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**SENATE BILL 5704**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Randall, Cleveland, Conway, Das, Frockt, Hasegawa, Holy, Hunt, Keiser, Lovelett, Lovick, Nobles, Robinson, Saldaña, Stanford, and C. Wilson

Prefiled 01/06/22. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring health carriers to reimburse  
2 advanced registered nurse practitioners at the same rate as  
3 physicians for the same services; amending RCW 41.05.017; adding a  
4 new section to chapter 48.43 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Given the gravity of the COVID-19 crisis  
7 and the threat future pandemics present to the residents of  
8 Washington, the legislature recognizes the importance of supporting  
9 health care practitioners throughout the state. This act intends to  
10 help maintain a sufficient number of health care providers,  
11 especially in underserved and rural communities, by requiring health  
12 carriers to reimburse advanced registered nurse practitioners and  
13 physicians the same rate for providing the same health care services.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) For health plans issued or renewed on or after January 1,  
17 2023, a health carrier may not reimburse a contracted health care  
18 practitioner who is an advanced registered nurse practitioner  
19 licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW in an amount less than the allowed  
20 amount that the health carrier would reimburse for the same service

1 if provided by a contracted provider who is a physician licensed  
2 under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW in the same service area as defined  
3 in WAC 284-43-0160.

4 (2) A health carrier may not reduce the reimbursement amount paid  
5 to physicians licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW to comply  
6 with this section.

7 (3) This section does not apply to advanced registered nurse  
8 practitioners who are employees of a health maintenance organization  
9 regulated under chapter 48.46 RCW.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 41.05.017 and 2021 c 280 s 2 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 Each health plan that provides medical insurance offered under  
13 this chapter, including plans created by insuring entities, plans not  
14 subject to the provisions of Title 48 RCW, and plans created under  
15 RCW 41.05.140, are subject to the provisions of RCW 48.43.500,  
16 70.02.045, 48.43.505 through 48.43.535, 48.43.537, 48.43.545,  
17 48.43.550, 70.02.110, 70.02.900, 48.43.190, 48.43.083, 48.43.0128,  
18 (~~and~~) chapter 48.49 RCW, and section 2 of this act.

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