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HOUSE BILL 1638

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representative Caldier

Read first time 01/28/25. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to enacting the good faith pain act; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 18.22 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.32  
3 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.57 RCW; adding a new section  
4 to chapter 18.64 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.71 RCW;  
5 adding a new section to chapter 18.71A RCW; adding a new section to  
6 chapter 18.79 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an  
7 emergency.

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

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.22  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 No podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under this chapter  
12 acting in good faith may be subject to criminal or civil liability,  
13 or disciplinary action by the board or department for prescribing  
14 opioid drugs for legitimate medical purposes in the course of  
15 professional practice to a patient with chronic pain who in  
16 consultation with their practitioner has deemed an opioid  
17 prescription medically appropriate and has signed a written informed  
18 consent that is documented in the patient's medical records.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.32  
20 RCW to read as follows:

1 No dentist licensed under this chapter acting in good faith may  
2 be subject to criminal or civil liability, or disciplinary action by  
3 the commission or department of health for prescribing opioid drugs  
4 for legitimate medical purposes in the course of professional  
5 practice to a patient with chronic pain who in consultation with  
6 their practitioner has deemed an opioid prescription medically  
7 appropriate and has signed a written informed consent that is  
8 documented in the patient's medical records.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.57  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 No osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under this chapter  
12 acting in good faith may be subject to criminal or civil liability,  
13 or disciplinary action by the board or department for prescribing  
14 opioid drugs for legitimate medical purposes in the course of  
15 professional practice to a patient with chronic pain who in  
16 consultation with their practitioner has deemed an opioid  
17 prescription medically appropriate and has signed a written informed  
18 consent that is documented in the patient's medical records.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.64  
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 No pharmacist licensed under this chapter acting in good faith  
22 may be subject to criminal or civil liability, or disciplinary action  
23 by the commission or department for dispensing prescription opioid  
24 drugs, after confirming that a prescription is valid, if the  
25 prescription opioid drugs were prescribed for legitimate medical  
26 purposes in the course of professional practice to a patient with  
27 chronic pain who has presented such a prescription and has been  
28 provided with consultation.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 18.71  
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 No physician licensed under this chapter acting in good faith may  
32 be subject to criminal or civil liability, or disciplinary action by  
33 the commission or department of health for prescribing opioid drugs  
34 for legitimate medical purposes in the course of professional  
35 practice to a patient with chronic pain who in consultation with  
36 their practitioner has deemed an opioid prescription medically

1 appropriate and has signed a written informed consent that is  
2 documented in the patient's medical records.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 18.71A  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 No physician assistant licensed under this chapter acting in good  
6 faith may be subject to criminal or civil liability, or disciplinary  
7 action by the commission or department for prescribing opioid drugs  
8 for legitimate medical purposes in the course of professional  
9 practice to a patient with chronic pain who in consultation with  
10 their practitioner has deemed an opioid prescription medically  
11 appropriate and has signed a written informed consent that is  
12 documented in the patient's medical records.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 18.79  
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 No advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under this  
16 chapter may be subject to criminal or civil liability, or  
17 disciplinary action by the commission or department for prescribing  
18 opioid drugs for legitimate medical purposes in the course of  
19 professional practice to a patient with chronic pain who in  
20 consultation with their practitioner has deemed an opioid  
21 prescription medically appropriate and has signed a written informed  
22 consent that is documented in the patient's medical records.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act may be known and cited as the  
24 good faith pain act.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
27 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
28 effect immediately.

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