
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2339

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By House Postsecondary Education & Workforce (originally sponsored by Representatives Chambers, Riccelli, Schmick, and Bateman)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to certification renewal for home care aides and
2 nursing assistants; amending RCW 18.88B.031 and 18.88A.130; and
3 providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.88B.031 and 2023 c 323 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Except as provided in RCW 18.88B.041 and subject to the other
8 requirements of this chapter, to be certified as a home care aide, a
9 long-term care worker must successfully complete the training
10 required under RCW 74.39A.074(1) and a certification examination. A
11 certification as a home care aide must be renewed every two years.
12 Any long-term care worker failing to make the required grade for the
13 examination may not be certified as a home care aide.

14 (2) The department, in consultation with consumer and worker
15 representatives, shall develop a home care aide certification
16 examination to evaluate whether an applicant possesses the skills and
17 knowledge necessary to practice competently.

18 (3) The examination or series of examinations shall include both
19 a skills demonstration and a written or oral knowledge test. The
20 department shall establish rules governing the number of times and
21 under what circumstances individuals who have failed the examination

1 may sit for the examination, including whether any intermediate
2 remedial steps should be required. The skills demonstration, the
3 knowledge test, or both, may be administered throughout training, on
4 the last day of training, or after a student's formal training. An
5 applicant may apply to take the examination during or after training.
6 An applicant may not sit for any part of the examination prior to
7 completing the part of the training associated with that part of the
8 examination. The examination or series of examinations may be
9 conducted at local testing sites around the state. For the purpose of
10 reducing the travel time for applicants, the department shall explore
11 alternative testing options such as remote testing.

12 (4) (a) All examinations shall be conducted by fair and wholly
13 impartial methods. All examinations shall be available to be
14 administered in the preferred language for the applicant taking the
15 examination. The certification examination shall be administered and
16 evaluated by:

17 (i) The department;

18 (ii) A contractor to the department that is not an employer of
19 long-term care workers unless the employer is a department of social
20 and health services approved instructor and has met the department
21 standards for administering the examination; or

22 (iii) A high school or community college that has met department
23 standards for administering the examination.

24 (b) The department shall conduct an annual evaluation of the
25 examination results of applicants who complete the examination in a
26 language other than English. If the department finds that applicants
27 taking the examination in a particular language fail at a
28 disproportionately higher rate than other examination takers, the
29 department shall conduct a review of the translation to ensure that
30 it is accurate and understandable.

31 (5) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.88A.130 and 2012 c 208 s 8 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 Registrations, certifications, and medication assistant
35 endorsements shall be renewed every two years according to
36 administrative procedures, administrative requirements, and fees
37 determined by the secretary under RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect January 1, 2025.

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