
HOUSE BILL 2405

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

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 01/10/96. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to continuing education on domestic violence for
2 physicians and nurses; amending RCW 18.71.080 and 18.79.210; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legisalture finds that:

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

15 (2) Training to identify and treat victims of domestic violence
16 will increase the rate of identification of battered women who can
17 benefit from referrals and collaborative prevention efforts offered by
18 shelters, criminal justice agencies, social services, and legal
19 assistance.

1 The legislature finds and declares that this act furthers the
2 interests of the public health and safety.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.71.080 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 312 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 Every person licensed to practice medicine in this state shall
6 register with the secretary of health annually, and pay an annual
7 renewal registration fee determined by the secretary as provided in RCW
8 43.70.250. The commission may establish rules governing mandatory
9 continuing education requirements which shall be met by physicians
10 applying for renewal of licenses. The rules shall provide that
11 mandatory continuing education requirements may be met in part by
12 physicians showing evidence of the completion of approved activities
13 relating to professional liability risk management. The requirements
14 shall also include exposure to the dynamics of domestic violence,
15 including recognition of symptoms and appropriate treatment and
16 responses including referrals. Any failure to register and pay the
17 annual renewal registration fee shall render the license invalid, but
18 such license shall be reinstated upon written application therefor to
19 the secretary, and payment to the state of a penalty fee determined by
20 the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250, together with all
21 delinquent annual license renewal fees: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any
22 person who fails to renew the license for a period of three years,
23 shall in no event be entitled to renew the license under this section.
24 Such a person in order to obtain a license to practice medicine in this
25 state, shall file an original application as provided for in this
26 chapter, along with the requisite fee therefor. The commission, in its
27 sole discretion, may permit such applicant to be licensed without
28 examination if it is satisfied that such applicant meets all the
29 requirements for licensure in this state, and is competent to engage in
30 the practice of medicine.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.79.210 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 421 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 A license issued under this chapter, whether in an active or
34 inactive status, must be renewed, except as provided in this chapter.
35 The commission may establish rules governing mandatory continuing
36 education requirements that must be met by persons applying for renewal
37 of licenses under this chapter. The requirements shall include

1 exposure to the dynamics of domestic violence, including recognition of
2 symptoms and appropriate treatment and responses including referrals.
3 The licensee shall send the renewal form to the department with a
4 renewal fee, as determined by the secretary under RCW 43.70.250, before
5 the expiration date. Upon receipt of the renewal form and the
6 appropriate fee, the department shall issue the licensee a license,
7 which declares the holder to be a legal practitioner of registered
8 nursing, advanced registered nursing practice, or licensed practical
9 nursing, as appropriate, in either active or inactive status, for the
10 period of time stated on the license.

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