

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6286**

---

**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Rivers, Cleveland, Dhingra, Dozier, Nobles, Padden, Robinson, Wellman, and L. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing the anesthesia workforce shortage  
2 by reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to  
3 increase the supply of certified registered nurse anesthetists in  
4 Washington; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The health care system faces increasing  
7 costs and workforce shortages. Health care facilities are facing a  
8 shortage of anesthesia providers. The legislature recognizes  
9 certified registered nurse anesthetists as essential providers of  
10 safe, cost-effective, and accessible anesthesia care for Washington  
11 residents. It is the intent of the legislature to encourage an  
12 ongoing supply and improve the pipeline of certified registered nurse  
13 anesthetists in Washington state through educational promotion and  
14 expansion.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Subject to amounts appropriated  
16 specifically for this purpose, the Washington state board of nursing  
17 shall develop and manage a grant process for the purposes of  
18 providing incentives to certified registered nurse anesthetists to  
19 precept nurse anesthesia residents in health care settings. The board  
20 of nursing shall ensure the funds in the grant process are

1 distributed equally among the total qualified applicant preceptors  
2 that dedicate at least 80 hours per year to precepting any nurse  
3 anesthesia residents. The goal of the grant program is to create more  
4 clinical placements for nurse anesthesia residents to complete  
5 required clinical hours to earn their degree and related licensure.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The University of Washington institute  
7 for health metrics and evaluation, in collaboration with the  
8 Washington state board of nursing, the Washington medical commission,  
9 and the department of health, shall study the workforce shortages in  
10 anesthesia care in each facility providing anesthesia services in  
11 Washington state, and shall submit an initial report to the  
12 legislature beginning June 30, 2025, with an update report annually  
13 thereafter. The institute for health metrics and evaluation shall  
14 submit a final report due June 30, 2029, detailing the progress made  
15 in the previous five years and any findings and policy  
16 recommendations to further address the workforce shortages and  
17 barriers to further expanding education of certified registered nurse  
18 anesthetists. The initial and each subsequent report shall include,  
19 but are not limited to, the following:

20 (a) Identifying the factors and barriers to entry into the  
21 profession of nurse anesthesiology;

22 (b) Evaluating and assessing the current training and pipeline  
23 for certified registered nurse anesthetists;

24 (c) Developing recommendations that reduce barriers for  
25 individuals who want to become certified registered nurse  
26 anesthetists and increasing the available clinical training slots for  
27 nurse anesthesia residents;

28 (d) Creating and maintaining an implementation plan to improve  
29 the pipeline of certified registered nurse anesthetists in the state;

30 (e) Identifying the number of qualified anesthesia providers,  
31 including, at a minimum, physician anesthesiologists and certified  
32 registered nurse anesthetists, who may practice independently in the  
33 state of Washington at each facility providing anesthesia services;  
34 and

35 (f) Providing policy recommendations to expand the nurse  
36 anesthesia workforce and optimize the cost of providing anesthesia  
37 services, including initiatives for all practicing independent  
38 anesthesia providers to practice at the top of their license.

1 (2) This section expires June 30, 2030.

--- **END** ---