

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1737**

63rd Legislature  
2013 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 22, 2013  
Yeas 95 Nays 0

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 17, 2013  
Yeas 48 Nays 0

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**President of the Senate**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1737** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1737**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2013 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2013 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Morrell, Manweller, Clibborn, and Moeller)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

1            AN ACT Relating to supervision of physician assistants; amending  
2 RCW 18.57A.030, 18.57A.040, 18.57A.080, and 18.71A.030; reenacting and  
3 amending RCW 18.71A.040; adding a new section to chapter 18.57A RCW;  
4 adding a new section to chapter 18.71A RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.57A RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8            (1) No licensee may be utilized in a remote site without approval  
9 by the board or its designee. A "remote site" is defined as a setting  
10 physically separate from the sponsoring or supervising physician's  
11 primary place for meeting patients or a setting where the physician is  
12 present less than twenty-five percent of the practice time of the  
13 licensee.

14            (2)(a) Approval by the commission or its designee may be granted to  
15 utilize a licensee in a remote site if:

- 16            (i) There is a demonstrated need for the utilization;  
17            (ii) Adequate provision for timely communication between the  
18 primary or alternate physician and the licensee exists;

1 (iii) The responsible sponsoring or supervising physician spends at  
2 least ten percent of the practice time of the licensee in the remote  
3 site unless the sponsoring physician demonstrates that adequate  
4 supervision is being maintained by an alternate method such as  
5 telecommunication.

6 (b) The names of the sponsoring or supervising physician and the  
7 licensee must be prominently displayed at the entrance to the clinic or  
8 in the reception area.

9 (3) No physician assistant holding an interim permit may be  
10 utilized in a remote site setting.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.71A RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) No licensee may be utilized in a remote site without approval  
14 by the commission or its designee. A "remote site" is defined as a  
15 setting physically separate from the sponsoring or supervising  
16 physician's primary place for meeting patients or a setting where the  
17 physician is present less than twenty-five percent of the practice time  
18 of the licensee.

19 (2)(a) Approval by the commission or its designee may be granted to  
20 utilize a licensee in a remote site if:

21 (i) There is a demonstrated need for the utilization;

22 (ii) Adequate provision for timely communication between the  
23 primary or alternate physician and the licensee exists;

24 (iii) The responsible sponsoring or supervising physician spends at  
25 least ten percent of the practice time of the licensee in the remote  
26 site unless the sponsoring physician demonstrates that adequate  
27 supervision is being maintained by an alternate method such as  
28 telecommunication.

29 (b) The names of the sponsoring or supervising physician and the  
30 licensee must be prominently displayed at the entrance to the clinic or  
31 in the reception area.

32 (3) No physician assistant holding an interim permit may be  
33 utilized in a remote site setting.

34 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.57A.030 and 1993 c 28 s 2 are each amended to read  
35 as follows:

36 An osteopathic physician assistant as defined in this chapter may

1 practice osteopathic medicine in this state only with the approval of  
2 the ((~~practice arrangement plan~~)) delegation agreement by the board and  
3 only to the extent permitted by the board. An osteopathic physician  
4 assistant who has received a license but who has not received board  
5 approval of the ((~~practice arrangement plan~~)) delegation agreement  
6 under RCW 18.57A.040 may not practice. An osteopathic physician  
7 assistant shall be subject to discipline by the board under the  
8 provisions of chapter 18.130 RCW.

9 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.57A.040 and 1993 c 28 s 3 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11 (1) No osteopathic physician assistant practicing in this state  
12 shall be employed or supervised by an osteopathic physician or  
13 physician group without the approval of the board.

14 (2) Prior to commencing practice, an osteopathic physician  
15 assistant licensed in this state shall apply to the board for  
16 permission to be employed or supervised by an osteopathic physician or  
17 physician group. The ((~~practice arrangement plan~~)) delegation  
18 agreement shall be jointly submitted by the osteopathic physician or  
19 physician group and osteopathic physician assistant. The secretary may  
20 charge a fee as provided in RCW 43.70.250 to recover the cost for the  
21 plan review. The ((~~practice arrangement plan~~)) delegation agreement  
22 shall delineate the manner and extent to which the physician assistant  
23 would practice and be supervised. Whenever an osteopathic physician  
24 assistant is practicing in a manner inconsistent with the approved  
25 ((~~practice arrangement plan~~)) delegation agreement, the board may take  
26 disciplinary action under chapter 18.130 RCW.

27 (3) An osteopathic physician may enter into delegation agreements  
28 with five physician assistants, but may petition the board for a waiver  
29 of this limit. However, no osteopathic physician may have under his or  
30 her supervision: (a) More than three physician assistants who are  
31 working in remote sites; or (b) more physician assistants than the  
32 osteopathic physician can adequately supervise.

33 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.57A.080 and 2007 c 264 s 2 are each amended to read  
34 as follows:

35 An osteopathic physician((~~+~~s)) assistant may sign and attest to any  
36 certificates, cards, forms, or other required documentation that the

1 osteopathic physician(~~(+s)~~) assistant's supervising osteopathic  
2 physician or osteopathic physician group may sign, provided that it is  
3 within the osteopathic physician(~~(+s)~~) assistant's scope of practice  
4 and is consistent with the terms of the osteopathic physician(~~(+s)~~)  
5 assistant's (~~(practice arrangement plan)~~) delegation agreement as  
6 required by this chapter.

7 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.71A.030 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 320 are each amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 A physician assistant may practice medicine in this state only with  
10 the approval of the (~~(practice arrangement plan)~~) delegation agreement  
11 by the commission and only to the extent permitted by the commission.  
12 A physician assistant who has received a license but who has not  
13 received commission approval of the (~~(practice arrangement plan)~~)  
14 delegation agreement under RCW 18.71A.040 may not practice. A  
15 physician assistant shall be subject to discipline under chapter 18.130  
16 RCW.

17 **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.71A.040 and 1996 c 191 s 58 and 1996 c 191 s 40 are  
18 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

19 (1) No physician assistant practicing in this state shall be  
20 employed or supervised by a physician or physician group without the  
21 approval of the commission.

22 (2) Prior to commencing practice, a physician assistant licensed in  
23 this state shall apply to the commission for permission to be employed  
24 or supervised by a physician or physician group. The (~~(practice  
25 arrangement plan)~~) delegation agreement shall be jointly submitted by  
26 the physician or physician group and physician assistant.  
27 Administrative procedures, administrative requirements, and fees shall  
28 be established as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. The  
29 (~~(practice arrangement plan)~~) delegation agreement shall delineate the  
30 manner and extent to which the physician assistant would practice and  
31 be supervised. Whenever a physician assistant is practicing in a  
32 manner inconsistent with the approved (~~(practice arrangement plan)~~)  
33 delegation agreement, the commission may take disciplinary action under  
34 chapter 18.130 RCW.

35 (3) A physician may enter into delegation agreements with five  
36 physician assistants, but may petition the commission for a waiver of

1 this limit. However, no physician may have under his or her  
2 supervision: (a) More than three physician assistants who are working  
3 in remote sites; or (b) more physician assistants than the physician  
4 can adequately supervise.

5 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. The medical quality assurance commission and  
6 board of osteopathic medicine and surgery, working in collaboration  
7 with a statewide organization representing the interests of physician  
8 assistants, shall adopt new rules modernizing the current rules  
9 regulating physician assistants and report to the legislature by  
10 December 31, 2014.

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