

SHB 1155 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Labor & Commerce

NOT ADOPTED 04/16/2019

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 49.12
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) An employer shall provide employees with meal and rest
6 periods as required by law, subject to the following:

7 (a) Rest periods may be taken at any point during each work
8 period during which the employee is required to receive a rest
9 period;

10 (b) Meal and rest periods must be uninterrupted, and an employer
11 may not require an employee to take intermittent meal or rest
12 periods. This subsection (1)(b) does not apply when there is:

13 (i) An unforeseeable emergent circumstance, as defined in RCW
14 49.28.130; or

15 (ii) A clinical circumstance that may lead to patient harm
16 without the specific skill or expertise of the employee taking a meal
17 or rest period, or that raises the acuity of the unit to which the
18 employee is assigned such that the employee is needed back from break
19 to avoid patient harm; and

20 (c) For any rest break that is interrupted under the provisions
21 of (b) of this subsection, the employee must be given another
22 additional full uninterrupted rest break at the earliest reasonable
23 time during the employee's shift.

24 (2) For the purposes of this section, the brief use of a restroom
25 or the brief consumption of food or a beverage does not constitute a
26 rest break.

27 (3) The employer shall record when an employee takes or misses a
28 meal or rest period and maintain these records as required by the
29 department.

30 (4) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
31 following meanings:

32 (a) "Employee" means a person who:

- 1 (i) Is employed by a health care facility;
- 2 (ii) Is involved in direct patient care activities or clinical
3 services;
- 4 (iii) Receives an hourly wage or is covered by a collective
5 bargaining agreement; and
- 6 (iv) Is a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse licensed
7 under chapter 18.79 RCW, a surgical technologist registered under
8 chapter 18.215 RCW, a diagnostic radiologic technologist or
9 cardiovascular invasive specialist certified under chapter 18.84 RCW,
10 a respiratory care practitioner licensed under chapter 18.89 RCW, or
11 a nursing assistant-certified as defined in RCW 18.88A.020.
- 12 (b) "Employer" means hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 49.28.130 and 2011 c 251 s 1 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 The definitions in this section apply throughout this section and
16 RCW 49.28.140 and 49.28.150 unless the context clearly requires
17 otherwise.

18 (1) (a) "Employee" means a ((licensed practical nurse or a
19 registered nurse licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW)) person who:

20 (i) Is employed by a health care facility ((who));

21 (ii) Is involved in direct patient care activities or clinical
22 services ((and));

23 (iii) Receives an hourly wage or is covered by a collective
24 bargaining agreement; and

25 (iv) Is a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse licensed
26 under chapter 18.79 RCW, a surgical technologist registered under
27 chapter 18.215 RCW, a diagnostic radiologic technologist or
28 cardiovascular invasive specialist certified under chapter 18.84 RCW,
29 a respiratory care practitioner licensed under chapter 18.89 RCW, or
30 a certified nursing assistant as defined in RCW 18.88A.020.

31 (b) "Employee" does not mean a person who:

32 (i) Is employed by a health care facility as defined in
33 subsection (3) (a) (v) of this section; and

34 (ii) Is a surgical technologist registered under chapter 18.215
35 RCW, a diagnostic radiologic technologist or cardiovascular invasive
36 specialist certified under chapter 18.84 RCW, a respiratory care
37 practitioner licensed under chapter 18.89 RCW, or a certified nursing
38 assistant as defined in RCW 18.88A.020.

1 (2) "Employer" means an individual, partnership, association,
2 corporation, the state, a political subdivision of the state, or
3 person or group of persons, acting directly or indirectly in the
4 interest of a health care facility.

5 (3)(a) "Health care facility" means the following facilities, or
6 any part of the facility, including such facilities if owned and
7 operated by a political subdivision or instrumentality of the state,
8 that operate on a twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week
9 basis:

10 (i) Hospices licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW;
11 (ii) Hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW;
12 (iii) Rural health care facilities as defined in RCW 70.175.020;
13 (iv) Psychiatric hospitals licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW; or
14 (v) Facilities owned and operated by the department of
15 corrections or by a governing unit as defined in RCW 70.48.020 in a
16 correctional institution as defined in RCW 9.94.049 that provide
17 health care services (~~to inmates as defined in RCW 72.09.015~~).

18 (b) If a nursing home regulated under chapter 18.51 RCW or a home
19 health agency regulated under chapter 70.127 RCW is operating under
20 the license of a health care facility, the nursing home or home
21 health agency is considered part of the health care facility for the
22 purposes of this subsection.

23 (4) "Overtime" means the hours worked in excess of an agreed
24 upon, predetermined, regularly scheduled shift within a twenty-four
25 hour period not to exceed twelve hours in a twenty-four hour period
26 or eighty hours in a consecutive fourteen-day period.

27 (5) "On-call time" means time spent by an employee who is not
28 working on the premises of the place of employment but who is
29 compensated for availability or who, as a condition of employment,
30 has agreed to be available to return to the premises of the place of
31 employment on short notice if the need arises.

32 (6) "Reasonable efforts" means that the employer, to the extent
33 reasonably possible, does all of the following but is unable to
34 obtain staffing coverage:

35 (a) Seeks individuals to volunteer to work extra time from all
36 available qualified staff who are working;

37 (b) Contacts qualified employees who have made themselves
38 available to work extra time;

39 (c) Seeks the use of per diem staff; and

1 (d) Seeks personnel from a contracted temporary agency when such
2 staffing is permitted by law or an applicable collective bargaining
3 agreement, and when the employer regularly uses a contracted
4 temporary agency.

5 (7) "Unforeseeable emergent circumstance" means (a) any
6 unforeseen declared national, state, or municipal emergency; (b) when
7 a health care facility disaster plan is activated; or (c) any
8 unforeseen disaster or other catastrophic event which substantially
9 affects or increases the need for health care services.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 49.28.140 and 2002 c 112 s 3 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) No employee of a health care facility may be required to work
13 overtime. Attempts to compel or force employees to work overtime are
14 contrary to public policy, and any such requirement contained in a
15 contract, agreement, or understanding is void.

16 (2) The acceptance by any employee of overtime is strictly
17 voluntary, and the refusal of an employee to accept such overtime
18 work is not grounds for discrimination, dismissal, discharge, or any
19 other penalty, threat of reports for discipline, or employment
20 decision adverse to the employee.

21 (3) The employer may not use prescheduled on-call time to fill
22 chronic or foreseeable staff shortages.

23 (4) This section does not apply to overtime work that occurs:

24 (a) Because of any unforeseeable emergent circumstance;

25 (b) Because of prescheduled on-call time necessary for immediate
26 and unanticipated patient care emergencies;

27 (c) When the employer documents that the employer has used
28 reasonable efforts to obtain staffing. An employer has not used
29 reasonable efforts if overtime work is used to fill vacancies
30 resulting from chronic staff shortages; or

31 (d) When an employee is required to work overtime to complete a
32 patient care procedure already in progress where the absence of the
33 employee could have an adverse effect on the patient. The employer
34 may not schedule nonemergency procedures that would require mandatory
35 overtime.

36 (5) Employees may not voluntarily work more than sixty hours in a
37 seven-day period for a health care facility.

38 (6) This section does not apply to sexual assault nurse examiners
39 or organ transplant teams who work on a prescheduled on-call basis.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 49.12
2 RCW to read as follows:
3 Pursuant to RCW 49.12.105, an employer may apply to the director
4 for a variance of the elements of chapter . . ., Laws of 2019 (this
5 act)."

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6 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "employees;" strike the
7 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 49.28.130 and
8 49.28.140; and adding new sections to chapter 49.12 RCW."

EFFECT: Requires an additional break if a rest break is interrupted. Rest breaks do not include the brief use of a restroom or the brief consumption of food or a beverage. Allows the scheduling of nonemergency procedures that would require voluntary overtime. Prohibits employees from voluntarily working more than sixty hours in a seven-day period for a health care facility. Exempts organ transplant teams from the overtime requirements.

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