
HOUSE BILL 1917

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Edwards, Pflug, Cody and Skinner

Read first time 02/14/2003. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to regulation of boarding homes; and reenacting and
2 amending RCW 18.20.010.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.20.010 and 2000 c 171 s 3 and 2000 c 121 s 1 are
5 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 The purpose of this chapter is to provide for the development,
7 establishment, and enforcement of standards for the maintenance and
8 operation of boarding homes, which, in the light of advancing
9 knowledge, will promote safe and adequate care of the individuals
10 therein. It is further the intent of the legislature that boarding
11 homes be available to meet the needs of those for whom they care by
12 recognizing the capabilities of individuals to direct their self-
13 medication or to use supervised self-medication techniques when ordered
14 and approved by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW
15 or a podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW.

16 The legislature finds that licensed boarding homes are an essential
17 component of home and community-based services, and that the
18 noninstitutional nature of this care setting must be preserved and

1 protected by ensuring a regulatory structure that focuses on the actual
2 care and services provided to residents, consumer satisfaction, and
3 continuous quality improvement.

4 The legislature declares that the state's regulations for licensed
5 boarding homes must be outcome based and designed to encourage
6 individual dignity, autonomy, and choice and to foster affordable
7 residential care.

8 The legislature further finds that consumers should be afforded
9 access to affordable long-term care services in licensed boarding homes
10 and believes that care delivery must remain responsive to consumer
11 preferences, not regulatory dictated service and care levels that drive
12 costs and eliminate choice. Residents and consumers in licensed
13 boarding homes should be afforded the right to self-direct care, and
14 this right should be reflected in the rules governing licensed boarding
15 homes.

16 The legislature finds that many residents of community-based long-
17 term care facilities are vulnerable and their health and well-being are
18 dependent on their caregivers. The quality, skills, and knowledge of
19 their caregivers are often the key to good care. The legislature finds
20 that the need for well-trained caregivers is growing as the state's
21 population ages and residents' needs increase. The legislature intends
22 that current training standards be enhanced.

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