
HOUSE BILL 1722

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Conway, Curtis, Moeller, Darneille, Wood and Simpson

Read first time 01/25/2007. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to physician assistants executing certain
2 certificates and other forms for labor and industries; adding a new
3 section to chapter 51.28 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) Under chapters 18.57A and 18.71A RCW, physician assistants are
7 granted authority to practice medicine under the supervision and
8 control of a physician licensed in this state under chapter 18.57 or
9 18.71 RCW; such supervision and control does not require the personal
10 presence of the supervising physician at the place where services are
11 rendered; and the physician assistant may practice medicine in this
12 state only pursuant to the terms of a practice arrangement plan
13 approved by the licensing body of the supervising physician.

14 (2) Physician assistants working under the supervision of a
15 physician and pursuant to a practice arrangement plan can safely
16 improve the efficiency of our health care delivery system by freeing up
17 additional time for physicians to care for patients, and the ability of
18 physician assistants to practice medicine under the supervision of a
19 physician pursuant to a practice arrangement plan but not under the

1 direct supervision of a physician also increases the availability of
2 health care to rural or underserved populations where physicians are
3 often times less available.

4 (3) Some state agencies and departments do not accept the signature
5 of physician assistants on certain certificates, reports, and other
6 documents that their supervising physician is permitted to sign,
7 notwithstanding the fact that the signing of such documents is within
8 the physician assistant's scope of practice, covered under the practice
9 arrangement plan, and permitted pursuant to WAC 246-918-140.

10 It is therefore the intent of the legislature to clarify in statute
11 what was adopted by rule in WAC 246-918-140, that a physician assistant
12 may sign and attest to any document that might ordinarily be signed by
13 the supervising physician and that is consistent with the terms of the
14 practice arrangement plan.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 51.28 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 The department shall accept the signature of a physician assistant
18 on any certificate, card, form, or other documentation required by the
19 department that the physician assistant's supervising physician or
20 physicians may sign, provided that it is within the physician
21 assistant's scope of practice, and is consistent with the terms of the
22 physician assistant's practice arrangement plan as required by chapters
23 18.57A and 18.71A RCW. Consistent with the terms of this section, the
24 authority of a physician assistant to sign such certificates, cards,
25 forms, or other documentation includes, but is not limited to, the
26 execution of the certificate required in RCW 51.28.020. A physician
27 assistant may not rate a worker's permanent partial disability under
28 RCW 51.32.055.

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