

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1809

As Reported By House Committee On:

Health Care

Title: An act relating to naturopath's authority to give direction to persons licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW.

Brief Description: Authorizing naturopaths to give direction to registered nurses.

Sponsors: Representatives Dyer and Dickerson.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 2/21/95, 2/24/95 [DPS].

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Dyer, Chairman; Backlund, Vice Chairman; Hymes, Vice Chairman; Dellwo, Ranking Minority Member; Cody, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Campbell; Casada; Conway; Crouse; Kessler; Morris; Sherstad and Skinner.

Staff: John Welsh (786-7133).

Background: Currently, nurses and licensed practical nurses may work under the direction of a physician, dentist, osteopathic or podiatric physician or physician assistant, or advanced nurse practitioner.

Current law, however, does not authorize the nurse or licensed practical nurse to work under the direction of a naturopathic physician.

Summary of Substitute Bill: Nurses and licensed practical nurses are authorized to work under the direction of a naturopathic physician, consistent with their scopes of practice.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: Nurses are limited to the parameters of their scopes of practice.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Nurses should have the option to work with naturopathic physicians.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Jeff Larsen and Dr. Patricia Hastings, Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians (pro); Steve Borukowitz, Department of Health; and Lisa Thatcher, Washington State Nurses Association.