
SENATE BILL 5672

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Muzzall, Cleveland, Chapman, Dozier, and Nobles

Read first time 02/05/25. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to delaying the home care aide certification
2 requirements; amending RCW 18.88B.021; adding a new section to
3 chapter 18.88B RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.88B
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall adopt rules to allow long-term care
8 workers additional time to become certified as the office of the
9 state auditor completes their biennial performance audit under
10 section 201, chapter 1, Laws of 2012 (Initiative Measure No. 1163),
11 on the training requirements and competency assessments for home care
12 aides and shall provide recommendations for the consideration of the
13 legislature. Rules adopted under this section must be effective until
14 90 days after adjournment of the session proceeding the publishing of
15 the 2026 biennial performance audit under section 201, chapter 1,
16 Laws of 2012 (Initiative Measure No. 1163).

17 (2) This section expires December 31, 2027.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.88B.021 and 2023 c 424 s 2 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

1 (1) Beginning January 7, 2012, except as provided in RCW
2 18.88B.041 and section 1 of this act, any person hired as a long-term
3 care worker must be certified as a home care aide as provided in this
4 chapter within 200 calendar days after the date of hire. A long-term
5 care worker who is not currently certified or eligible to reactivate
6 an expired credential shall receive a new date of hire when beginning
7 work with either a new employer or returning to a former employer
8 after prior employment has ended.

9 (2)(a) No person may practice or, by use of any title or
10 description, represent himself or herself as a certified home care
11 aide without being certified as provided in this chapter.

12 (b) This section does not prohibit a person: (i) From practicing
13 a profession for which the person has been issued a license or which
14 is specifically authorized under this state's laws; or (ii) who is
15 exempt from certification under RCW 18.88B.041 from providing
16 services as a long-term care worker.

17 (c) In consultation with consumer and worker representatives, the
18 department shall, by January 1, 2013, establish by rule a single
19 scope of practice that encompasses both long-term care workers who
20 are certified home care aides and long-term care workers who are
21 exempted from certification under RCW 18.88B.041.

22 (3) If a pandemic, natural disaster, or other declared state of
23 emergency impacts the ability of long-term care workers to complete
24 certification as required by this section, the department may adopt
25 rules to allow long-term care workers additional time to become
26 certified.

27 (a) Rules adopted under this subsection (3) are effective until
28 the termination of the pandemic, natural disaster, or other declared
29 state of emergency or until the department determines that additional
30 time for long-term care workers to become certified is no longer
31 necessary, whichever is later. Once the department determines a rule
32 adopted under this subsection (3) is no longer necessary, it must
33 repeal the rule under RCW 34.05.353.

34 (b) Within 12 months of the termination of the pandemic, natural
35 disaster, or other declared state of emergency, the department shall
36 conduct a review of certification compliance with subsection (1) of
37 this section and rules adopted under this subsection (3) and provide
38 the legislature with a report.

1 (4) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

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