
SENATE BILL 5092

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Shin, Braun, Roach, and Honeyford

Read first time 01/17/13. Referred to Committee on Health Care .

1 AN ACT Relating to providing an exemption from continuing
2 competency requirements for registered nurses who seek advanced nursing
3 degrees; and amending RCW 18.79.110.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.79.110 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 411 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The commission shall keep a record of all of its proceedings
8 and make such reports to the governor as may be required. The
9 commission shall define by rules what constitutes specialized and
10 advanced levels of nursing practice as recognized by the medical and
11 nursing profession. The commission may adopt rules or issue advisory
12 opinions in response to questions put to it by professional health
13 associations, nursing practitioners, and consumers in this state
14 concerning the authority of various categories of nursing practitioners
15 to perform particular acts.

16 (2) The commission shall approve curricula and shall establish
17 criteria for minimum standards for schools preparing persons for
18 licensing as registered nurses, advanced registered nurse
19 practitioners, and licensed practical nurses under this chapter. The

1 commission shall approve such schools of nursing as meet the
2 requirements of this chapter and the commission, and the commission
3 shall approve establishment of basic nursing education programs and
4 shall establish criteria as to the need for and the size of a program
5 and the type of program and the geographical location. The commission
6 shall establish criteria for proof of reasonable currency of knowledge
7 and skill as a basis for safe practice after three years' inactive or
8 lapsed status. The commission shall establish criteria for licensing
9 by endorsement. The commission shall determine examination
10 requirements for applicants for licensing as registered nurses,
11 advanced registered nurse practitioners, and licensed practical nurses
12 under this chapter, and shall certify to the secretary for licensing
13 duly qualified applicants.

14 (3) In adopting rules on the number of active nursing practice
15 hours needed to meet continuing competency requirements, the commission
16 must provide exemptions for registered nurses as set out in this
17 subsection. Registered nurses who are domiciled within and licensed by
18 the state of Washington and who are enrolled for at least six hours per
19 semester or quarter period in an accredited bachelors of science in
20 nursing program or an accredited masters of science nursing program are
21 exempt from the nursing practice hours requirement for the current
22 reporting period. The exemption is permitted only if the registered
23 nurse maintains passing grades and completes the bachelors of science
24 nursing program or masters of science nursing program within three
25 years from acceptance of the program.

26 (4) The commission shall adopt such rules under chapter 34.05 RCW
27 as are necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

28 (5) The commission is the successor in interest of the board of
29 nursing and the board of practical nursing. All contracts,
30 undertakings, agreements, rules, regulations, decisions, orders, and
31 policies of the former board of nursing or the board of practical
32 nursing continue in full force and effect under the commission until
33 the commission amends or rescinds those rules, regulations, decisions,
34 orders, or policies.

35 (6) The members of the commission are immune from suit in an
36 action, civil or criminal, based on its disciplinary proceedings or
37 other official acts performed in good faith as members of the
38 commission.

1 (7) Whenever the workload of the commission requires, the
2 commission may request that the secretary appoint pro tempore members
3 of the commission. When serving, pro tempore members of the commission
4 have all of the powers, duties, and immunities, and are entitled to all
5 of the emoluments, including travel expenses, of regularly appointed
6 members of the commission.

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