
HOUSE BILL 1727

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Schmick, Cody, and Short

Read first time 01/27/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to permitting nursing assistants to perform
2 simple care tasks under indirect supervision; and amending RCW
3 18.88A.020 and 18.88A.030.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.88A.020 and 2012 c 208 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
8 this section apply throughout this chapter.

9 (1) "Alternative training" means a nursing assistant-certified
10 program meeting criteria adopted by the commission under RCW
11 18.88A.087 to meet the requirements of a state-approved nurse aide
12 competency evaluation program consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec.
13 1395i-3(e) and (f) of the federal social security act.

14 (2) "Approved training program" means a nursing assistant-
15 certified training program approved by the commission to meet the
16 requirements of a state-approved nurse aide training and competency
17 evaluation program consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395i-3(e) and (f)
18 of the federal social security act. For community college,
19 vocational-technical institutes, skill centers, and secondary school
20 as defined in chapter 28B.50 RCW, nursing assistant-certified
21 training programs shall be approved by the commission in cooperation

1 with the board for community and technical colleges or the
2 superintendent of public instruction.

3 (3) "Commission" means the Washington nursing care quality
4 assurance commission.

5 (4) "Competency evaluation" means the measurement of an
6 individual's knowledge and skills as related to safe, competent
7 performance as a nursing assistant.

8 (5) "Department" means the department of health.

9 (6) "Health care facility" means a nursing home, hospital,
10 hospice care facility, home health care agency, hospice agency,
11 licensed service provider under chapter 71.24 RCW, or other entity
12 for delivery of health care services as defined by the commission.

13 (7) "Medication assistant" means a nursing assistant-certified
14 with a medication assistant endorsement issued under RCW 18.88A.082
15 who is authorized, in addition to his or her duties as a nursing
16 assistant-certified, to administer certain medications and perform
17 certain treatments in a nursing home under the supervision of a
18 registered nurse under RCW 18.88A.082.

19 (8) "Nursing assistant" means an individual, regardless of title,
20 who, under the direction and supervision of a registered nurse or
21 licensed practical nurse, assists in the delivery of nursing and
22 nursing-related activities to patients in a health care facility. The
23 two levels of nursing assistants are:

24 (a) "Nursing assistant-certified," an individual certified under
25 this chapter; and

26 (b) "Nursing assistant-registered," an individual registered
27 under this chapter.

28 (9) "Nursing home" means a nursing home licensed under chapter
29 18.51 RCW.

30 (10) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

31 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.88A.030 and 2010 c 169 s 4 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1)(a) A nursing assistant may assist in the care of individuals
34 as delegated by and under the direction and supervision of a licensed
35 (registered) nurse or licensed practical nurse.

36 (b) A health care facility shall not assign a nursing assistant-
37 registered to provide care until the nursing assistant-registered has
38 demonstrated skills necessary to perform competently all assigned
39 duties and responsibilities.

1 (c) A nursing assistant employed in a health care facility that
2 provides services in a health professional shortage area, as defined
3 in RCW 28B.115.020, may take and record blood pressure and vital
4 signs under the indirect supervision of a registered nurse or a
5 licensed practical nurse. For purposes of this subsection, "indirect
6 supervision" means the registered nurse or licensed practical nurse
7 is not on the premises but has given written or oral instructions for
8 the care and treatment of the patient.

9 (d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to confer on a
10 nursing assistant the authority to administer medication unless
11 delegated as a specific nursing task pursuant to this chapter or to
12 practice as a licensed (registered) nurse or licensed practical nurse
13 as defined in chapter 18.79 RCW.

14 (2)(a) A nursing assistant employed in a nursing home must have
15 successfully obtained certification through: (i) An approved training
16 program and the competency evaluation within four months after the
17 date of employment; or (ii) alternative training and the competency
18 evaluation prior to employment.

19 (b) Certification is voluntary for nursing assistants working in
20 health care facilities other than nursing homes unless otherwise
21 required by state or federal law or regulation.

22 (3) The commission may adopt rules to implement the provisions of
23 this chapter.

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