
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 2445

Brief Description: Concerning online access to health care resources via HEALWA.

Sponsors: Representatives Macri, Graves, Robinson and Riccelli.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows veterinarians and veterinarian technicians to access the Health Evidence Resource for Washington.
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Hearing Date: 1/16/18

Staff: Sydney Sullivan (786-7291) and Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

Health Evidence Resource for Washington.

In 2007 the University of Washington Health Sciences Library created the Health Evidence Resource for Washington State (HEAL-WA) in response to a legislative mandate. The HEAL-WA is an online health information database. The online database contains evidence-based information providing health care professionals with resources and support when making patient care decisions. The HEAL-WA contains clinical resources, full-text medical journals, decision support tools, and evidence based reviews of procedures, drugs, and devices.

Professions authorized to access the HEAL-WA are:

- physicians;
- physician assistants;
- osteopathic physicians;
- osteopathic physicians' assistants;
- naturopaths;
- podiatrists;
- chiropractors;

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- psychologists;
- registered nurses;
- licensed practical nurses;
- optometrists;
- mental health counselors;
- massage therapists;
- advanced social workers;
- independent clinical social workers;
- independent clinical social worker associates;
- midwives;
- licensed marriage and family therapists;
- marriage and family therapist associates;
- occupational therapists;
- occupational therapy assistants;
- dietitians;
- nutritionists;
- speech-language pathologists; and
- East Asian medicine practitioners.

The professionals who have access to the HEAL-WA are charged an additional licensing fee of up to \$25. The additional fee is transferred to the University of Washington to fund the HEAL-WA.

Veterinarians and Veterinarian Technicians.

Veterinarians practice medicine, surgery, and dentistry on animals, which may include the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of disease, deformities, defects, wounds, or injuries of animals. Veterinarians may also administer any drug, medicine, treatment, method of practice, or perform any operation, manipulation, or apply any apparatus or appliance for cure, amelioration, correction, or reduction necessary for animal care. Veterinarian technicians are licensed technicians who assist in veterinary practice. Veterinarians and veterinarian technicians do not have access to the HEAL-WA.

Summary of Bill:

Veterinarians and veterinarian technicians may access the HEAL-WA. Veterinarians and veterinarian technicians must be charged up to an additional \$25 in professional licensing fees by the Department of Health for this access.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.