
SENATE BILL 5262

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau and Deccio

Read first time 01/18/1999. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to an exemption to allow unregulated persons to
2 perform sleep monitoring tasks; and amending RCW 18.89.040.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.89.040 and 1997 c 334 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) A respiratory care practitioner licensed under this chapter is
7 employed in the treatment, management, diagnostic testing,
8 rehabilitation, and care of patients with deficiencies and
9 abnormalities which affect the cardiopulmonary system and associated
10 aspects of other systems, and is under the direct order and under the
11 qualified medical direction of a physician. The practice of
12 respiratory care includes:

13 (a) The use and administration of prescribed medical gases,
14 exclusive of general anesthesia;

15 (b) The use of air and oxygen administering apparatus;

16 (c) The use of humidification and aerosols;

17 (d) The administration, to the extent of training, as determined by
18 the secretary, of prescribed pharmacologic agents related to
19 respiratory care;

1 (e) The use of mechanical ventilatory, hyperbaric, and
2 physiological support;

3 (f) Postural drainage, chest percussion, and vibration;

4 (g) Bronchopulmonary hygiene;

5 (h) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation as it pertains to advanced
6 cardiac life support or pediatric advanced life support guidelines;

7 (i) The maintenance of natural and artificial airways and
8 insertion, without cutting tissues, of artificial airways, as
9 prescribed by a physician;

10 (j) Diagnostic and monitoring techniques such as the collection and
11 measurement of cardiorespiratory specimens, volumes, pressures, and
12 flows;

13 (k) The insertion of devices to draw, analyze, infuse, or monitor
14 pressure in arterial, capillary, or venous blood as prescribed by a
15 physician or an advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized by
16 the nursing care quality assurance commission under chapter 18.79 RCW;
17 and

18 (l) Diagnostic monitoring of and therapeutic interventions for
19 desaturation, ventilatory patterns, and related sleep abnormalities to
20 aid the physician in diagnosis. This subsection does not prohibit any
21 person from performing sleep monitoring tasks as set forth in this
22 subsection under the supervision or direction of a licensed health care
23 provider.

24 (2) Nothing in this chapter prohibits or restricts:

25 (a) The practice of a profession by individuals who are licensed
26 under other laws of this state who are performing services within their
27 authorized scope of practice, that may overlap the services provided by
28 respiratory care practitioners;

29 (b) The practice of respiratory care by an individual employed by
30 the government of the United States while the individual is engaged in
31 the performance of duties prescribed for him or her by the laws and
32 rules of the United States;

33 (c) The practice of respiratory care by a person pursuing a
34 supervised course of study leading to a degree or certificate in
35 respiratory care as a part of an accredited and approved educational
36 program, if the person is designated by a title that clearly indicates
37 his or her status as a student or trainee and limited to the extent of
38 demonstrated proficiency of completed curriculum, and under direct
39 supervision;

1 (d) The use of the title "respiratory care practitioner" by
2 registered nurses authorized under chapter 18.79 RCW; or

3 (e) The practice without compensation of respiratory care of a
4 family member.

5 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require that
6 individual or group policies or contracts of an insurance carrier,
7 health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization
8 provide benefits or coverage for services and supplies provided by a
9 person licensed under this chapter.

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