

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1809

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Health & Long-Term Care, March 31, 1995

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: House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Dyer and Dickerson).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 3/21/95, 3/31/95 [DPA].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Quigley, Chair; Deccio, Fairley, Franklin, Winsley and Wood.

Staff: Rhoda Jones (786-7198)

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

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

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

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission establishes rules for RNs who practice under naturopathic physicians.

Amended Bill Compared to Substitute Bill: Language is added directing the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission to establish rules for RNs who take direction from naturopathic physicians.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Testimony For: Nurses acting within their scope of practice should be able to take direction from naturopathic physicians.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Jeff Larsen, WANP (pro); Nick Federici, WSNA (pro w/amendment).