
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 1041

Brief Description: Authorizing the purchase, storage, and administration of medications by occupational therapists.

Sponsors: Representatives Morrell, Warnick, O'Brien, McCune, Liias, Kagi, Kenney and Wallace.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes occupational therapists to purchase, store, and administer certain medications.

Hearing Date: 1/20/09

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191)

Background:

Occupational Therapists

Occupational therapy is the scientifically-based use of purposeful activity that maximizes independence, prevents disability, and maintains the health of individuals who are limited by physical injury or illness, psychosocial dysfunction, developmental or learning disabilities, or the aging process. Examples of the practice of occupational therapy include:

- Using specifically-designed activities and exercises to enhance neuro-developmental, cognitive, perceptual motor, sensory integrative, and psychomotor functioning;
- Administering and interpreting tests such as manual muscle and sensory integration;
- Teaching daily living skills;
- Developing pre-vocational skills and play and avocational activities;
- Designing, fabricating, or applying selected orthotic and prosthetic devices or selected adaptive equipment; and
- Adapting environments for persons with disabilities.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Purchase, Storage, and Administration of Medications

Certain health professionals are authorized to purchase, store, and administer medications. For example, physical therapists are authorized to purchase, store, and administer medications such as hydrocortisone (an anti-inflammatory), fluocinonide (an anti-inflammatory), topical anesthetics, silver sulfadiazine (used to treat bacterial or fungal infections), lidocaine (a local anesthetic), magnesium sulfate (Epsom salt), zinc oxide (used to treat skin irritations), and other similar medications. A pharmacist who dispenses these drugs to a licensed physical therapist is not liable for any adverse reactions caused by any method of use by the physical therapist.

Summary of Bill:

Occupational therapists are authorized to purchase, store, and administer medications such as hydrocortisone, fluocinonide, topical anesthetics, silver sulfadiazine, lidocaine, magnesium sulfate, zinc oxide, and other similar medications. A pharmacist who dispenses these drugs to a licensed occupational therapist is not liable for any adverse reactions caused by any method of use by the physical therapist.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.