
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2931

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Campbell, Schual-Berke, Rockefeller, Cody and Wallace)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to using the health professions account for
2 professional education and recruitment and retention; amending RCW
3 43.70.320; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there are
6 currently millions of dollars in the health professions account that
7 could be used to improve the quality of health care offered by health
8 professionals, recruit and retain the most qualified health
9 professionals, and protect the public from health professionals that
10 pose a risk to the safety of patients in Washington state. These
11 funds, however, are not accessible to the health care practitioners who
12 paid this money to the account and they serve nobody when they remain
13 unused in an account. These funds must be used to provide the maximum
14 benefit to the professions that paid the fees and to protect the health
15 and safety of the patients that are served by these professions.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.70.320 and 1993 c 492 s 411 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) There is created in the state treasury an account to be known

1 as the health professions account. All fees received by the department
2 for health professions licenses, registration, certifications,
3 renewals, or examinations and the civil penalties assessed and
4 collected by the department under RCW 18.130.190 shall be forwarded to
5 the state treasurer who shall credit such moneys to the health
6 professions account.

7 (2) All expenses incurred in carrying out the health professions
8 licensing activities of the department shall be paid from the account
9 as authorized by legislative appropriation. Any residue in the account
10 shall be accumulated and shall not revert to the general fund at the
11 end of the biennium.

12 (3) The secretary shall biennially prepare a budget request based
13 on the anticipated costs of administering the health professions
14 licensing activities of the department which shall include the
15 estimated income from health professions fees.

16 (4) The board or commission of any individual health profession
17 listed in RCW 18.130.040(2)(b), in consultation with the secretary, may
18 spend resources that exceed the cost of administering and maintaining
19 that profession's program. The secretary is responsible for
20 determining whether an individual profession meets this requirement.
21 Funds may be spent to support activities that promote efforts affecting
22 the profession and the patients that they serve including, expediting
23 the processing and investigation of complaints of unprofessional
24 conduct, hiring additional staff to investigate and adjudicate
25 complaints of unprofessional conduct, assuring compliance with orders
26 of the board or commission as necessary to protect the public,
27 upgrading systems and resources to accelerate the disciplinary process,
28 and recruiting and retaining quality health care providers. As part of
29 the department's biennial budget request, the secretary shall request
30 an appropriation for the purposes of implementing this subsection.

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