
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6286

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Rivers, Cleveland, Dhingra, Dozier, Nobles, Padden, Robinson, Wellman, and L. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing the anesthesia workforce shortage
2 by reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to
3 increase the supply of certified registered nurse anesthetists in
4 Washington; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The health care system faces increasing
7 costs and workforce shortages. Health care facilities are facing a
8 shortage of anesthesia providers. The legislature recognizes
9 certified registered nurse anesthetists as essential providers of
10 safe, cost-effective, and accessible anesthesia care for Washington
11 residents. It is the intent of the legislature to encourage an
12 ongoing supply and improve the pipeline of certified registered nurse
13 anesthetists in Washington state through educational promotion and
14 expansion.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Subject to amounts appropriated
16 specifically for this purpose, the Washington state board of nursing
17 shall develop and manage a grant process for the purposes of
18 providing incentives to certified registered nurse anesthetists to
19 precept nurse anesthesia residents in health care settings. The board
20 of nursing shall ensure the funds in the grant process are

1 distributed equally among the total qualified applicant preceptors
2 that dedicate at least 80 hours per year to precepting any nurse
3 anesthesia residents. The goal of the grant program is to create more
4 clinical placements for nurse anesthesia residents to complete
5 required clinical hours to earn their degree and related licensure.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The University of Washington center
7 for health workforce studies, in collaboration with the Washington
8 state board of nursing, the Washington medical commission, and the
9 department of health, shall study the workforce shortages in
10 anesthesia care in each facility providing anesthesia services in
11 Washington state, and shall submit an initial report to the
12 legislature beginning June 30, 2025, with an update report annually
13 thereafter. The center for health workforce studies shall submit a
14 final report due June 30, 2029, detailing the progress made in the
15 previous five years and any findings and policy recommendations to
16 further address the workforce shortages and barriers to further
17 expanding education of certified registered nurse anesthetists. The
18 initial and each subsequent report shall include, but are not limited
19 to, the following:

20 (a) Identifying the factors and barriers to entry into the
21 profession of nurse anesthesiology;

22 (b) Evaluating and assessing the current training and pipeline
23 for certified registered nurse anesthetists;

24 (c) Developing recommendations that reduce barriers for
25 individuals who want to become certified registered nurse
26 anesthetists and increasing the available clinical training slots for
27 nurse anesthesia residents;

28 (d) Creating and maintaining an implementation plan to improve
29 the pipeline of certified registered nurse anesthetists in the state;

30 (e) Identifying the number of qualified anesthesia providers,
31 including, at a minimum, physician anesthesiologists and certified
32 registered nurse anesthetists, who may practice independently in the
33 state of Washington at each facility providing anesthesia services;
34 and

35 (f) Providing policy recommendations to expand the nurse
36 anesthesia workforce and optimize the cost of providing anesthesia
37 services, including initiatives for all practicing independent
38 anesthesia providers to practice at the top of their license.

1 (2) This section expires June 30, 2030.

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