
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2405

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Dyer, Murray, Skinner, Costa, Morris, H. Sommers, Hymes, Conway, Campbell, R. Fisher, Wolfe, Quall, Patterson, Dickerson, Chopp, Keiser, Mason, Linville and Kessler)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to education on domestic violence for health care
2 practitioners; adding new sections to chapter 43.70 RCW; and creating
3 new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
6 "domestic violence education act."

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The legislature finds that:

8 (a) Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury among women
9 and is linked to numerous other health problems, including depression,
10 abuse of alcohol and other drugs, and suicide. Studies indicate that
11 pregnant women are twice as likely to be at risk for battery. Children
12 who witness the abuse of their mothers suffer significant short-term
13 and long-term psychological consequences. Despite the frequency of
14 medical attention, few women are diagnosed as victims of spousal abuse.
15 Male victims of early child abuse are statistically prone to continue
16 the cycle of abuse against their spouses and children.

17 (b) Training of physicians, nurses, and other health care
18 professionals to identify and treat victims of domestic violence will

1 increase the rate of identification of battered women who can benefit
2 from referrals and collaborative prevention efforts offered by
3 shelters, criminal justice agencies, social services, and legal
4 assistance.

5 (2) The purposes of this act are to:

6 (a) Create and foster a public-private partnership to promote
7 education and awareness of health care professionals in different
8 practice settings about the identification and treatment of victims of
9 domestic violence;

10 (b) Utilize educational and training resources that have been or
11 may be developed by public and private organizations with appropriate
12 expertise and knowledge of domestic violence identification and
13 treatment;

14 (c) Educate and train health care professionals to identify and
15 appropriately treat victims of domestic violence, and to make
16 appropriate referrals for additional assistance; and

17 (d) Adequately fund these programs.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Disciplinary authorities as defined in RCW
19 18.130.040 having authority to offer or require continuing education as
20 a condition for the renewal of licenses, certifications, and
21 registrations shall consider providing training in the dynamics of
22 domestic violence. Such training should include the recognition of
23 symptoms and appropriate treatment and responses including referrals.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department, in consultation with the
25 boards and commissions, shall establish, promote, and maintain a
26 domestic violence education program as an integral part of its health
27 professions regulation and health promotion and disease prevention
28 efforts in order to raise awareness and educate health care
29 professionals regarding identification, appropriate treatment, and
30 appropriate referral of victims of domestic violence.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Within available resources, the department,
32 in consultation with the boards and commissions, may use any of the
33 following strategies for educating health care professionals regarding
34 domestic violence:

1 (1) Identify and use educational materials and programs for the
2 professional that translate the latest scientific and medical
3 information into clinical applications;

4 (2) Raise awareness among health care professionals of the
5 importance of identification, appropriate treatment, and appropriate
6 referral of victims of domestic violence;

7 (3) Identify and use available curricula for training health care
8 professionals on identification, appropriate treatment, appropriate
9 referral of victims of domestic violence, and the professional and
10 ethical considerations in doing so;

11 (4) Identify and work with education and training institutions to
12 provide curriculum opportunities for students in health care profession
13 training programs to learn to identify, appropriately treat, and
14 appropriately refer victims of domestic violence, and to understand the
15 professional and ethical considerations in doing so;

16 (5) Identify and cooperate with professional, social service,
17 criminal justice, and other organizations that have or will develop
18 programs and materials addressing education of health care
19 professionals regarding domestic violence;

20 (6) Purchase materials and services and enter contracts with
21 organizations with appropriate expertise in domestic violence for such
22 materials and services;

23 (7) Enter interagency agreements and make agreements and enter
24 contracts with organizations with appropriate expertise in domestic
25 violence for cooperative and cofinanced educational activities; and

26 (8) Provide workshops, seminars, and materials for health care
27 professional education regarding domestic violence.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The secretary may accept grants, services,
29 and property from the federal government, foundations, organizations,
30 professional training institutions, and other entities as may be
31 available for the purposes of fulfilling the obligations of this
32 program.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The secretary shall seek any federal waiver
34 or waivers that may be necessary to maximize funds from federal
35 government sources to implement this domestic violence education
36 program.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Within available resources, the secretary
2 shall:

3 (1) Provide sufficient staff and other resources to implement the
4 domestic violence education program;

5 (2) Identify the appropriate entities to carry out the program; and

6 (3) Work with governmental offices, health care training
7 institutions, professional organizations, and state and national
8 domestic violence organizations to coordinate efforts and maximize
9 state resources in the education of health care professionals regarding
10 domestic violence.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 2 through 8 of this act are each
12 added to chapter 43.70 RCW.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** No funds from the health professions
14 account may be utilized to fund activities under this act unless the
15 disciplinary authority authorizes expenditures from its proportion of
16 the account for providing a domestic violence education program
17 pursuant to this act. A disciplinary authority may defray costs by
18 charging a fee for participants or materials relating to any sponsored
19 educational program.

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