011 c 178 s 2 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) The commission shall adopt rules fixing the qualifications
27 and the educational and training requirements for licensure as a
28 physician assistant or for those enrolled in any physician assistant
29 training program. The requirements shall include completion of an
30 accredited physician assistant training program approved by the
31 commission and within one year successfully take and pass an
32 examination approved by the commission, if the examination tests
33 subjects substantially equivalent to the curriculum of an accredited
34 physician assistant training program. An interim permit may be
35 granted by the department of health for one year provided the
36 applicant meets all other requirements. Physician assistants licensed
37 by the board of medical examiners, or the medical quality assurance
38 commission as of July 1, 1999, shall continue to be licensed.

1 (2)(a) The commission shall adopt rules governing the extent to
2 which:

3 (i) Physician assistant students may practice medicine during
4 training; and

5 (ii) Physician assistants may practice after successful
6 completion of a physician assistant training course.

7 (b) Such rules shall provide:

8 (i) That the practice of a physician assistant shall be limited
9 to the performance of those services for which he or she is trained;
10 and

11 (ii) That each physician assistant shall practice medicine only
12 under the supervision and control of a physician licensed in this
13 state, but such supervision and control shall not be construed to
14 necessarily require the personal presence of the supervising
15 physician or physicians at the place where services are rendered.

16 (3) Applicants for licensure shall file an application with the
17 commission on a form prepared by the secretary with the approval of
18 the commission, detailing the education, training, and experience of
19 the physician assistant and such other information as the commission
20 may require. The application shall be accompanied by a fee determined
21 by the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. A
22 surcharge of fifty dollars per year shall be charged on each license
23 renewal or issuance of a new license to be collected by the
24 department and deposited into the impaired physician account for
25 physician assistant participation in the impaired physician program.
26 Each applicant shall furnish proof satisfactory to the commission of
27 the following:

28 (a) That the applicant has completed an accredited physician
29 assistant program approved by the commission and is eligible to take
30 the examination approved by the commission;

31 (b) That the applicant is of good moral character; and

32 (c) That the applicant is physically and mentally capable of
33 practicing medicine as a physician assistant with reasonable skill
34 and safety. The commission may require an applicant to submit to such
35 examination or examinations as it deems necessary to determine an
36 applicant's physical or mental capability, or both, to safely
37 practice as a physician assistant.

38 (4)(a) The commission may approve, deny, or take other
39 disciplinary action upon the application for license as provided in
40 the Uniform Disciplinary Act, chapter 18.130 RCW.

1 (b) The license shall be renewed as determined under RCW
2 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. The commission shall request licensees to
3 submit information about their current professional practice at the
4 time of license renewal and licensees must provide the information
5 requested. This information may include practice setting, medical
6 specialty, or other relevant data determined by the commission.

7 (c) The commission may authorize the use of alternative
8 supervisors who are licensed either under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW.

9 (5) All funds in the impaired physician account shall be paid to
10 the contract entity within sixty days of deposit.

--- END ---