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**SENATE BILL 5499**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Cleveland, Muzzall, Randall, and C. Wilson

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1 AN ACT Relating to credentialing of medical assistant-  
2 hemodialysis technicians; amending RCW 18.360.040; and declaring an  
3 emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.360.040 and 2017 c 336 s 17 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) The secretary shall issue a certification as a medical  
8 assistant-certified to any person who has satisfactorily completed a  
9 medical assistant training program approved by the secretary, passed  
10 an examination approved by the secretary, and met any additional  
11 qualifications established under RCW 18.360.030.

12 (b) The secretary shall issue an interim certification to any  
13 person who has met all of the qualifications in (a) of this  
14 subsection, except for the passage of the examination. A person  
15 holding an interim permit possesses the full scope of practice of a  
16 medical assistant-certified. The interim permit expires upon passage  
17 of the examination or after one year, whichever occurs first, and may  
18 not be renewed.

19 (2)(a) The secretary shall issue a certification as a medical  
20 assistant-hemodialysis technician to any person who meets the

1 qualifications for a medical assistant-hemodialysis technician  
2 established under RCW 18.360.030.

3 (b) In order to allow sufficient time for the processing of a  
4 medical assistant-hemodialysis technician certification, applicants  
5 for that credential who have completed their training program are  
6 allowed to continue to work at dialysis facilities, under the level  
7 of supervision required for the training program, for a period of up  
8 to 120 days after filing their application, to facilitate patient  
9 continuity of care.

10 (3) The secretary shall issue a certification as a medical  
11 assistant-phlebotomist to any person who meets the qualifications for  
12 a medical assistant-phlebotomist established under RCW 18.360.030.

13 (4) The secretary shall issue a certification as a forensic  
14 phlebotomist to any person who meets the qualifications for a  
15 forensic phlebotomist established under RCW 18.360.030.

16 (5)(a) The secretary shall issue a registration as a medical  
17 assistant-registered to any person who has a current endorsement from  
18 a health care practitioner, clinic, or group practice.

19 (b) In order to be endorsed under this subsection (5), a person  
20 must:

21 (i) Be endorsed by a health care practitioner, clinic, or group  
22 practice that meets the qualifications established under RCW  
23 18.360.030; and

24 (ii) Have a current attestation of his or her endorsement to  
25 perform specific medical tasks signed by a supervising health care  
26 practitioner filed with the department. A medical assistant-  
27 registered may only perform the medical tasks listed in his or her  
28 current attestation of endorsement.

29 (c) A registration based on an endorsement by a health care  
30 practitioner, clinic, or group practice is not transferable to  
31 another health care practitioner, clinic, or group practice.

32 (d) An applicant for registration as a medical assistant-  
33 registered who applies to the department within seven days of  
34 employment by the endorsing health care practitioner, clinic, or  
35 group practice may work as a medical assistant-registered for up to  
36 sixty days while the application is processed. The applicant must  
37 stop working on the sixtieth day of employment if the registration  
38 has not been granted for any reason.

39 (6) A certification issued under subsections (1) through (3) of  
40 this section is transferable between different practice settings. A

1 certification under subsection (4) of this section is transferable  
2 between law enforcement agencies.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
5 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
6 effect immediately.

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