
SENATE BILL 5028

State of Washington

64th Legislature

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By Senators Bailey, Dammeier, Cleveland, Keiser, and Warnick

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1 AN ACT Relating to raising licensure limits to allow assisted
2 living facilities to serve a higher acuity resident population;
3 amending RCW 18.20.030, 18.20.090, 18.20.160, and 18.20.330;
4 reenacting and amending RCW 18.20.020; and adding new sections to
5 chapter 18.20 RCW.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.20.020 and 2012 c 10 s 2 are each reenacted and
8 amended to read as follows:

9 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
10 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

11 (1) "Adult day services" means care and services provided to a
12 nonresident individual by the assisted living facility on the
13 assisted living facility premises, for a period of time not to exceed
14 ten continuous hours, and does not involve an overnight stay.

15 (2) "Assisted living facility" means any home or other
16 institution, however named, which is advertised, announced, or
17 maintained for the express or implied purpose of providing housing,
18 basic services, and assuming general responsibility for the safety
19 and well-being of the residents, and may also provide domiciliary
20 care, consistent with chapter 142, Laws of 2004, to seven or more
21 residents after July 1, 2000. However, an assisted living facility

1 that is licensed for three to six residents prior to or on July 1,
2 2000, may maintain its assisted living facility license as long as it
3 is continually licensed as an assisted living facility. "Assisted
4 living facility" shall not include facilities certified as group
5 training homes pursuant to RCW 71A.22.040, nor any home, institution
6 or section thereof which is otherwise licensed and regulated under
7 the provisions of state law providing specifically for the licensing
8 and regulation of such home, institution or section thereof. Nor
9 shall it include any independent senior housing, independent living
10 units in continuing care retirement communities, or other similar
11 living situations including those subsidized by the department of
12 housing and urban development.

13 (3) "Basic services" means housekeeping services, meals,
14 nutritious snacks, laundry, and activities.

15 (4) "Continuing nursing services" means the resident has been
16 assessed with a condition or diagnosis that is expected to require
17 the frequent presence and supervision of a licensed registered nurse.

18 (5) "Department" means the state department of social and health
19 services.

20 ((+5)) (6) "Domiciliary care" means: Assistance with activities
21 of daily living provided by the assisted living facility either
22 directly or indirectly; or health support services, if provided
23 directly or indirectly by the assisted living facility; or
24 intermittent nursing services, if provided directly or indirectly by
25 the assisted living facility; or continuing nursing services, if
26 provided directly or indirectly by the assisted living facility.

27 ((+6)) (7) "General responsibility for the safety and well-being
28 of the resident" means the provision of the following: Prescribed
29 general low sodium diets; prescribed general diabetic diets;
30 prescribed mechanical soft foods; emergency assistance; monitoring of
31 the resident; arranging health care appointments with outside health
32 care providers and reminding residents of such appointments as
33 necessary; coordinating health care services with outside health care
34 providers consistent with RCW 18.20.380; assisting the resident to
35 obtain and maintain glasses, hearing aids, dentures, canes, crutches,
36 walkers, wheelchairs, and assistive communication devices;
37 observation of the resident for changes in overall functioning; blood
38 pressure checks as scheduled; responding appropriately when there are
39 observable or reported changes in the resident's physical, mental, or

1 emotional functioning; or medication assistance as permitted under
2 RCW 69.41.085 and as defined in RCW 69.41.010.

3 ~~((7))~~ (8) "Legal representative" means a person or persons
4 identified in RCW 7.70.065 who may act on behalf of the resident
5 pursuant to the scope of their legal authority. The legal
6 representative shall not be affiliated with the licensee, assisted
7 living facility, or management company, unless the affiliated person
8 is a family member of the resident.

9 ~~((8))~~ (9) "Nonresident individual" means a person who resides
10 in independent senior housing, independent living units in continuing
11 care retirement communities, or in other similar living environments
12 or in an unlicensed room located within an assisted living facility.
13 Nothing in this chapter prohibits nonresidents from receiving one or
14 more of the services listed in RCW 18.20.030(5) or requires licensure
15 as an assisted living facility when one or more of the services
16 listed in RCW 18.20.030(5) are provided to nonresidents. A
17 nonresident individual may not receive domiciliary care, as defined
18 in this chapter, directly or indirectly by the assisted living
19 facility and may not receive the items and services listed in
20 subsection ~~((6))~~ (7) of this section, except during the time the
21 person is receiving adult day services as defined in this section.

22 ~~((9))~~ (10) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership,
23 corporation, company, association, or joint stock association, and
24 the legal successor thereof.

25 ~~((10))~~ (11) "Resident" means an individual who is not related
26 by blood or marriage to the operator of the assisted living facility,
27 and by reason of age or disability, chooses to reside in the assisted
28 living facility and receives basic services and one or more of the
29 services listed under general responsibility for the safety and well-
30 being of the resident and may receive domiciliary care or respite
31 care provided directly or indirectly by the assisted living facility
32 and shall be permitted to receive hospice care through an outside
33 service provider when arranged by the resident or the resident's
34 legal representative under RCW 18.20.380.

35 ~~((11))~~ (12) "Resident applicant" means an individual who is
36 seeking admission to a licensed assisted living facility and who has
37 completed and signed an application for admission, or such
38 application for admission has been completed and signed in their
39 behalf by their legal representative if any, and if not, then the
40 designated representative if any.

1 (~~(12)~~) (13) "Resident's representative" means a person
2 designated voluntarily by a competent resident, in writing, to act in
3 the resident's behalf concerning the care and services provided by
4 the assisted living facility and to receive information from the
5 assisted living facility, if there is no legal representative. The
6 resident's competence shall be determined using the criteria in RCW
7 11.88.010(1)(e). The resident's representative may not be affiliated
8 with the licensee, assisted living facility, or management company,
9 unless the affiliated person is a family member of the resident. The
10 resident's representative shall not have authority to act on behalf
11 of the resident once the resident is no longer competent.

12 (~~(13)~~) (14) "Secretary" means the secretary of social and
13 health services.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.20
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) An assisted living facility may provide continuing nursing
17 services if it secures a designation on its license from the
18 department.

19 (2) At least sixty days prior to the anticipated designation to
20 provide continuing nursing services, the applicant must submit to the
21 department a completed application on a form developed by the
22 department.

23 (3) Prior to granting an initial continuing nursing services
24 designation, the department shall make an inspection visit to the
25 assisted living facility applicant to determine the facility's
26 compliance with the continuing nursing services rules. At least once
27 every eighteen months, the department shall inspect the assisted
28 living facility to determine the facility's compliance with the
29 applicable rules to determine whether the designation may be
30 continued.

31 (4) The department shall establish fees to be paid by assisted
32 living facilities prior to the issuance of an initial or renewal
33 designation under this section. The department shall establish the
34 fee at a level that covers the cost of the administration of the
35 designation program.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.20
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) If an assisted living facility chooses to provide continuing
2 nursing services and admits a person who requires the frequent
3 presence and evaluation of a registered nurse, the facility must have
4 a registered nurse available to assure the safe delivery of the
5 required care and services in accordance with applicable rules
6 developed by the department.

7 (2) An assisted living facility that is unable to assure that a
8 registered nurse is available to provide or direct the safe delivery
9 of the required care and services may not admit or retain a person
10 who requires the frequent presence and evaluation of a registered
11 nurse. Persons who are receiving hospice care or have a short-term
12 illness that is expected to be resolved within fourteen days may
13 remain or be admitted in the facility provided that the facility is
14 able to assure that sufficient numbers and appropriately qualified
15 and trained staff or outside service providers under RCW 18.20.380
16 are available to meet the needs of such persons.

17 (3) If the assisted living facility license has the designation
18 required under section 2 of this act, the facility may provide
19 continuing nursing services, as defined by the department in rule, to
20 meet the needs of residents whose needs could not be met through
21 intermittent nursing services under RCW 18.20.330.

22 (4) On the disclosure form, the assisted living facility shall
23 describe any limitations, additional services, or conditions that may
24 apply under this section.

25 (5) In providing continuing nursing services, the assisted living
26 facility shall observe the resident for changes in overall
27 functioning and respond appropriately when there are observable or
28 reported changes in the resident's physical, mental, or emotional
29 functioning that exceed the licensee's licensure limitations and any
30 limitations described in the disclosure form.

31 (6) If an assisted living facility with a continuing nursing
32 services designation determines, or has reason to believe, that a
33 resident needs continuing nursing services or rehabilitative therapy
34 services, then the facility must provide the resident, the resident's
35 legal representative, if any, and, if not, the resident
36 representative, with a department-approved written notice informing
37 the client that he or she may be eligible for complete or partial
38 coverage of those services through medicare, medicaid, veterans'
39 benefits, long-term care insurance, or other benefit programs. The
40 department shall develop the written notice with input from

1 stakeholders. The notice must inform residents of possible coverage
2 under the benefit programs at reduced fee or no cost to the resident,
3 and provide contact information for those programs. The notice must
4 be signed and dated by the resident, or his or her representative if
5 the resident lacks capacity. The facility must retain a copy of the
6 signed notice. If the resident chooses to use his or her benefits
7 under medicare, medicaid, veterans' benefits, long-term care
8 insurance, or other programs, the resident may elect to receive the
9 nursing or rehabilitative therapy services offered through an outside
10 health care provider under RCW 18.20.380, or from the assisted living
11 facility if the facility is an authorized provider under the relevant
12 benefit program. An assisted living facility that fails to give the
13 notice required under this subsection and charges residents privately
14 for the provision of continuing nursing or rehabilitative services
15 and such services were otherwise eligible for medicare, veterans'
16 benefits, long-term care insurance, or other third-party coverage,
17 commits an act that constitutes financial exploitation under chapter
18 74.34 RCW.

19 (7) An assisted living facility that chooses to provide
20 continuing nursing services, and has residents whose care is paid for
21 in whole or in part by medicaid, may not use the continuing nursing
22 services designation, or any physical plant alterations or
23 application process necessary for such designation, as a basis for
24 the permanent discharge of any of the facility's current medicaid
25 residents. An assisted living facility that receives an initial
26 continuing nursing services designation may not, for one year
27 following the initial designation, reduce the number of medicaid
28 residents that the facility accepts or retains below the highest
29 number of medicaid residents living at the facility within one year
30 prior to the application for an initial continuing nursing services
31 designation.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.20.030 and 2012 c 10 s 3 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 (1) After January 1, 1958, no person shall operate or maintain an
35 assisted living facility as defined in this chapter within this state
36 without a license under this chapter.

37 (2) An assisted living facility license is not required for the
38 housing, or services, that are customarily provided under landlord
39 tenant agreements governed by the residential landlord-tenant act,

1 chapter 59.18 RCW, or when housing nonresident individuals who chose
2 to participate in programs or services under subsection (5) of this
3 section, when offered by the assisted living facility licensee or the
4 licensee's contractor. This subsection does not prohibit the licensee
5 from furnishing written information concerning available community
6 resources to the nonresident individual or the individual's family
7 members or legal representatives. The licensee may not require the
8 use of any particular service provider.

9 (3) Residents receiving domiciliary care, directly or indirectly
10 by the assisted living facility, are not considered nonresident
11 individuals for the purposes of this section.

12 (4) An assisted living facility license is required when any
13 person other than an outside service provider, under RCW 18.20.380,
14 or family member:

15 (a) Assumes general responsibility for the safety and well-being
16 of a resident;

17 (b) Provides assistance with activities of daily living, either
18 directly or indirectly;

19 (c) Provides health support services, either directly or
20 indirectly; ~~((e))~~

21 (d) Provides intermittent nursing services, either directly or
22 indirectly; or

23 (e) Provides continuing nursing services, either directly or
24 indirectly.

25 (5) An assisted living facility license is not required for one
26 or more of the following services that may, upon the request of the
27 nonresident, be provided to a nonresident individual: (a) Emergency
28 assistance provided on an intermittent or nonroutine basis; (b)
29 systems, including technology-based monitoring devices, employed by
30 independent senior housing, or independent living units in continuing
31 care retirement communities, to respond to the potential need for
32 emergency services; (c) scheduled and nonscheduled blood pressure
33 checks; (d) nursing assessment services to determine whether referral
34 to an outside health care provider is recommended; (e) making and
35 reminding the nonresident of health care appointments; (f)
36 preadmission assessment for the purposes of transitioning to a
37 licensed care setting; (g) medication assistance which may include
38 reminding or coaching the nonresident, opening the nonresident's
39 medication container, using an enabler, and handing prefilled insulin
40 syringes to the nonresident; (h) falls risk assessment; (i) nutrition

1 management and education services; (j) dental services; (k) wellness
2 programs; (l) prefilling insulin syringes when performed by a nurse
3 licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW; or (m) services customarily
4 provided under landlord tenant agreements governed by the residential
5 landlord-tenant act, chapter 59.18 RCW.

6 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.20.090 and 2012 c 10 s 5 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) The department shall adopt, amend, and promulgate such rules,
9 regulations, and standards with respect to all assisted living
10 facilities and operators thereof to be licensed hereunder as may be
11 designed to further the accomplishment of the purposes of this
12 chapter in promoting safe and adequate care of individuals in
13 assisted living facilities and the sanitary, hygienic, and safe
14 conditions of the assisted living facility in the interest of public
15 health, safety, and welfare.

16 (2) The department shall also amend and adopt rules regarding the
17 provision of continuing nursing services, including rules that
18 define:

19 (a) The process for designation of assisted living facilities,
20 including required notices to be provided to residents and their
21 legal representative if any, and if not, the resident's
22 representative;

23 (b) The extent to which continuing nursing services may be
24 provided in assisted living facilities;

25 (c) Staffing requirements; and

26 (d) Physical plant requirements.

27 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.20.160 and 2012 c 10 s 11 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 ~~((No person operating an assisted living facility licensed under~~
30 ~~this chapter shall admit to or retain in the assisted living facility~~
31 ~~any aged person requiring nursing or medical care of a type provided~~
32 ~~by institutions licensed under chapters 18.51, 70.41 or 71.12 RCW,~~
33 ~~except that when registered nurses are available, and upon a doctor's~~
34 ~~order that a supervised medication service is needed, it may be~~
35 ~~provided. Supervised medication services, as defined by the~~
36 ~~department and consistent with chapters 69.41 and 18.79 RCW, may~~
37 ~~include an approved program of self-medication or self-directed~~
38 ~~medication. Such medication service shall be provided only to~~

1 residents who otherwise meet all requirements for residency in an
2 assisted living facility. No assisted living facility shall admit or
3 retain a person who requires the frequent presence and frequent
4 evaluation of a registered nurse, excluding persons who are receiving
5 hospice care or persons who have a short-term illness that is
6 expected to be resolved within fourteen days.) The assisted living
7 facility licensed under this chapter must assume general
8 responsibility for each resident and must promote each resident's
9 health, safety, and well-being consistent with the resident
10 negotiated care plan. In addition, the assisted living facility may
11 provide assistance with activities of daily living, health support
12 services, intermittent nursing services, and continuing nursing
13 services, as may be further defined by the department in rule, and
14 consistent with the care and services included in the disclosure form
15 required under RCW 18.20.300. To provide continuing nursing services,
16 the licensee shall obtain from the department a designation as
17 required by section 2 of this act. Without first obtaining the
18 required designation on its license, an assisted living facility may
19 not admit or retain a person who requires the frequent presence and
20 frequent evaluation of a licensed registered nurse, except for
21 persons who are receiving hospice care or persons who have a short-
22 term illness that is expected to be resolved within fourteen days.
23 The assisted living facility must assure that sufficient numbers and
24 appropriately qualified and trained staff are available to provide
25 care and services consistent with this chapter.

26 **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.20.330 and 2012 c 10 s 22 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) Assisted living facilities are not required to provide
29 intermittent nursing services. The assisted living facility licensee
30 may choose to provide any of the following intermittent nursing
31 services through appropriately licensed and credentialed staff,
32 however, the facility may or may not need to provide additional
33 intermittent nursing services to comply with the reasonable
34 accommodation requirements in federal or state law:

- 35 (a) Medication administration;
36 (b) Administration of health care treatments;
37 (c) Diabetic management;
38 (d) Nonroutine ostomy care;
39 (e) Tube feeding; and

1 (f) Nurse delegation consistent with chapter 18.79 RCW.

2 (2) The licensee shall clarify on the disclosure form any
3 limitations, additional services, or conditions that may apply under
4 this section.

5 (3) In providing intermittent nursing services, the assisted
6 living facility shall observe the resident for changes in overall
7 functioning and respond appropriately when there are observable or
8 reported changes in the resident's physical, mental, or emotional
9 functioning.

10 (4) The assisted living facility may provide intermittent nursing
11 services to (~~the extent permitted by RCW 18.20.160~~) residents who
12 do not require the frequent presence and supervision of a licensed
13 registered nurse.

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