
HOUSE BILL 1868

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representative Schmick

Read first time 02/06/25. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding access to athletic trainers in
2 schools; and adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW.

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

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

6 (1)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
7 this specific purpose, the department shall establish a matching
8 grant program to assist critical access hospitals in hiring a
9 licensed athletic trainer whose services will be available free of
10 charge to students in local school districts.

11 (b) The department shall provide matching funds of up to \$60,000
12 to a critical access hospital that demonstrates, pursuant to
13 application criteria established by the department, that it has
14 available dedicated funds to pay the salary of a licensed athletic
15 trainer.

16 (2) Grant funding provided under this section may only be used to
17 pay for licensed athletic trainer salaries, medical supplies and
18 equipment, and education and marketing to promote program awareness.

19 (3) A critical access hospital applying for a grant under this
20 section must document in a manner specified by the department:

1 (a) The school districts to be served by any athletic trainer
2 funded by the matching grant program and the need of those school
3 districts for expanded access to an athletic trainer;
4 (b) The manner in which the hospital will spend any grant funding
5 it receives under this section;
6 (c) The ability of the hospital to provide funds equal to the
7 amount requested from the department in matching funds; and
8 (d) Any other information required by the department.
9 (4) A critical access hospital that has successfully applied for
10 a grant under this section is not eligible to receive a subsequent
11 grant within 12 months of receiving the prior grant.
12 (5) By June 1, 2026, and in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, the
13 department shall submit a report to the relevant policy and fiscal
14 committees of the legislature providing an update on the status of
15 implementation of the matching grant program under this section.
16 (6) The department may adopt any rules necessary to implement
17 this section.
18 (7) For purposes of this section, "critical access hospital" has
19 the same meaning as described in RCW 74.09.5225.

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