
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5503

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senate Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Robinson, Cleveland, Mullet, Holy, Randall, Nobles, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing requirements for uniform clinical
2 placement hours for nursing education programs; and amending RCW
3 18.79.110.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.79.110 and 2013 c 229 s 1 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
15 practitioners to perform particular acts.

16 (2) (a) 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
20 commission shall approve such schools of nursing as meet the
21 requirements of this chapter and the commission, and the commission

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

12 (b) The commission shall limit the number of clinical or direct
13 patient care experience hours required for registered nurse and
14 licensed practical nurse licensure to:

15 (i) Three hundred hours for licensed practical nursing education
16 programs;

17 (ii) Five hundred hours for associate degree nursing education
18 programs; and

19 (iii) Six hundred hours for bachelors of science in nursing
20 programs.

21 (c) The commission shall continue to count the number of
22 simulated training hours in a manner consistent with WAC 246-840-534
23 as approved by the commission.

24 (d) The commission shall annually review the number of hours and
25 may adjust if necessitated by national licensing or accreditation
26 standards.

27 (3) The commission shall adopt rules on continuing competency.
28 The rules must include exemptions from the continuing competency
29 requirements for registered nurses seeking advanced nursing degrees.
30 Nothing in this subsection prohibits the commission from providing
31 additional exemptions for any person credentialed under this chapter
32 who is enrolled in an advanced education program.

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

35 (5) The commission is the successor in interest of the board of
36 nursing and the board of practical nursing. All contracts,
37 undertakings, agreements, rules, regulations, decisions, orders, and
38 policies of the former board of nursing or the board of practical
39 nursing continue in full force and effect under the commission until

1 the commission amends or rescinds those rules, regulations,
2 decisions, orders, or policies.

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

7 (7) Whenever the workload of the commission requires, the
8 commission may request that the secretary appoint pro tempore members
9 of the commission. When serving, pro tempore members of the
10 commission have all of the powers, duties, and immunities, and are
11 entitled to all of the emoluments, including travel expenses, of
12 regularly appointed members of the commission.

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