
HOUSE BILL 2377

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Stonier, Bronoske, Reed, and Simmons

Read first time 01/15/24. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to the regulation of laser hair removal; and
2 adding a new chapter to Title 18 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that laser hair
5 removal is a medical procedure, and its practice by unqualified
6 persons presents a danger to the public health and safety. Because it
7 is difficult for the public to make informed choices related to laser
8 hair removal services, and because the consequences of wrong choices
9 can harm the public health and safety, it is the intent of the
10 legislature to ensure that laser hair removal is only performed by
11 persons who possess the proper licensure and skills. However, it is
12 the intent of the legislature to impose restrictions only to the
13 extent necessary to protect the public and in a manner that will not
14 unreasonably affect the competitive market for the safe and effective
15 delivery of such services.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
17 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
18 otherwise.

19 (1) "Health professional" means a physician licensed pursuant to
20 chapter 18.71 RCW, physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter

1 18.71A RCW, or advanced registered nurse practitioner, registered
2 nurse, or licensed practical nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 18.79
3 RCW.

4 (2) "Laser hair removal" means the use of a laser light-based
5 device assigned by the United States food and drug administration to
6 hazard class three or four and approved by the United States food and
7 drug administration as prescription devices to perform a nonablative
8 hair removal procedure that does not remove the epidermis.

9 (3) "Laser hair removal facility" means a business location that
10 provides laser hair removal.

11 (4) "Laser practitioner" means a health professional or other
12 person who is authorized to practice laser hair removal pursuant to
13 this chapter and chapter 18.16 RCW.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A person may not perform or attempt to
15 perform laser hair removal unless the person is a laser practitioner.

16 (2) A laser practitioner who is not a physician shall complete a
17 laser practitioner training and education program. A laser training
18 and education program may be completed internally at the laser hair
19 removal facility or through a third party, provided such third-party
20 program is overseen by a physician. A laser practitioner training and
21 education program must include 40 total hours of training, which may
22 be a combination of didactic training, in-person hands-on training,
23 and performance of laser hair removal procedures.

24 (3) A laser practitioner may only perform laser hair removal
25 using lasers approved by the United States food and drug
26 administration for noninvasive procedures. Laser hair removal may not
27 be performed on the globe of the eye.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) A laser hair removal facility must be
29 overseen by a physician. The physician must ensure that there is a
30 quality assurance program for the laser hair removal facility
31 regarding the selection and treatment of patients. An appropriate
32 quality assurance program must include the following:

33 (a) A mechanism to identify complications and untoward effects of
34 treatment and to determine their cause;

35 (b) A mechanism to review the adherence of laser practitioners to
36 written protocols;

37 (c) A mechanism to monitor the quality of treatments;

1 (d) A mechanism by which the findings of the quality assurance
2 program are reviewed and incorporated into future protocols; and

3 (e) Ongoing training to maintain and improve the quality of
4 treatment and performance of laser practitioners.

5 (2) A physician must establish written office protocols for laser
6 hair removal provided at a laser hair removal facility that the
7 physician oversees. The written office protocols must include the
8 following:

9 (a) The identity of the physician overseeing the laser hair
10 removal facility;

11 (b) Selection criteria to screen patients for the appropriateness
12 of treatments;

13 (c) Identification of devices and settings to be used for
14 patients who meet selection criteria;

15 (d) Methods by which the specified device is to be operated and
16 maintained;

17 (e) A description of appropriate care and follow-up for common
18 complications, serious injury, or emergencies, which must utilize a
19 physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse
20 practitioner; and

21 (f) A statement of the activities, decision criteria, and plan
22 the laser practitioner shall follow when performing procedures,
23 including the method for documenting decisions made and a plan for
24 communication or feedback to the physician overseeing the laser hair
25 removal facility concerning specific decisions made.

26 (3) A laser practitioner must follow all written office protocols
27 established and revised by a physician.

28 (4) A physician is not required to be physically present or to
29 supervise laser hair removal procedures, but must be available for
30 communication during the procedure, either in person or by two-way,
31 real-time interactive communication.

32 (5) A laser practitioner is permitted to perform laser hair
33 removal on a patient without a prior physical examination, diagnosis,
34 recommendation, or referral of such patient by a physician.

35 (6) A physician must determine the number of laser practitioners
36 under such physician's oversight.

37 (7) A physician must review not less than 10 percent of laser
38 hair removal patient records at a laser hair removal facility that
39 the physician oversees.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit any
2 person licensed pursuant to chapter 18.16, 18.71, 18.71A, or 18.79
3 RCW or any other act from engaging in the practice for which they are
4 duly licensed.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This chapter may be known and cited as the
6 Washington regulation of laser hair removal act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act
8 constitute a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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