
HOUSE BILL 1819

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Thibaudeau, Dellwo, Cooke, Sommers, Valle, Morris, Bray, J. Kohl and Anderson

Read first time 02/10/93. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the availability of advanced
2 registered nurse practitioners; and amending RCW 18.88.175.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.88.175 and 1991 c 3 s 217 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Recognizing the need to increase the pool of available nursing
7 resources to meet the new demands of the reformed health care delivery
8 system and the present lack of master's-level academic programs, the
9 legislature finds that requiring a master's degree for advanced
10 registered nurse practitioner licensure, could be an unnecessary
11 barrier to entry into the profession that limits access to health care
12 and contributes to the escalating costs of health care in Washington
13 state.

14 The board shall define by rule the criteria for training to be
15 licensed as an advanced registered nurse practitioner, in accordance
16 with this chapter.

17 Any requirement for a master's degree for advanced registered nurse
18 practitioner licensure must be preceded by a study by the board, in

1 consultation with the department, the legislative budget committee, and
2 health care providers that assesses the following:

3 (a) The cost impact that a master's degree requirement would have
4 on the health care delivery system;

5 (b) The availability of accredited master's-level nursing academic
6 programs;

7 (c) The impact on the supply of advanced registered nurse
8 practitioners throughout the state of Washington and, therefore, access
9 of the public to nursing services;

10 (d) The impact on efforts to recruit culturally and geographically
11 diverse students into the profession; and

12 (e) The financial assistance programs available to help low and
13 middle-income students to offset the educational costs associated with
14 a master's degree requirement.

15 The findings and recommendations of the study must be submitted to
16 the legislature before the adoption of any rule requiring a master's
17 degree for advanced registered nurse practitioners.

18 (2) Upon approval by the board and following verification of
19 satisfactory completion of an advanced formal education, the department
20 of health shall issue an interim permit authorizing the applicant to
21 practice specialized and advanced nursing practice pending notification
22 of the results of the first certification examination. If the
23 applicant passes the examination, the department shall grant advanced
24 registered nurse practitioner status. If the applicant fails the
25 examination, the interim permit shall expire upon notification and is
26 not renewable. The holder of the interim permit is subject to chapter
27 18.130 RCW.

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