
SENATE BILL 5178

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Cleveland, Muzzall, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/13/21. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing automatic waivers of select state
2 health care laws to enable timely response by the health care system
3 during a governor-declared statewide state of emergency; and adding a
4 new section to chapter 38.52 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) To ensure the readiness of the health care system and its
9 ability to work with emergency management in responding to an
10 emergency or disaster, the statutes and regulations set forth in this
11 section are automatically waived or suspended upon the governor's
12 declaration of a statewide state of emergency pursuant to RCW
13 43.06.010, unless:

14 (a) The governor issues an order rejecting the waiver or
15 suspension of all statutes and regulations or specific statutes or
16 regulations based on a finding that strict compliance with the
17 statutes or regulations would not prevent, hinder, or delay necessary
18 action in responding to the emergency or disaster; or

19 (b) The statute or regulation implements or is dependent on a
20 federal law that has not been waived by the federal government and
21 waiving the state statute or regulation would result in a failure to

1 comply with such federal law. For the purposes of this exception, a
2 federal law for which the federal government has issued a statement
3 regarding enforcement discretion is treated as waived.

4 (2) The statutes and regulations that are automatically waived or
5 suspended as provided in subsection (1) of this section are:

6 (a) RCW 70.38.105(4) (a), (b), (e), and (h);

7 (b) WAC 246-310-020(1) (a) through (c) and (e);

8 (c) RCW 70.41.110, the following language only:

9 (i) ": PROVIDED, That no license issued pursuant to this chapter
10 shall exceed thirty-six months in duration";

11 (ii) "premises and"; and

12 (iii) "Licenses shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the
13 licensed premises.";

14 (d) RCW 70.41.170;

15 (e) WAC 246-320-111(1) (b) and (c);

16 (f) WAC 246-320-116 (2) and (3);

17 (g) WAC 246-320-296(10);

18 (h) WAC 246-320-500;

19 (i) WAC 246-320-505;

20 (j) WAC 246-320-600;

21 (k) RCW 70.41.230;

22 (l) RCW 70.41.090 (3), (4), and (5);

23 (m) RCW 70.41.080;

24 (n) RCW 70.56.020(2)(a), the following language only: ", within
25 forty-eight hours";

26 (o) RCW 70.56.020(2)(b), the following language only: "within
27 forty-five days";

28 (p) RCW 18.64.043(1), the following language only: "of location,
29 which shall entitle the owner to operate such pharmacy at the
30 location specified, or such other temporary location as the secretary
31 may approve,";

32 (q) RCW 18.64.043(2)(a), the following language only: "of
33 location";

34 (r) RCW 18.64.043(3), the following language only: "and to keep
35 the license of location or the renewal thereof properly exhibited in
36 said pharmacy.";

37 (s) WAC 246-869-020(10);

38 (t) RCW 43.70.280(2), the following language only: "Such
39 extension, reduction, or other modification of a licensing,
40 certification, or registration period shall be by rule or regulation

1 of the department of health adopted in accordance with the provisions
2 of chapter 34.05 RCW. Such rules and regulations may provide a method
3 for imposing and collecting such additional proportional fee as may
4 be required for the extended or modified period.";

5 (u) RCW 18.360.010(11);

6 (v) WAC 246-12-130(2)(d);

7 (w) WAC 246-12-430(1)(a); and

8 (x) WAC 246-12-440.

9 (3) Waivers and suspensions in subsection (2) of this section do
10 not apply except to projects undertaken to provide surge, including
11 temporary increases in bed capacity, during the governor's
12 declaration of a statewide state of emergency. Such projects and
13 increases in bed capacity must comply with these statutory and
14 regulatory provisions after the termination of the state of
15 emergency.

16 (4) If the governor's proclamation of a state of emergency
17 coincides with a state of emergency declaration by the president of
18 the United States that includes the state of Washington and any
19 agency of the federal government waives or suspends statutory and
20 regulatory obligations or limitations that apply to the health care
21 system operating in this state, for which there is a corresponding
22 state statute or regulation that has not been automatically waived
23 under this section, the state may not penalize a health care facility
24 or a health care provider as defined in RCW 70.02.010 for acting in
25 reliance on the federal waiver or suspension until the state
26 explicitly declines to waive or suspend the corresponding state
27 statute or regulation.

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