
SENATE BILL 5831

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Winsley, Rasmussen, Shin, Keiser, Kastama, Prentice, Regala, Doumit, McAuliffe, B. Sheldon, Kline, Brandland, Brown, Eide, Spanel, Poulsen, Kohl-Welles, Thibaudeau, Jacobsen, Fraser and Fairley

Read first time 02/14/2003. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of health skills panels in local
2 areas to address health care personnel shortages; adding new sections
3 to chapter 28C.18 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that:

7 (1) There is a severe shortage of health care personnel in
8 Washington state.

9 (2) The shortage contributes to increased costs in health care and
10 threatens the ability of the industry to provide adequate and
11 accessible health care services.

12 (3) The shortage poses a serious threat to the financial stability
13 of the health care industry, and consequently the state.

14 (4) The shortage of health care personnel is structural rather than
15 cyclical due to demographic changes that will increase demand for
16 health care services. An increasing proportion of the population will
17 reach retirement age, and an increasing proportion of health care
18 personnel will also reach retirement age.

1 (5) Health skills panels comprising local health employers, local
2 education and training providers, and local labor representatives are
3 an effective way to identify needs and address health workers shortages
4 at the local level.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The board shall work with local work force
6 development councils to address health care personnel shortages. The
7 board shall provide support for the expansion of activities of existing
8 health skills panels and work with areas that do not have health skills
9 panels to establish such entities.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Local health skills panels shall facilitate
11 the implementation of the following strategies, if appropriate to the
12 specific needs of their area:

13 (1) Coordinate clinical training to expand capacity for clinical
14 training;

15 (2) Develop faculty/staff-sharing arrangements between education
16 and training providers, and between education and training providers
17 and health care facilities;

18 (3) Pool resources, share equipment and space, and develop distance
19 learning where possible;

20 (4) Leverage resources to increase educational capacity;

21 (5) Develop apprenticeships in health occupations;

22 (6) Work with local school districts and high schools to develop
23 health sciences and work-based learning opportunities, strengthen math
24 and science skills, and create awareness of opportunities in health
25 careers in middle school;

26 (7) Develop articulation agreements between educational
27 institutions to enable students to gain credit for prior training or
28 skills learned on-the-job;

29 (8) Ensure that local area employment and training staff have the
30 skills and knowledge of local opportunities in high demand health care
31 occupations to direct clients to training and employment in high demand
32 careers;

33 (9) Develop customized training opportunities for entry-level
34 health care workers to enable them to move up career ladders and fill
35 high demand positions;

1 (10) Develop financial aid opportunities and other forms of support
2 for students to begin and complete health care education and training;
3 and

4 (11) Consider any other strategies that are specific to the needs
5 of the area in order to increase the supply of health care workers that
6 are in shortage.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each added
8 to chapter 28C.18 RCW.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act expire June
10 30, 2007.

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