
HOUSE BILL 2399

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Cody, Morrell, Green and Schual-Berke

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Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to health care providers; adding a new section to
2 chapter 43.70 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department, in collaboration with the work force training
7 and education coordinating board, may distribute survey questions for
8 the purpose of gathering data related to work force supply and
9 demographics to all health care providers who are credentialed by a
10 disciplining authority under RCW 18.130.040. The department may adopt
11 a schedule for distributing surveys by profession so that each
12 profession is surveyed every two years. In developing the survey, the
13 department may seek advice from researchers that are likely to use the
14 survey data.

15 (2)(a) At a minimum, the survey may include questions related to
16 understanding the following characteristics of the health care work
17 force:

- 18 (i) Specialty;
- 19 (ii) Birthdate and gender;

- 1 (iii) Race and ethnicity;
2 (iv) Hours in practice per week;
3 (v) Practice statistics, including hours spent in direct patient
4 care;
5 (vi) Zip codes of the location where the provider practices;
6 (vii) Years in practice, years in practice in Washington, location
7 and years in practice in other jurisdictions;
8 (viii) Education and training background, including the location
9 and types of education and training received; and
10 (ix) Type of facilities where the provider practices.

11 (b) The department may approve proposals for the distribution of
12 surveys containing additional data elements to selected health care
13 professions if it determines that there is a legitimate research
14 interest in obtaining the information, the additional burden on members
15 of the health care profession is not unreasonable, the effect on survey
16 response rates is not unreasonable, and there are funds available. The
17 department may accept funds through contracts, grants, donations, or
18 other forms of contributions to support more detailed surveys.

19 (3) The department must make a public data set available that meets
20 the confidentiality requirements of subsection (5) of this section.
21 The department may respond to requests for data and other information
22 from the registry for special studies and analysis pursuant to a data-
23 sharing agreement. Any use of the data by the requestor must comply
24 with the confidentiality requirements of subsection (5) of this
25 section. The department may require requestors to pay any or all of
26 the reasonable costs associated with such requests that may be
27 approved.

28 (4) The failure to complete or return the survey may not be grounds
29 to withhold, fail to renew, or revoke a license or to impose any other
30 disciplinary sanctions against a credentialed health care provider.

31 (5) The department must process the surveys that it receives in
32 such a way that the identity of individual providers remains
33 confidential. Data elements related to the identification of
34 individual providers are confidential and are exempt from RCW 42.56.040
35 through 42.56.570 and 42.17.350 through 42.17.450, except as provided
36 in a data-sharing agreement approved by the department pursuant to
37 subsection (3) of this section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this act takes effect July 1,
2 2006.

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