

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1660

As Passed House:
March 5, 2013

Title: An act relating to convening a work group to develop a standardized clinical affiliation agreement for clinical placements associated with the education of physicians and nurses.

Brief Description: Convening a work group to develop a standardized clinical affiliation agreement for clinical placements for physicians and nurses.

Sponsors: Representatives Hansen, Cody, Clibborn, Green, Morrell, Riccelli and Ryu.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 2/19/13, 2/22/13 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/5/13, 96-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Department of Health to convene a work group to develop uniform clinical affiliation agreements for physicians, osteopathic physicians, and nurses.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 16 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Jinkins, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Hope, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Angel, Clibborn, Green, Manweller, Moeller, Morrell, Riccelli, Rodne, Ross, Short, Tharinger and Van De Wege.

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

As part of their education and training, physicians, osteopathic physicians, and nurses are all required to complete clinical training. Institutions of higher education enter into agreements with the locations at which their students will complete their clinical training requirements.

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These agreements, known as clinical affiliation agreements, identify the duties and liabilities of both the school and the clinical site.

In its 2012 annual report, the Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force (HCPSTF) recommended the establishment of a work group to develop standardized language to be used in clinical affiliation agreements. According to the HCPSTF, one of the barriers to expanded clinical placement capacity is the lack of a standardized clinical affiliation agreement; the lack of standardization creates unnecessary complexity and duplication of effort.

Summary of Bill:

The Department of Health (DOH) must convene a work group to study and recommend language for standardized clinical affiliation agreements for clinical placements associated with the education and training of physicians, osteopathic physicians, and nurses. When choosing members of the work group, the DOH must consult with the HCPSTF and attempt to ensure that the membership is geographically diverse. The membership must include representatives of the following:

- two-year institutions of higher education;
- four-year institutions of higher education;
- the University of Washington medical school;
- the College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences;
- the HCPSTF;
- statewide organizations representing hospitals and other facilities that accept clinical placements;
- a statewide organization representing physicians;
- a statewide organization representing osteopathic physicians;
- a statewide organization representing nurses;
- a labor organization representing nurses; and
- any other groups deemed appropriate by the DOH in consultation with the HCPSTF.

The work group must develop one recommended standardized clinical affiliation for each profession or one recommended standardized clinical affiliation agreement for all three professions and report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature no later than November 15, 2014.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill will help train more nurses and doctors by getting rid of burdensome paperwork. The bill comes from recommendations from the HCPSTF. Clinical placements are an important part of training. There is currently a lot of competition for a limited number

of clinical placement slots. One barrier to creating more clinical capacity is the lack of a standardized clinical affiliation agreement; people are renegotiating and reinventing the wheel every time they enter into one of these agreements. This bill will create a model agreement like model jury instructions used by lawyers. Simplification and standardization will better serve the system and the students who use it.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Hansen, prime sponsor; and Nova Gattman, Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.