

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2743

As Reported By House Committee On:

Health Care

Title: An act relating to requirements for retired active licenses for health care practitioners.

Brief Description: Revising requirements for retired active licenses for health care practitioners.

Sponsors: Representatives Honeyford, Backlund, Silver and Lisk.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 2/1/96, 2/2/96 [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; Cody, Ranking Minority Member; Murray, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Campbell; Casada; Conway; Crouse; Morris; Sherstad; Skinner and H. Sommers.

Staff: John Welsh (786-7133).

Background: A retired active license is a license issued by a state health professions disciplinary authority at a reduced fee for a health practitioner who is retired from full-time practice but desires to maintain a license to practice only intermittently or on an emergent basis.

A health practitioner holding a retired active license must meet any continuing education requirements as a condition for the renewal of the license.

Summary of Substitute Bill: The professional health disciplinary authorities are authorized to provide for a reduction in hours of the continuing education requirement for a practitioner holding a retired active license who provides free services to the community. The disciplinary authority is also authorized to provide by rule procedures for activation or reissuance of a license for full-time practice.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: A licensee may not be totally relieved of the continuing education requirement, but the respective disciplinary authority may authorize a reduction in the number of continuing education hours. The disciplinary authoritys can reactivate the licensee’s retired active license status for full-time 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: The costs of taking continuing education courses by retired practitioners may be burdensome on retirees providing free services to the community on a part-time basis. Exemption or waiver, or a reduction in the number of hours of the continuing education requirement, may provide an incentive for pro bono service to the community.

Testimony Against: There are concerns that the retired practitioner practicing on a part-time basis may not be keeping up with changes in standards of care. Continuing education is an important way for health practitioners to keep current. This is a matter best left to the discretion of the boards and commissions.

Testified: Ron Weaver, Department of Health; and Carl Nelson, Washington State Medical Association.