
SENATE BILL 5051

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Bateman, Riccelli, Cleveland, Nobles, and Wellman; by request of Washington State Board of Nursing

Prefiled 12/13/24. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to consolidating regulatory authority for nursing
2 assistants; amending RCW 18.79.070, 18.79.070, 18.88A.020,
3 18.88A.030, 18.88A.040, 18.88A.050, 18.88A.060, 18.88A.080,
4 18.88A.082, 18.88A.085, 18.88A.087, 18.88A.088, 18.88A.090,
5 18.88A.110, 18.88A.120, 18.88A.150, 18.88A.210, and 18.88B.060;
6 reenacting and amending RCW 18.130.040; repealing RCW 18.88A.100;
7 providing effective dates; and providing an expiration date.

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

9 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.79.070 and 2022 c 240 s 32 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) The state (~~(nursing care quality assurance commission)~~) board
12 of nursing is established, consisting of (~~(fifteen)~~) 17 members to be
13 appointed by the governor to four-year terms. The governor shall
14 consider nursing members who are recommended for appointment by the
15 appropriate professional associations in the state. No person may
16 serve as a member of the (~~(commission)~~) board for more than two
17 consecutive full terms.

18 (2) There must be seven registered nurse members, two advanced
19 registered nurse practitioner members, (~~(three)~~) two licensed
20 practical nurse members, two certified nursing assistant members, a
21 registered nurse or licensed practical nurse member, and three public

1 members on the (~~commission~~) board. Each member of the
2 (~~commission~~) board must be a resident of this state.

3 (3) (a) Registered nurse members of the (~~commission~~) board must:

4 (i) Be licensed as registered nurses under this chapter; and

5 (ii) Have had at least three years' experience in the active
6 practice of nursing and have been engaged in that practice within two
7 years of appointment.

8 (b) In addition:

9 (i) At least one member must be on the faculty at a four-year
10 university nursing program;

11 (ii) At least one member must be on the faculty at a two-year
12 community college nursing program;

13 (iii) At least two members must be staff nurses providing direct
14 patient care; and

15 (iv) At least one member must be a nurse manager or a nurse
16 executive.

17 (4) Advanced registered nurse practitioner members of the
18 (~~commission~~) board must:

19 (a) Be licensed as advanced registered nurse practitioners under
20 this chapter; and

21 (b) Have had at least three years' experience in the active
22 practice of advanced registered nursing and have been engaged in that
23 practice within two years of appointment.

24 (5) Licensed practical nurse members of the (~~commission~~) board
25 must:

26 (a) Be licensed as licensed practical nurses under this chapter;
27 and

28 (b) Have had at least three years' actual experience as a
29 licensed practical nurse and have been engaged in practice as a
30 practical nurse within two years of appointment.

31 (6) Certified nursing assistant members of the board must:

32 (a) Be currently employed as certified nursing assistants,
33 licensed under chapter 18.88A RCW; and

34 (b) Have at least two years' experience as a certified nursing
35 assistant.

36 (7) The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse member must
37 be currently either a program director or educator in an approved
38 nursing assistant training program.

39 (8) Public members of the (~~commission~~) board may not be a
40 member of any other health care licensing board or commission, or

1 have a fiduciary obligation to a facility rendering health services
2 regulated by the ((~~commission~~)) board, or have a material or
3 financial interest in the rendering of health services regulated by
4 the ((~~commission~~)) board.

5 ~~((In appointing the initial members of the *commission, it is the
6 intent of the legislature that, to the extent possible, the governor
7 appoint the existing members of the board of nursing and the board of
8 practical nursing repealed under chapter 9, Laws of 1994 sp. sess.
9 The governor may appoint initial members of the commission to
10 staggered terms of from one to four years. Thereafter, all members
11 shall be appointed to full four-year terms.))~~ Members of the
12 ((~~commission~~)) board hold office until their successors are
13 appointed.

14 When the secretary appoints pro tem members, reasonable efforts
15 shall be made to ensure that at least one pro tem member is a
16 registered nurse who is currently practicing and, in addition to
17 meeting other minimum qualifications, has graduated from an associate
18 or baccalaureate nursing program within three years of appointment.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.79.070 and 2024 c 239 s 5 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (1) The state board ((~~of nursing~~)) of nursing is established,
22 consisting of ((~~fifteen~~)) 17 members to be appointed by the governor
23 to four-year terms. The governor shall consider nursing members who
24 are recommended for appointment by the appropriate professional
25 associations in the state. No person may serve as a member of the
26 board for more than two consecutive full terms.

27 (2) There must be seven registered nurse members, two advanced
28 practice registered nurse members, ((~~three~~)) two licensed practical
29 nurse members, two certified nursing assistant members, a registered
30 nurse or licensed practical nurse member, and three public members on
31 the board. Each member of the board must be a resident of this state.

32 (3) (a) Registered nurse members of the board must:

33 (i) Be licensed as registered nurses under this chapter; and

34 (ii) Have had at least three years' experience in the active
35 practice of nursing and have been engaged in that practice within two
36 years of appointment.

37 (b) In addition:

38 (i) At least one member must be on the faculty at a four-year
39 university nursing program;

1 (ii) At least one member must be on the faculty at a two-year
2 community college nursing program;

3 (iii) At least two members must be staff nurses providing direct
4 patient care; and

5 (iv) At least one member must be a nurse manager or a nurse
6 executive.

7 (4) Advanced practice registered nurse members of the board must:

8 (a) Be licensed as advanced practice registered nurses under this
9 chapter; and

10 (b) Have had at least three years' experience in the active
11 practice of advanced practice registered nursing and have been
12 engaged in that practice within two years of appointment.

13 (5) Licensed practical nurse members of the board must:

14 (a) Be licensed as licensed practical nurses under this chapter;
15 and

16 (b) Have had at least three years' actual experience as a
17 licensed practical nurse and have been engaged in practice as a
18 practical nurse within two years of appointment.

19 (6) Certified nursing assistant members of the board must:

20 (a) Be currently employed as certified nursing assistants,
21 licensed under chapter 18.88A RCW; and

22 (b) Have at least two years' experience as a certified nursing
23 assistant.

24 (7) The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse member must
25 be currently either a program director or educator in an approved
26 nursing assistant training program.

27 (8) Public members of the board may not be a member of any other
28 health care licensing board or commission, or have a fiduciary
29 obligation to a facility rendering health services regulated by the
30 board, or have a material or financial interest in the rendering of
31 health services regulated by the board.

32 Members of the board hold office until their successors are
33 appointed.

34 When the secretary appoints pro tem members, reasonable efforts
35 shall be made to ensure that at least one pro tem member is a
36 registered nurse who is currently practicing and, in addition to
37 meeting other minimum qualifications, has graduated from an associate
38 or baccalaureate nursing program within three years of appointment.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.88A.020 and 2018 c 201 s 9008 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
4 this section apply throughout this chapter.

5 (1) "Alternative training" means a nursing assistant-certified
6 program meeting criteria adopted by the (~~commission~~) board under
7 RCW 18.88A.087 to meet the requirements of a state-approved nurse
8 aide competency evaluation program consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec.
9 1395i-3(e) and (f) of the federal social security act.

10 (2) "Approved training program" means a nursing assistant-
11 certified training program approved by the (~~commission~~) board to
12 meet the requirements of a state-approved nurse aide training and
13 competency evaluation program consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec.
14 1395i-3(e) and (f) of the federal social security act. For community
15 college, vocational-technical institutes, skill centers, and
16 secondary school as defined in chapter 28B.50 RCW, nursing assistant-
17 certified training programs shall be approved by the (~~commission~~)
18 board in cooperation with the board for community and technical
19 colleges or the superintendent of public instruction.

20 (3) (~~"Commission" means the Washington nursing care quality~~
21 ~~assurance commission~~) "Board" means the Washington state board of
22 nursing.

23 (4) "Competency evaluation" means the measurement of an
24 individual's knowledge and skills as related to safe, competent
25 performance as a nursing assistant.

26 (5) "Department" means the department of health.

27 (6) "Executive director" means the executive director of the
28 board hired pursuant to RCW 18.79.390.

29 (7) "Health care facility" means a nursing home, hospital
30 licensed under chapter 70.41 or 71.12 RCW, hospice care facility,
31 home health care agency, hospice agency, licensed or certified
32 service provider under chapter 71.24 RCW other than an individual
33 health care provider, or other entity for delivery of health care
34 services as defined by the (~~commission~~) board.

35 (~~(7)~~) (8) "Medication assistant" means a nursing assistant-
36 certified with a medication assistant endorsement issued under RCW
37 18.88A.082 who is authorized, in addition to his or her duties as a
38 nursing assistant-certified, to administer certain medications and
39 perform certain treatments in a nursing home under the supervision of
40 a registered nurse under RCW 18.88A.082.

1 ~~((8))~~ (9) "Nursing assistant" means an individual, regardless
2 of title, who, under the direction and supervision of a registered
3 nurse or licensed practical nurse, assists in the delivery of nursing
4 and nursing-related activities to patients in a health care facility
5 or an individual, regardless of title, who uses their nursing
6 assistant credential to work as a long-term care worker as allowed by
7 RCW 18.88B.041(1) (a) or (b). The two levels of nursing assistants
8 are:

9 (a) "Nursing assistant-certified," an individual certified under
10 this chapter; and

11 (b) "Nursing assistant-registered," an individual registered
12 under this chapter.

13 ~~((9))~~ (10) "Nursing home" means a nursing home licensed under
14 chapter 18.51 RCW.

15 ~~((10))~~ (11) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.88A.030 and 2021 c 203 s 16 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1)(a) A nursing assistant may assist in the care of individuals
19 as delegated by and under the direction and supervision of a licensed
20 (registered) nurse or licensed practical nurse or work as a long-term
21 care worker as allowed by RCW 18.88B.041(1) (a) or (b).

22 (b) A health care facility shall not assign a nursing assistant-
23 registered to provide care until the nursing assistant-registered has
24 demonstrated skills necessary to perform competently all assigned
25 duties and responsibilities.

26 (c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to confer on a
27 nursing assistant the authority to administer medication unless
28 delegated as a specific nursing task pursuant to this chapter or to
29 practice as a licensed (registered) nurse or licensed practical nurse
30 as defined in chapter 18.79 RCW.

31 (2)(a) A nursing assistant employed in a nursing home must have
32 successfully obtained certification through: (i) An approved training
33 program and the competency evaluation within a period of time
34 determined in rule by the ~~((commission))~~ board; or (ii) alternative
35 training and the competency evaluation prior to employment.

36 (b) Certification is voluntary for nursing assistants working in
37 health care facilities other than nursing homes unless otherwise
38 required by state or federal law or regulation.

1 (3) The ((~~commission~~)) board may adopt rules to implement the
2 provisions of this chapter.

3 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.88A.040 and 2012 c 208 s 4 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) No person may practice or represent himself or herself as a
6 nursing assistant-registered by use of any title or description
7 without being registered by the ((~~department~~)) board pursuant to this
8 chapter.

9 (2) ((~~After October 1, 1990, no~~)) No person may by use of any
10 title or description, practice or represent himself or herself as a
11 nursing assistant-certified without applying for certification,
12 meeting the qualifications, and being certified by the ((~~department~~))
13 board pursuant to this chapter.

14 (3) ((~~After July 1, 2013, no~~)) No person may practice, or
15 represent himself or herself by any title or description, as a
16 medication assistant without a medication assistant endorsement
17 issued under RCW 18.88A.082.

18 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.88A.050 and 2012 c 208 s 5 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 In addition to any other authority provided by law, the secretary
21 has the authority to:

22 (1) Set all nursing assistant certification, registration,
23 medication assistant endorsement, and renewal fees in accordance with
24 RCW 43.70.250 and to collect and deposit all such fees in the health
25 professions account established under RCW 43.70.320; and

26 ((~~Establish forms, procedures, and the competency evaluation~~
27 ~~necessary to administer this chapter;~~

28 ((~~Hire clerical, administrative, and investigative staff as~~
29 ~~needed to implement this chapter;~~

30 ((~~Issue a nursing assistant registration to any applicant who~~
31 ~~has met the requirements for registration;~~

32 ((~~After January 1, 1990, issue a nursing assistant certificate~~
33 ~~to any applicant who has met the training, competency evaluation, and~~
34 ~~conduct requirements for certification under this chapter;~~

35 ((~~Issue a medication assistant endorsement to any applicant who~~
36 ~~has met the requirements of RCW 18.88A.082;~~

1 ~~(7) Maintain the official record for the department of all~~
2 ~~applicants and persons with registrations, certificates, and~~
3 ~~medication assistant endorsements under this chapter;~~

4 ~~(8) Exercise disciplinary authority as authorized in chapter~~
5 ~~18.130 RCW;~~

6 ~~(9) Deny registration to any applicant who fails to meet~~
7 ~~requirement for registration as a nursing assistant;~~

8 ~~(10) Deny certification to applicants who do not meet the~~
9 ~~training, competency evaluation, and conduct requirements for~~
10 ~~certification as a nursing assistant; and~~

11 ~~(11) Deny medication assistant endorsement to applicants who do~~
12 ~~not meet the requirements of RCW 18.88A.082)) Employ staff that are~~
13 ~~hired and managed by the executive director provided that nothing~~
14 ~~contained in this section may be construed to alter any existing~~
15 ~~collective bargaining unit or the provisions of any existing~~
16 ~~collective bargaining agreement.~~

17 **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.88A.060 and 2012 c 208 s 6 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 In addition to any other authority provided by law, the
20 ((~~commission~~)) board may:

21 (1) Determine minimum nursing assistant education requirements
22 and approve training programs;

23 (2) Approve education and training programs and examinations for
24 medication assistants as provided in RCW 18.88A.082;

25 (3) Define the prescriber-ordered treatments a medication
26 assistant is authorized to perform under RCW 18.88A.082;

27 (4) Prepare, grade, and administer, or determine the nature of,
28 and supervise the grading and administration of, the competency
29 evaluation for applicants for nursing assistant certification, using
30 the same competency evaluation for all applicants, whether qualifying
31 to take the competency evaluation under an approved training program
32 or alternative training;

33 (5) Establish forms and procedures for evaluation of an
34 applicant's alternative training under criteria adopted pursuant to
35 RCW 18.88A.087;

36 (6) Define and approve any experience requirement for nursing
37 assistant certification;

38 (7) Adopt rules implementing a continuing competency evaluation
39 program for nursing assistants; ((~~and~~))

1 (8) Establish forms, procedures, and the competency evaluation
2 necessary to administer this chapter;

3 (9) Issue a nursing assistant registration to any applicant who
4 has met the requirements for registration;

5 (10) Maintain the official record for the department of all
6 applicants and persons with registrations, certificates, and
7 medication assistant endorsements under this chapter;

8 (11) Exercise disciplinary authority as authorized in chapter
9 18.130 RCW;

10 (12) Deny registration to any applicant who fails to meet
11 requirements for registration as a nursing assistant;

12 (13) Deny certification to applicants who do not meet the
13 training, competency evaluation, and conduct requirements for
14 certification as a nursing assistant;

15 (14) Deny medication assistant endorsement to applicants who do
16 not meet the requirements of RCW 18.88A.082;

17 (15) Issue a medication assistant endorsement to any applicant
18 who has met the requirements of RCW 18.88A.082;

19 (16) Delegate certain disciplinary functions to staff where no
20 clinical expertise or standard of care issues are involved;

21 (17) Issue a nursing assistant certificate to any applicant who
22 has met the training, competency evaluation, and conduct requirements
23 for certification under this chapter; and

24 (18) Adopt rules to enable it to carry into effect the provisions
25 of this chapter.

26 **Sec. 8.** RCW 18.88A.080 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 711 are each amended
27 to read as follows:

28 (1) The ((~~secretary~~)) board shall issue a registration to any
29 applicant who pays any applicable fees and submits, on forms provided
30 by the ((~~secretary~~)) board, the applicant's name, address, and other
31 information as determined by the ((~~secretary~~)) board, provided there
32 are no grounds for denial of registration or issuance of a
33 conditional registration under this chapter or chapter 18.130 RCW.

34 (2) Applicants must file an application with the ((~~commission~~))
35 board for registration within three days of employment.

36 **Sec. 9.** RCW 18.88A.082 and 2012 c 208 s 3 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 (1) (~~Beginning July 1, 2013, the secretary~~) The board shall
2 issue a medication assistant endorsement to any nursing assistant-
3 certified who meets the following requirements:

4 (a) Ongoing certification as a nursing assistant-certified in
5 good standing under this chapter;

6 (b) Completion of a minimum number of hours of documented work
7 experience as a nursing assistant-certified in a long-term care
8 setting as defined in rule by the (~~commission~~) board;

9 (c) Successful completion of an education and training program
10 approved by the (~~commission~~) board by rule, such as the model
11 medication assistant-certified curriculum adopted by the national
12 council of state boards of nursing. The education and training
13 program must include training on the specific tasks listed in
14 subsection (2) of this section as well as training on identifying
15 tasks that a medication assistant may not perform under subsection
16 (4) of this section;

17 (d) Passage of an examination approved by the (~~commission~~)
18 board by rule, such as the medication aide competency examination
19 available through the national council of state boards of nursing;
20 and

21 (e) Continuing competency requirements as defined in rule by the
22 (~~commission~~) board.

23 (2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, a medication
24 assistant may perform the following additional tasks:

25 (a) The administration of medications orally, topically, and
26 through inhalation;

27 (b) The performance of simple prescriber-ordered treatments,
28 including blood glucose monitoring, noncomplex clean dressing
29 changes, pulse oximetry reading, and oxygen administration, to be
30 defined by the (~~commission~~) board by rule; and

31 (c) The documentation of the tasks in this subsection (2) on
32 applicable medication or treatment forms.

33 (3) A medication assistant may only perform the additional tasks
34 in subsection (2) of this section:

35 (a) In a nursing home;

36 (b) Under the direct supervision of a designated registered nurse
37 who is on-site and immediately accessible during the medication
38 assistant's shift. The registered nurse shall assess the resident
39 prior to the medication assistant administering medications or
40 treatments and determine whether it is safe to administer the

1 medications or treatments. The judgment and decision to administer
2 medications or treatments is retained by the registered nurse; and

3 (c) If, while functioning as a medication assistant, the primary
4 responsibility of the medication assistant is performing the
5 additional tasks. The (~~commission~~) board may adopt rules regarding
6 the medication assistant's primary responsibilities and limiting the
7 duties, within the scope of practice of a nursing assistant-
8 certified, that a nursing assistant-certified may perform while
9 functioning as a medication assistant.

10 (4) A medication assistant may not:

11 (a) Accept telephone or verbal orders from a prescriber;

12 (b) Calculate medication dosages;

13 (c) Inject any medications;

14 (d) Perform any sterile task;

15 (e) Administer medications through a tube;

16 (f) Administer any Schedule I, II, or III controlled substance;

17 or

18 (g) Perform any task that requires nursing judgment.

19 (5) Nothing in this section requires a nursing home to employ a
20 nursing assistant-certified with a medication assistant endorsement.

21 (6) A medication assistant is responsible and accountable for his
22 or her specific functions.

23 (7) A medication assistant's employer may limit or restrict the
24 range of functions permitted under this section, but may not expand
25 those functions.

26 **Sec. 10.** RCW 18.88A.085 and 2010 c 169 s 7 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) (~~After January 1, 1990, the secretary~~) The board shall
29 issue a nursing assistant certificate to any applicant who
30 demonstrates to the (~~secretary's~~) board's satisfaction that the
31 following requirements have been met:

32 (a) Successful completion of an approved training program or
33 successful completion of alternative training meeting established
34 criteria adopted by the (~~commission~~) board under RCW 18.88A.087;
35 and

36 (b) Successful completion of the competency evaluation.

37 (2) In addition, applicants shall be subject to the grounds for
38 denial of certification under chapter 18.130 RCW.

1 **Sec. 11.** RCW 18.88A.087 and 2021 c 203 s 17 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The ~~((commission))~~ board shall adopt criteria for evaluating
4 an applicant's alternative training to determine the applicant's
5 eligibility to take the competency evaluation for nursing assistant
6 certification. At least one option adopted by the ~~((commission))~~
7 board must allow an applicant to take the competency evaluation if he
8 or she:

9 (a) (i) Is a certified home care aide pursuant to chapter 18.88B
10 RCW; or

11 (ii) Is a certified medical assistant pursuant to a certification
12 program accredited by a national medical assistant accreditation
13 organization and approved by the ~~((commission))~~ board; and

14 (b) Has successfully completed at least twenty-four hours of
15 training that the ~~((commission))~~ board determines is necessary to
16 provide training equivalent to approved training on topics not
17 addressed in the training specified for certification as a home care
18 aide or medical assistant, as applicable. In the ~~((commission's))~~
19 board's discretion, a portion of these hours may include clinical
20 training.

21 (2) (a) The ~~((commission))~~ board, in consultation with the
22 secretary, the department of social and health services, and
23 consumer, employer, and worker representatives, shall adopt rules to
24 implement this section and to provide for a program of credentialing
25 reciprocity to the extent required by this section between home care
26 aide and medical assistant certification and nursing assistant
27 certification. The secretary shall also adopt such rules as may be
28 necessary to implement this section and the credentialing reciprocity
29 program.

30 (b) Rules adopted under this section must be consistent with
31 requirements under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395i-3(e) and (f) of the federal
32 social security act relating to state-approved competency evaluation
33 programs for certified nurse aides.

34 ~~((3) The secretary, in consultation with the commission, shall
35 report annually by December 1st to the governor and the appropriate
36 committees of the legislature on the progress made in achieving
37 career advancement for certified home care aides and medical
38 assistants into nursing practice.))~~

1 **Sec. 12.** RCW 18.88A.088 and 2011 c 32 s 10 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 An applicant with military training or experience satisfies the
4 training or experience requirements of this chapter unless the
5 (~~commission~~) board determines that the military training or
6 experience is not substantially equivalent to the standards of this
7 state.

8 **Sec. 13.** RCW 18.88A.090 and 2010 c 169 s 8 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The (~~commission~~) board shall examine each applicant, by a
11 written or oral and a manual component of competency evaluation. The
12 competency evaluation shall be limited to the purpose of determining
13 whether the applicant possesses the minimum skill and knowledge
14 necessary to practice competently.

15 (2) Any applicant failing to make the required grade in the first
16 competency evaluation may take up to three subsequent competency
17 evaluations as the applicant desires upon prepaying a fee determined
18 by the secretary under RCW 43.70.250 for each subsequent competency
19 evaluation. Upon failing four competency evaluations, the secretary
20 may invalidate the original application and require such remedial
21 education before the person may take future competency evaluations.

22 The (~~commission~~) board may approve a competency evaluation
23 prepared or administered by a private testing agency or association
24 of licensing agencies for use by an applicant in meeting the
25 credentialing requirements.

26 **Sec. 14.** RCW 18.88A.110 and 2010 c 169 s 9 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 An applicant holding a credential in another state may be
29 certified by endorsement to practice in this state without the
30 competency evaluation if the (~~secretary~~) board determines that the
31 other state's credentialing standards are substantially equivalent to
32 the standards in this state.

33 **Sec. 15.** RCW 18.88A.120 and 2012 c 208 s 7 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 Applications for registration, certification, and medication
36 assistant endorsement shall be submitted on forms provided by the
37 (~~secretary~~) board. The (~~secretary~~) board may require any

1 information and documentation that reasonably relates to the need to
2 determine whether the applicant meets the criteria for registration,
3 certification, and medication assistant endorsement credentialing
4 provided for in this chapter and chapter 18.130 RCW. Each applicant
5 shall comply with administrative procedures, administrative
6 requirements, and fees determined by the secretary under RCW
7 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

8 **Sec. 16.** RCW 18.88A.150 and 2012 c 208 s 9 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 The uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs
11 unregistered, uncertified, or unendorsed practice, issuance of
12 certificates, registrations, and medication assistant endorsements,
13 and the discipline of persons registered or with certificates under
14 this chapter. The ((secretary)) board shall be the disciplinary
15 authority under this chapter.

16 **Sec. 17.** RCW 18.88A.210 and 2008 c 146 s 12 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) A nursing assistant meeting the requirements of this section
19 who provides care to individuals in community-based care settings or
20 in-home care settings, as defined in RCW 18.79.260(3), may accept
21 delegation of nursing care tasks by a registered nurse as provided in
22 RCW 18.79.260(3).

23 (2) For the purposes of this section, "nursing assistant" means a
24 nursing assistant-registered or a nursing assistant-certified.
25 Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the authority of
26 nurses to delegate nursing tasks to other persons, including licensed
27 practical nurses, as authorized by law.

28 (3)(a) Before commencing any specific nursing care tasks
29 authorized under this chapter, the nursing assistant must (i) provide
30 to the delegating nurse a certificate of completion issued by the
31 department of social and health services indicating the completion of
32 basic core nurse delegation training, (ii) be regulated by the
33 department of health pursuant to this chapter, subject to the uniform
34 disciplinary act under chapter 18.130 RCW, and (iii) meet any
35 additional training requirements identified by the ((nursing care
36 quality assurance commission)) board. Exceptions to these training
37 requirements must adhere to RCW 18.79.260(3)(e)(vi).

1 (b) In addition to meeting the requirements of (a) of this
2 subsection, before commencing the care of individuals with diabetes
3 that involves administration of insulin by injection, the nursing
4 assistant must provide to the delegating nurse a certificate of
5 completion issued by the department of social and health services
6 indicating completion of specialized diabetes nurse delegation
7 training. The training must include, but is not limited to,
8 instruction regarding diabetes, insulin, sliding scale insulin
9 orders, and proper injection procedures.

10 **Sec. 18.** RCW 18.88B.060 and 2012 c 164 s 303 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) The department has the authority to:

13 (a) Establish forms, procedures, and examinations necessary to
14 certify home care aides pursuant to this chapter;

15 (b) Hire clerical, administrative, and investigative staff as
16 needed to implement this section;

17 (c) Issue certification as a home care aide to any applicant who
18 has successfully completed the home care aide examination, and renew
19 such certificates;

20 (d) Maintain the official record of all applicants and persons
21 with certificates;

22 (e) Exercise disciplinary authority as authorized in chapter
23 18.130 RCW, except that the state board of nursing has disciplinary
24 authority over nursing assistants licensed under chapter 18.88A RCW
25 working as long-term care workers under this chapter; and

26 (f) Deny certification to applicants who do not meet training,
27 competency examination, and conduct requirements, including
28 background checks, for certification.

29 (2) The department shall adopt rules that establish the
30 procedures, including criteria for reviewing an applicant's state and
31 federal background checks, and examinations necessary to implement
32 this section.

33 **Sec. 19.** RCW 18.130.040 and 2024 c 362 s 8, 2024 c 217 s 7, and
34 2024 c 50 s 5 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

35 (1) This chapter applies only to the secretary and the boards and
36 commissions having jurisdiction in relation to the professions
37 licensed under the chapters specified in this section. This chapter

1 does not apply to any business or profession not licensed under the
2 chapters specified in this section.

3 (2) (a) The secretary has authority under this chapter in relation
4 to the following professions:

5 (i) Dispensing opticians licensed and designated apprentices
6 under chapter 18.34 RCW;

7 (ii) Midwives licensed under chapter 18.50 RCW;

8 (iii) Ocularists licensed under chapter 18.55 RCW;

9 (iv) Massage therapists and businesses licensed under chapter
10 18.108 RCW;

11 (v) Dental hygienists licensed under chapter 18.29 RCW;

12 (vi) Acupuncturists or acupuncture and Eastern medicine
13 practitioners licensed under chapter 18.06 RCW;

14 (vii) Radiologic technologists certified and X-ray technicians
15 registered under chapter 18.84 RCW;

16 (viii) Respiratory care practitioners licensed under chapter
17 18.89 RCW;

18 (ix) Hypnotherapists registered, agency affiliated counselors
19 registered, certified, or licensed, and advisors and counselors
20 certified under chapter 18.19 RCW;

21 (x) Persons licensed as mental health counselors, mental health
22 counselor associates, marriage and family therapists, marriage and
23 family therapist associates, social workers, social work associates—
24 advanced, and social work associates—independent clinical under
25 chapter 18.225 RCW;

26 (xi) Persons registered as nursing pool operators under chapter
27 18.52C RCW;

28 ~~((Nursing assistants registered or certified or medication
29 assistants endorsed under chapter 18.88A RCW;~~

30 ~~(xiii))~~ Dietitians and nutritionists certified under chapter
31 18.138 RCW;

32 ~~((xiv))~~ (xiii) Substance use disorder professionals, substance
33 use disorder professional trainees, or co-occurring disorder
34 specialists certified under chapter 18.205 RCW;

35 ~~((xv))~~ (xiv) Sex offender treatment providers and certified
36 affiliate sex offender treatment providers certified under chapter
37 18.155 RCW;

38 ~~((xvi))~~ (xv) Persons licensed and certified under chapter 18.73
39 RCW or RCW 18.71.205;

1 (~~(xvii)~~) (xvi) Orthotists and prosthetists licensed under
2 chapter 18.200 RCW;

3 (~~(xviii)~~) (xvii) Surgical technologists registered under
4 chapter 18.215 RCW;

5 (~~(xix)~~) (xviii) Recreational therapists under chapter 18.230
6 RCW;

7 (~~(xx)~~) (xix) Animal massage therapists certified under chapter
8 18.240 RCW;

9 (~~(xxi)~~) (xx) Athletic trainers licensed under chapter 18.250
10 RCW;

11 (~~(xxii)~~) (xxi) Home care aides certified under chapter 18.88B
12 RCW;

13 (~~(xxiii)~~) (xxii) Genetic counselors licensed under chapter
14 18.290 RCW;

15 (~~(xxiv)~~) (xxiii) Reflexologists certified under chapter 18.108
16 RCW;

17 (~~(xxv)~~) (xxiv) Medical assistants-certified, medical
18 assistants-hemodialysis technician, medical assistants-phlebotomist,
19 forensic phlebotomist, medical assistant-EMT, and medical assistants-
20 registered certified and registered under chapter 18.360 RCW;

21 (~~(xxvi)~~) (xxv) Behavior analysts, assistant behavior analysts,
22 and behavior technicians under chapter 18.380 RCW;

23 (~~(xxvii)~~) (xxvi) Birth doulas certified under chapter 18.47
24 RCW;

25 (~~(xxviii)~~) (xxvii) Music therapists licensed under chapter
26 18.233 RCW;

27 (~~(xxix)~~) (xxviii) Behavioral health support specialists
28 certified under chapter 18.227 RCW; and

29 (~~(xxx)~~) (xxix) Certified peer specialists and certified peer
30 specialist trainees under chapter 18.420 RCW.

31 (b) The boards and commissions having authority under this
32 chapter are as follows:

33 (i) The podiatric medical board as established in chapter 18.22
34 RCW;

35 (ii) The chiropractic quality assurance commission as established
36 in chapter 18.25 RCW;

37 (iii) The dental quality assurance commission as established in
38 chapter 18.32 RCW governing licenses issued under chapter 18.32 RCW,
39 licenses and registrations issued under chapter 18.260 RCW, licenses

1 issued under chapter 18.265 RCW, and certifications issued under
2 chapter 18.350 RCW;

3 (iv) The board of hearing and speech as established in chapter
4 18.35 RCW;

5 (v) The board of examiners for nursing home administrators as
6 established in chapter 18.52 RCW;

7 (vi) The optometry board as established in chapter 18.54 RCW
8 governing licenses issued under chapter 18.53 RCW;

9 (vii) The board of osteopathic medicine and surgery as
10 established in chapter 18.57 RCW governing licenses issued under
11 chapter 18.57 RCW;

12 (viii) The pharmacy quality assurance commission as established
13 in chapter 18.64 RCW governing licenses issued under chapters 18.64
14 and 18.64A RCW;

15 (ix) The Washington medical commission as established in chapter
16 18.71 RCW governing licenses and registrations issued under chapters
17 18.71, 18.71A, and 18.71D RCW;

18 (x) The board of physical therapy as established in chapter 18.74
19 RCW;

20 (xi) The board of occupational therapy practice as established in
21 chapter 18.59 RCW;

22 (xii) The board of nursing as established in chapter 18.79 RCW
23 governing licenses and registrations issued under that chapter and
24 under chapter 18.80 RCW, and nursing assistants registered or
25 certified or medication assistants endorsed under chapter 18.88A RCW;

26 (xiii) The examining board of psychology and its disciplinary
27 committee as established in chapter 18.83 RCW;

28 (xiv) The veterinary board of governors as established in chapter
29 18.92 RCW;

30 (xv) The board of naturopathy established in chapter 18.36A RCW,
31 governing licenses and certifications issued under that chapter; and

32 (xvi) The board of denturists established in chapter 18.30 RCW.

33 (3) In addition to the authority to discipline license holders,
34 the disciplining authority has the authority to grant or deny
35 licenses. The disciplining authority may also grant a license subject
36 to conditions, which must be in compliance with chapter 18.415 RCW.

37 (4) All disciplining authorities shall adopt procedures to ensure
38 substantially consistent application of this chapter, the uniform
39 disciplinary act, among the disciplining authorities listed in
40 subsection (2) of this section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 20.** RCW 18.88A.100 (Waiver of examination for
2 initial applications) and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 714 are each repealed.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 21.** (1) Sections 1 and 3 through 20 of this
4 act take effect July 1, 2026.

5 (2) Section 2 of this act takes effect June 30, 2027.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 22.** Section 1 of this act expires June 30,
7 2027.

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