
HOUSE BILL 2227

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Alexander, Wolfe, Romero and DeBolt

Read first time 02/23/1999. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to industrial hygiene; adding a new chapter to
2 Title 18 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purpose of this chapter is to provide
5 legal recognition to the profession of industrial hygiene, as well as
6 provide assurance to the public that individuals representing
7 themselves as being involved in the profession of industrial hygiene
8 have met minimum qualifications, thereby protecting the public from
9 harm.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
11 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
12 (1) "Industrial hygiene" means that science and art devoted to the
13 anticipation, recognition, evaluation, and control of those
14 environmental factors and stresses arising in or from the workplace
15 that may cause sickness, impaired health and well-being, or significant
16 discomfort among workers, and may also impact the general community.

1 (2) "Industrial hygienist" means a person who meets the educational
2 requirements and who demonstrates competence in practicing industrial
3 hygiene as determined under this chapter.

4 (3) "Industrial hygienist-in-training" means a person who has
5 received the designation of industrial hygienist-in-training from a
6 national nonprofit corporation established to improve the practice and
7 educational standards of the profession of industrial hygiene and that
8 certifies individuals who meet its education, experience, examination,
9 and maintenance requirements for practicing industrial hygiene.

10 (4) "Certified industrial hygienist" is a person who has received
11 the designation of certified industrial hygienist from a national
12 nonprofit corporation established to improve the practice and
13 educational standards of the profession of industrial hygiene and that
14 certifies individuals who meet its education, experience, examination,
15 and maintenance requirements for practicing industrial hygiene.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) No person may represent himself or
17 herself as an industrial hygienist without first:

18 (a) Completing a baccalaureate or graduate degree from an
19 accredited college or university using a curriculum in industrial
20 hygiene, biology, chemistry, engineering, physics, or a closely related
21 physical or biological science; and

22 (b) Demonstrating through experience and training, the ability:

23 (i) To anticipate and recognize workplace environmental factors and
24 stresses such as chemical, physical, biological, or ergonomic, and to
25 understand their effects on people, and their well-being;

26 (ii) To evaluate, through observation, sampling, and testing, the
27 magnitude of these factors and stresses; and

28 (iii) To prescribe methods to prevent, eliminate, control, or
29 reduce such factors and stresses, and their effects; and

30 (c) Being certified by a national nonprofit corporation established
31 to improve the practice and educational standards of the profession of
32 industrial hygiene and that certifies individuals who meet its
33 education, experience, examination, and maintenance requirements.

34 (2) A person represents himself or herself as an industrial
35 hygienist when the person adopts or uses any title or description of
36 services that incorporates one or more of the following terms:
37 Industrial hygienist, industrial hygienist-in-training, certified

1 industrial hygienist, or any other term involving the words industrial
2 hygiene.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A person meeting the requirements of section
4 3 of this act or a nonprofit corporation established to improve the
5 practice and educational standards of the profession of industrial
6 hygiene through certifying individuals who meet its education,
7 experience, examination, and maintenance requirements may bring a
8 private cause of action in the appropriate court to recover actual
9 damages or one thousand dollars, whichever is greater, against any
10 person who violates section 3 of this act.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Nothing in this chapter prohibits or
12 restricts:

13 (1) The practice of industrial hygiene by a person employed as an
14 apprentice under the supervision of an industrial hygienist;

15 (2) A student studying industrial hygiene engaging in supervised
16 activities related to industrial hygiene;

17 (3) Any person legally regulated in this state under any other
18 licensing act or regulation from engaging in the activities permitted
19 under his or her license, provided he or she does not represent himself
20 or herself to the public as an industrial hygienist; or

21 (4) Individuals practicing within the scope of the meaning of
22 industrial hygiene, so long as the individual does not use the title,
23 initials, or represent themselves to the public as an industrial
24 hygienist.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute
26 a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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