
SENATE BILL 6286

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Rivers, Cleveland, Dhingra, Dozier, Nobles, Padden, Robinson, Wellman, and L. Wilson

Read first time 01/22/24. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing the anesthesia workforce shortage
2 by reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to
3 increase the supply of certified registered nurse anesthetists in
4 Washington; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The health care system faces increasing
7 costs and workforce shortages. Health care facilities are facing a
8 shortage of anesthesia providers. The legislature intends to address
9 the workforce shortage to ensure patients always have access to
10 anesthesia care throughout the state.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Subject to amounts appropriated
12 specifically for this purpose, the Washington state board of nursing
13 shall develop and manage a grant process for the purposes of
14 providing incentives to certified registered nurse anesthetists to
15 precept nurse anesthesia residents in health care settings. The board
16 of nursing shall ensure the funds in the grant process are
17 distributed equally among the total qualified applicant preceptors
18 that dedicate at least 80 hours per year to precepting any nurse
19 anesthesia residents. The goal of the grant program is to create more

1 clinical placements for nurse anesthesia students to complete
2 required clinical hours to earn their degree and related licensure.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The health workforce council, in
4 collaboration with the Washington state board of nursing, the
5 Washington medical commission, and the department of health, shall
6 study the workforce shortages in anesthesia care in Washington state
7 and submit an initial report to the legislature beginning June 30,
8 2025, with an update report annually thereafter. The health workforce
9 council shall submit a final report due June 30, 2029, detailing the
10 progress made in the previous five years and any findings and policy
11 recommendations to further address the workforce shortages in
12 anesthesia care. The initial report shall include, but is not limited
13 to, the following:

14 (a) Identifying the factors and barriers to entry into the
15 anesthesia workforce;

16 (b) Evaluating and assessing the current training and pipeline
17 for the health care providers who may provide anesthesia care;

18 (c) Developing recommendations that reduce barriers for
19 individuals who want to become certified registered nurse
20 anesthetists and increasing the available clinical training slots for
21 nurse anesthesia residents; and

22 (d) Creating and maintaining an implementation plan to improve
23 the pipeline of anesthesia care providers in the state.

24 (2) This section expires June 30, 2030.

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