
SENATE BILL 5151

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Frockt, Conway, Jayapal, Bailey, Cleveland, Parlette, Chase, McAuliffe, and Hasegawa

Read first time 01/14/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to continuing education related to cultural
2 competency for health care professionals; amending RCW 43.70.615; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) For purposes of this section, "disciplining authority" means
8 the regulatory entities identified in RCW 18.130.040 and authorized
9 to establish continuing education requirements for the health care
10 professions governed by those regulatory entities.

11 (2)(a) By July 1, 2017, a disciplining authority must adopt rules
12 requiring a person authorized to practice the profession regulated by
13 the disciplining authority to receive cultural competency continuing
14 education training. A disciplining authority may consult with
15 individuals or organizations having expertise in health disparities
16 or with the department of health in the development of these rules.

17 (b) Cultural competency continuing education courses may be taken
18 in addition to or, if a disciplining authority determines a cultural
19 competency continuing education course fulfills existing continuing
20 education requirements, in place of other continuing education
21 requirements imposed by the disciplining authority.

1 (3)(a) By July 1, 2016, the department of health must approve,
2 develop, and make available to each disciplining authority a list of
3 continuing education opportunities related to cultural competency.
4 The continuing education opportunities may include, but are not
5 limited to, the following:

6 (i) Courses delivered either in person or electronically;

7 (ii) Experiential learning such as cultural or linguistic
8 immersion;

9 (iii) Service learning; or

10 (iv) Specially designed cultural experiences.

11 (b) The continuing education opportunities must teach attitudes,
12 knowledge, and skills that enable a health care professional to care
13 effectively for patients from diverse cultures, groups, and
14 communities including, but not limited to, the following:

15 (i) Applying linguistic skills to communicate effectively with
16 patients from diverse cultures, groups, and communities; and

17 (ii) Using cultural information to establish therapeutic
18 relationships; and

19 (iii) Eliciting, understanding, and applying cultural and ethnic
20 data in the process of clinical care.

21 (c) The department of health may collaborate with or award grant
22 funding to a public or private entity with an expertise in cultural
23 competency or health disparities to develop the list of or offer
24 approved continued education opportunities related to cultural
25 competency.

26 (4) The department of health may accept gifts, grants, or
27 contributions from any public or private source to carry out this
28 section. The department must deposit moneys received under this
29 subsection into the health professions account created in RCW
30 43.70.320.

31 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.70.615 and 2006 c 237 s 2 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) For the purposes of this section, "multicultural health"
34 means the provision of health care services with the knowledge and
35 awareness of the causes and effects of the determinants of health
36 that lead to disparities in health status between different genders
37 and racial and ethnic populations and the practice skills necessary
38 to respond appropriately.

1 (2) The department, in consultation with the disciplining
2 authorities as defined in RCW 18.130.040, shall establish, within
3 available department general funds, an ongoing multicultural health
4 awareness and education program as an integral part of its health
5 professions regulation. The purpose of the education program is to
6 raise awareness and educate health care professionals regarding the
7 knowledge, attitudes, and practice skills necessary to care for
8 diverse populations to achieve a greater understanding of the
9 relationship between culture and health. ~~((The disciplining
10 authorities having the authority to offer continuing education may
11 provide training in the dynamics of providing culturally competent,
12 multicultural health care to diverse populations.))~~ Any such
13 education shall be developed in collaboration with education programs
14 that train students in that health profession. ~~((A disciplining
15 authority may require that instructors of continuing education or
16 continuing competency programs integrate multicultural health into
17 their curricula when it is appropriate to the subject matter of the
18 instruction.))~~ No funds from the health professions account may be
19 utilized to fund activities under this section unless the
20 disciplining authority authorizes expenditures from its proportions
21 of the account. ~~((A disciplining authority may defray costs by
22 authorizing a fee to be charged for participants or materials
23 relating to any sponsored program.))~~

24 (3) By July 1, 2008, each education program with a curriculum to
25 train health professionals for employment in a profession
26 credentialed by a disciplining authority under chapter 18.130 RCW
27 shall integrate into the curriculum instruction in multicultural
28 health as part of its basic education preparation curriculum. The
29 department may not deny the application of any applicant for a
30 credential to practice a health profession on the basis that the
31 education or training program that the applicant successfully
32 completed did not include integrated multicultural health curriculum
33 as part of its basic instruction.

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