
SENATE BILL 6159

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senators Talmadge, Moyer and McAuliffe; by request of Department of Health

Read first time 01/14/94. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to health care professional temporary substitute
2 resource pool; and amending RCW 70.180.020, 70.180.030, and 70.180.040.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.180.020 and 1990 c 271 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The department shall establish (~~the~~) or contract for a health
7 professional temporary substitute resource pool. The purpose of the
8 pool is to provide short-term physician, physician assistant,
9 pharmacist, and advanced registered nurse practitioner personnel to
10 rural communities where these health care providers:

- 11 (1) Are unavailable due to provider shortages;
12 (2) Need time off from practice to attend continuing education and
13 other training programs; and
14 (3) Need time off from practice to attend to personal matters or
15 recover from illness.

16 The health professional temporary substitute resource pool is
17 intended to provide short-term assistance and should complement active
18 health provider recruitment efforts by rural communities where
19 shortages exist.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.180.030 and 1990 c 271 s 3 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) The department, in cooperation with (~~{the}~~) the University of
4 Washington school of medicine, the state's registered nursing programs,
5 the state's pharmacy programs, and other appropriate public and private
6 agencies and associations, shall develop and keep current a register of
7 physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, and advanced registered
8 nurse practitioners who are available to practice on a short-term basis
9 in rural communities of the state. The department shall (~~periodically~~
10 ~~screen individuals on the registry for violations of the uniform~~
11 ~~disciplinary act as authorized in chapter 18.130 RCW. If a finding of~~
12 ~~unprofessional conduct has been made by the appropriate disciplinary~~
13 ~~authority against any individual on the registry, the name of that~~
14 ~~individual shall be removed from the registry and that person shall be~~
15 ~~made ineligible for the program. The department shall include a list~~
16 ~~of back-up physicians and hospitals who can provide support to health~~
17 ~~care providers in the pool~~) list only individuals who have a valid
18 license to practice. The register shall be compiled(~~(, published,)~~)
19 and made available to all rural hospitals, public health departments
20 and districts, rural pharmacies, and other appropriate public and
21 private agencies and associations. (~~The department shall coordinate~~
22 ~~with existing entities involved in health professional recruitment when~~
23 ~~developing the registry for the health professional temporary~~
24 ~~substitute resource pool.~~)

25 (2) Eligible health care professionals are those licensed under
26 chapters 18.57, 18.57A, 18.64, 18.71, and 18.71A RCW and advanced
27 registered nurse practitioners licensed under chapter 18.88 RCW.

28 (3) Participating (~~health care professionals shall receive~~) sites
29 may:

30 (a) Receive reimbursement for substitute provider travel to and
31 from the rural community and for lodging at a rate determined under RCW
32 43.03.050 and 43.03.060; and

33 (b) (~~Medical~~) Receive reimbursement for the cost of malpractice
34 insurance (~~(purchased by the department, or the department may~~
35 ~~reimburse participants for medical malpractice insurance premium costs~~
36 ~~for medical liability while providing health care services in the~~
37 ~~program,)~~) if the services provided are not covered by the
38 (~~participant's~~) substitute provider's or local provider's existing
39 medical malpractice insurance(~~(, and~~

1 ~~(c) Information on back-up support from other physicians and~~
2 ~~hospitals in the area to the extent necessary and available)).~~
3 Reimbursement for malpractice insurance shall only be made available to
4 sites that incur additional costs for substitute provider coverage.

5 (4) The department may require rural communities to participate in
6 health professional recruitment programs as a condition for providing
7 a temporary substitute health care professional if the community does
8 not have adequate permanent health care personnel. To the extent
9 deemed appropriate and subject to funding, the department may also
10 require communities to participate in other programs or projects, such
11 as the rural health system project authorized in chapter 70.175 RCW,
12 that are designed to assist communities to reorganize the delivery of
13 rural health care services.

14 ~~(5) ((The department may require a community match for assistance~~
15 ~~provided in subsection (3) of this section if it determines that~~
16 ~~adequate community resources exist.~~

17 ~~(6) The maximum continuous period of time)) A participating~~
18 ~~((health professional may serve in a community is ninety days)) site~~
19 may receive reimbursement for substitute provider assistance as
20 provided for in subsection (3) of this section for up to ninety days
21 during any twelve-month period. The department may modify or waive
22 this limitation should it determine that the health and safety of the
23 community warrants a waiver or modification. ~~((The community shall be~~
24 ~~responsible for all salary expenses of participating health~~
25 ~~professionals))~~

26 (6) Participating sites shall:

27 (a) Be responsible for all salary expenses for the temporary
28 substitute provider.

29 (b) Provide the temporary substitute provider with referral and
30 back-up coverage information.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.180.040 and 1990 c 271 s 4 are each amended to read
32 as follows:

33 (1) Requests for a temporary substitute health care professional
34 may be made to the department by the certified health plan, local rural
35 hospital, public health department or district, community health
36 clinic, local practicing physician, physician assistant, pharmacist, or
37 advanced registered nurse practitioner, or local city or county
38 government.

1 (2) The department (~~shall~~) may provide directly or contract for
2 services to:

3 (a) Establish a manner and form for receiving requests;

4 (b) Minimize paperwork and compliance requirements for participant
5 health care professionals and entities requesting assistance; and

6 (c) Respond promptly to all requests for assistance.

7 (3) The department may apply for, receive, and accept gifts and
8 other payments, including property and services, from any governmental
9 or other public or private entity or person, and may make arrangements
10 as to the use of these receipts to operate the pool. The department
11 shall make available upon request to the appropriate legislative
12 committees information concerning the source, amount, and use of such
13 gifts or payments.

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