
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5386

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Human Services (originally sponsored by Senators Wojahn, Moyer, Gaspard, Deccio, Hochstatter and Winsley)

Read first time 02/09/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to the licensure of home health, hospice, and home
2 care agencies under chapter 70.127 RCW; amending RCW 70.127.010,
3 70.127.040, 70.127.050, 70.127.080, 70.127.090, 70.127.100, 70.127.120,
4 70.127.130, and 70.127.250; adding new sections to chapter 70.127 RCW;
5 creating a new section; repealing RCW 70.127.160, 70.127.900, and
6 70.127.901; providing effective dates; and declaring an emergency.

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

8 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.127.010 and 1991 c 3 s 373 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
11 this section apply throughout this chapter.

12 (1) "Branch office" means a location or site from which a home
13 health, hospice, or home care agency provides services within a portion
14 of the total geographic area served by the parent agency. The branch
15 office is part of the agency and is located sufficiently close to share
16 administration, supervision, and services.

17 (2) "Department" means the department of health.

18 (3) "Home care agency" means a private or public agency or
19 organization that administers or provides home care services directly

1 or through a contract arrangement to ill, disabled, or infirm persons
2 in places of temporary or permanent residence.

3 (4) "Home care services" means personal care services, homemaker
4 services, respite care services, or any other nonmedical services
5 provided to ill, disabled, or infirm persons which services enable
6 these persons to remain in their own residences consistent with their
7 desires, abilities, and safety.

8 (5) "Home health agency" means a private or public agency or
9 organization that administers or provides home health aide services or
10 two or more home health services directly or through a contract
11 arrangement to ill, disabled, or infirm persons in places of temporary
12 or permanent residence. A private or public agency or organization
13 that administers or provides nursing services only may elect to be
14 designated a home health agency for purposes of licensure.

15 (6) "Home health services" means health or medical services
16 provided to ill, disabled, or infirm persons. These services may be of
17 an acute or maintenance care nature, and include but are not limited to
18 nursing services, home health aide services, physical therapy services,
19 occupational therapy services, speech therapy services, respiratory
20 therapy services, nutritional services, medical social services, and
21 medical supplies or equipment services.

22 (7) "Home health aide services" means services provided by a home
23 health agency or a hospice agency under the supervision of a registered
24 nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or speech therapist.
25 Such care includes ambulation and exercise, assistance with self-
26 administered medications, reporting changes in patients' conditions and
27 needs, completing appropriate records, and personal care or homemaker
28 services (~~((needed to achieve medically desired results))~~).

29 (8) "Homemaker services" means services that assist ill, disabled,
30 or infirm persons with household tasks essential to achieving adequate
31 household and family management.

32 (9) "Hospice agency" means a private or public agency or
33 organization administering or providing hospice care directly or
34 through a contract arrangement to terminally ill persons in places of
35 temporary or permanent residence by using an interdisciplinary team
36 composed of at least nursing, social work, physician, and pastoral or
37 spiritual counseling.

38 (10) "Hospice care" means: (a) Palliative care provided to a
39 terminally ill person in a place of temporary or permanent residence

1 that alleviates physical symptoms, including pain, as well as
2 alleviates the emotional and spiritual discomfort associated with
3 dying; and (b) bereavement care provided to the family of a terminally
4 ill person that alleviates the emotional and spiritual discomfort
5 associated with the death of a family member. Hospice care may include
6 health and medical services and personal care, respite, or homemaker
7 services. Family means individuals who are important to and designated
8 by the patient, and who need not be relatives.

9 (11) "Ill, disabled, or infirm persons" means persons who need home
10 health, hospice, or home care services in order to maintain themselves
11 in their places of temporary or permanent residence.

12 (12) "Personal care services" means services that assist ill,
13 disabled, or infirm persons with dressing, feeding, and personal
14 hygiene to facilitate self-care.

15 (13) "Public or private agency or organization" means an entity
16 that employs or contracts with two or more persons who provide care in
17 the home.

18 (14) "Respite care services" means services that assist or support
19 the primary care giver on a scheduled basis.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.127.040 and 1988 c 245 s 5 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 The following are not subject to regulation for the purposes of
23 this chapter:

24 (1) A family member;

25 (2) An organization that provides only meal services in a person's
26 residence;

27 (3) Entities furnishing durable medical equipment that does not
28 involve the delivery of professional services beyond those necessary to
29 set up and monitor the proper functioning of the equipment and educate
30 the user on its proper use;

31 (4) A person who provides services through a contract with a
32 licensed agency;

33 (5) An employee or volunteer of a licensed agency who provides
34 services only as an employee or volunteer;

35 (6) Facilities and institutions, including but not limited to
36 nursing homes under chapter 18.51 RCW, hospitals under chapter 70.41
37 RCW, boarding homes under chapter 18.20 RCW, developmental disability
38 residential programs under chapter 71.12 RCW, or other facilities and

1 institutions, only when providing services to persons residing within
2 the facility or institution if the delivery of the services is
3 regulated by the state;

4 (7) Persons providing care to disabled persons through a contract
5 with the department of social and health services;

6 (8) Nursing homes, hospitals, or other institutions, agencies,
7 organizations, or persons that contract with licensed home health,
8 hospice, or home care agencies for the delivery of services;

9 (9) In-home assessments of an ill, disabled, or infirm person's
10 ability to adapt to the home environment that does not result in
11 regular ongoing care at home;

12 (10) Services conducted by and for the adherents of a church or
13 religious denomination that rely upon spiritual means alone through
14 prayer for healing in accordance with the tenets and practices of such
15 church or religious denomination and the bona fide religious beliefs
16 genuinely held by such adherents;

17 (11) A medicare-approved dialysis center operating a medicare-
18 approved home dialysis program;

19 (12) Case management services which do not include the direct
20 delivery of home health, hospice, or home care services;

21 (13) Pharmacies licensed under RCW 18.64.043 that deliver
22 prescription drugs and durable medical equipment that does not involve
23 the use of professional services beyond those authorized to be
24 performed by licensed pharmacists pursuant to chapter 18.64 RCW and
25 those necessary to set up and monitor the proper functioning of the
26 equipment and educate the person on its proper use.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.127.050 and 1988 c 245 s 6 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 (~~(Notwithstanding RCW 70.127.020(2) and 70.127.030(2), a volunteer~~
30 ~~organization that provides hospice care without receiving compensation~~
31 ~~for delivery of services that does not meet the licensure requirements~~
32 ~~of this chapter for a hospice agency may use the phrase "volunteer~~
33 ~~hospice" if the volunteer organization was formed prior to January 1,~~
34 ~~1988, and the organization notifies the department prior to July 1,~~
35 ~~1989. This section shall not be considered an exemption from the home~~
36 ~~health agency or home care agency license provisions of this chapter.))~~

37 (1) An entity that provides hospice care without receiving compensation
38 for delivery of any of its services is exempt from licensure pursuant

1 to RCW 70.127.020(2) if it notifies the department, on forms provided
2 by the department, of its name, address, name of owner, and a statement
3 affirming that it provides hospice care without receiving compensation
4 for delivery of any of its services. This form must be filed with the
5 department within sixty days after the effective date of this section,
6 or within sixty days after being informed in writing by the department
7 of this requirement for obtaining exemption from licensure under this
8 chapter.

9 (2) For the purposes of this section, it is not relevant if the
10 entity compensates its staff. For the purposes of this section, the
11 word "compensation" does not include donations.

12 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 70.127.030(2), an entity
13 that provides hospice care without receiving compensation for delivery
14 of any of its services is allowed to use the phrase "volunteer
15 hospice."

16 (4) Nothing in this chapter precludes an entity providing hospice
17 care without receiving compensation for delivery of any of its services
18 from obtaining a hospice license if it so chooses, but that entity
19 would be exempt from the requirements set forth in RCW 70.127.080(1)(d)
20 and (e).

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.127.080 and 1988 c 245 s 9 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 (1) An applicant for a home health, hospice, or home care agency
24 license shall:

25 (a) File a written application on a form provided by the
26 department;

27 (b) Demonstrate ability to comply with this chapter and the rules
28 adopted under this chapter;

29 (c) Cooperate with on-site review conducted by the department prior
30 to licensure or renewal except as provided in section 11 of this act;

31 (d) Provide evidence of and maintain professional liability
32 insurance in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars per occurrence
33 or adequate self-insurance as approved by the department. This
34 subsection shall not apply to hospice agency applicants that provide
35 hospice care without receiving compensation for delivery of services;

36 (e) Provide evidence of and maintain public liability and property
37 damage insurance coverage in the sum of fifty thousand dollars for
38 injury or damage to property per occurrence and fifty thousand dollars

1 for injury or damage, including death, to any one person and one
2 hundred thousand dollars for injury or damage, including death, to more
3 than one person, or evidence of adequate self-insurance for public
4 liability and property damage as approved by the department. This
5 subsection shall not apply to hospice agency applicants that provide
6 hospice care without receiving compensation for delivery of services;

7 (f) Provide such proof as the department may require concerning
8 organizational ((and governance)) structure, and the identity of the
9 applicant, officers, directors, partners, managing employees, or owners
10 of ten percent or more of the applicant's assets;

11 (g) File with the department a list of the counties in which the
12 applicant will operate;

13 (h) File with the department a list of the services offered;

14 (i) Pay to the department a license fee as provided in RCW
15 70.127.090; and

16 (j) Provide any other information that the department may
17 reasonably require.

18 (2) A certificate of need under chapter 70.38 RCW is not required
19 for licensure.

20 (3) A license or renewal shall not be granted pursuant to this
21 chapter if the applicant, officers, directors, partners, managing
22 employees, or owners of ten percent or more of the applicant's assets,
23 within the last five years have been found in a civil or criminal
24 proceeding to have committed any act which reasonably relates to the
25 person's fitness to establish, maintain, or administer an agency or to
26 provide care in the home of another.

27 (4) A separate license is not required for a branch office.

28 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.127.090 and 1988 c 245 s 10 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 An application for a license or any renewal shall be accompanied
31 by a fee as established by the department under RCW ((43.20B.110))
32 43.70.250. ((A surcharge no greater than fifty dollars per year may be
33 assessed for the period of time necessary to repay the cost of
34 implementing this chapter.)) Licensure fees shall be based on a sliding
35 scale using the number of agency full-time equivalents, with agencies
36 with the highest number of full-time equivalents paying the highest
37 fee. Full-time equivalent is a measurement based on a forty-hour work
38 week and is applicable to paid agency employees or contractors. For

1 agencies receiving a licensure survey that requires more than one on-
2 site review by the department per licensure period, an additional fee
3 of fifty percent of the base licensure fee shall be charged for each
4 additional on-site review. The department shall charge a reasonable
5 fee for processing changes in ownership. The department may set
6 different licensure fees for each licensure category.

7 **Sec. 6.** RCW 70.127.100 and 1988 c 245 s 11 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 Upon receipt of an application under RCW 70.127.080 for a license
10 and the license fee, the department shall issue a license if the
11 applicant meets the requirements established under this chapter. (~~All~~
12 ~~persons operating as home health, hospice, or home care agencies before~~
13 ~~July 1, 1989, shall submit their applications and application fees by~~
14 ~~July 1, 1989. In addition, issuance of a license is conditioned on the~~
15 ~~department conducting an on-site review.)) A license issued under this
16 chapter shall not be transferred or assigned without thirty days prior
17 notice to the department and the department's approval. A license,
18 unless suspended or revoked, (~~may be effective for a period of up to~~
19 ~~two years, at the discretion of the department~~) is effective for a
20 period of two years, however an initial license is only effective for
21 twelve months. The department shall conduct an on-site review within
22 each licensure period. The department may conduct a licensure survey
23 after ownership transfer. The fee for this survey may not exceed fifty
24 percent of the base licensure fee. The department may establish
25 penalty fees for failure to apply for licensure or renewal as required
26 by this chapter.~~

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The department is directed to continue to
28 develop, with opportunity for comment from licensees, interpretive
29 guidelines that are specific to each type of license and consistent
30 with legislative intent.

31 **Sec. 8.** RCW 70.127.120 and 1988 c 245 s 13 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 The department shall adopt rules consistent with RCW 70.127.005
34 necessary to implement this chapter under chapter 34.05 RCW. In order
35 to ensure safe and adequate care, the rules shall address at a minimum
36 the following:

- 1 (1) Maintenance and preservation of all records relating directly
2 to the care and treatment of persons by licensees;
- 3 (2) Establishment of a procedure for the receipt, investigation,
4 and disposition of complaints by the department regarding services
5 provided by licensees;
- 6 (3) Establishment and implementation of a plan for on-going care of
7 persons and preservation of records if the licensee ceases operations;
- 8 (4) Supervision of services;
- 9 (5) Maintenance of written policies regarding response to referrals
10 and access to services at all times;
- 11 (6) Maintenance of written personnel policies and procedures and
12 personnel records for paid staff that provide for prehire screening,
13 minimum qualifications, regular performance evaluations, including
14 observation in the home, participation in orientation and in-service
15 training, and involvement in quality assurance activities. The
16 department may not establish (~~qualifications for licensed~~
17 ~~professionals other than those required for licensure~~) experience or
18 other qualifications for agency personnel or contractors beyond that
19 required by state law; ((and))
- 20 (7) Maintenance of written policies and procedures for volunteers
21 that have direct patient contact and that provide for background and
22 health screening, orientation, and supervision; and
- 23 (8) Maintenance of written policies on obtaining regular reports on
24 patient satisfaction.

25 **Sec. 9.** RCW 70.127.130 and 1988 c 245 s 14 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 Licensees shall conform to the standards of RCW 69.41.030 and
28 69.50.308. Rules adopted by the department concerning the use of
29 legend drugs or controlled substances shall reference and be consistent
30 with board of pharmacy rules.

31 **Sec. 10.** RCW 70.127.250 and 1988 c 245 s 25 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) In addition to the rules consistent with RCW 70.127.005 adopted
34 under RCW 70.127.120, the department shall adopt rules for home health
35 agencies which address the following:

36 (a) Establishment of case management guidelines for acute and
37 maintenance care patients;

1 (b) Establishment of guidelines for periodic review of the home
2 health care plan of care and plan of treatment by appropriate health
3 care professionals; and

4 (c) Maintenance of written policies regarding the delivery and
5 supervision of patient care and clinical consultation as necessary by
6 appropriate health care professionals.

7 (2) As used in this section:

8 (a) "Acute care" means care provided by a home health agency for
9 patients who are not medically stable or have not attained a
10 satisfactory level of rehabilitation. These patients require frequent
11 monitoring by a health care professional in order to maintain their
12 health status.

13 (b) "Maintenance care" means care provided by home health agencies
14 that is necessary to support an existing level of health and to
15 preserve a patient from further failure or decline.

16 (c) "Home health plan of care" means a written plan of care
17 established by a home health agency by appropriate health care
18 professionals that describes maintenance care to be provided. A
19 patient or his or her representative shall be allowed to participate in
20 the development of the plan of care to the ~~((extend {extent}))~~ extent
21 practicable.

22 (d) "Home health plan of treatment" means a written plan of care
23 established by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW,
24 a ~~((podiatrist))~~ podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under chapter
25 18.22 RCW, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized
26 by the board of nursing under chapter 18.88 RCW, in consultation with
27 appropriate health care professionals within the agency that describes
28 medically necessary acute care to be provided for treatment of illness
29 or injury.

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW
31 70.127.080(1)(c), a home health or hospice agency that is certified by
32 the federal medicare program, or accredited by the community health
33 accreditation program, or the joint commission on accreditation of
34 health care organizations as a home health or hospice agency shall be
35 granted the applicable renewal license, without necessity of a state
36 licensure on-site survey if:

1 (a) The department determines that the applicable survey standards
2 of the certification or accreditation program are substantially
3 equivalent to those required by this chapter;

4 (b) An on-site survey has been conducted for the purposes of
5 certification or accreditation during the previous twenty-four months;
6 and

7 (c) The department receives directly from the certifying or
8 accrediting entity or from the licensee applicant copies of the initial
9 and subsequent survey reports and other relevant reports or findings
10 that indicate compliance with licensure requirements.

11 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 70.127.080(1)(c), a home
12 care agency under contract with the department of social and health
13 services or area agency on aging to provide home care services and that
14 is monitored by the department of social and health services or area
15 agency on aging shall be granted a renewal license, without necessity
16 of an on-site survey by the department of health if:

17 (a) The department determines that the department of social and
18 health services or area agency on aging monitoring standards are
19 substantially equivalent to those required by this chapter;

20 (b) An on-site monitoring has been conducted by the department of
21 social and health services or area agency on aging during the previous
22 twenty-four months;

23 (c) The department of social and health services or area agency on
24 aging includes in its monitoring a sample of private pay clients, if
25 applicable; and

26 (d) The department receives directly from the department of social
27 and health services copies of monitoring reports and other relevant
28 reports or findings that indicate compliance with licensure
29 requirements.

30 (3) In reviewing the federal, the joint commission on accreditation
31 of health care organizations, the community health accreditation
32 program, or the department of social and health services survey
33 standards for substantial equivalency to those set forth in this
34 chapter, the department is directed to provide the most liberal
35 interpretation consistent with the intent of this chapter. In the
36 event the department determines at any time that the survey standards
37 are not substantially equivalent to those required by this chapter, the
38 department is directed to notify the affected licensees. The
39 notification shall contain a detailed description of the deficiencies

1 in the alternative survey process, as well as an explanation concerning
2 the risk to the consumer. The determination of substantial equivalency
3 for alternative survey process and lack of substantial equivalency are
4 agency actions and subject to RCW 34.05.210 through 34.05.395 and
5 34.05.510 through 34.05.680.

6 (4) Agencies receiving a license without necessity of an on-site
7 survey by the department under this chapter shall pay the same
8 licensure or transfer fee as other agencies in their licensure
9 category. It is the intent of this section that the licensure fees for
10 all agencies will be lowered by the elimination of the duplication that
11 currently exists.

12 (5) In order to avoid unnecessary costs, the department is not
13 authorized to perform a validation survey if it is also the agency
14 performing the certification or accreditation survey. Where this is
15 not the case, the department is authorized to perform a validation
16 survey on no greater than five percent of each type of certification or
17 accreditation survey.

18 (6) This section does not affect the department's enforcement
19 authority for licensed agencies.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** The following acts or parts of acts are
21 each repealed:

- 22 (1) RCW 70.127.160 and 1988 c 245 s 17;
- 23 (2) RCW 70.127.900 and 1988 c 245 s 37; and
- 24 (3) RCW 70.127.901 and 1988 c 245 s 38.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** Sections 7 and 11 of this act are each
26 added to chapter 70.127 RCW.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** If any provision of this act or its
28 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
29 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
30 persons or circumstances is not affected.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** (1) Sections 1 through 10 and 12 of this
32 act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace,

1 health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing
2 public institutions, and shall take effect June 30, 1993.
3 (2) Section 11 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1994.

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