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**SENATE BILL 5877**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Muzzall, Dozier, Nobles, and Riccelli; by request of Washington State Medical Commission

Prefiled 12/12/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to making a technical correction to the  
2 surcharges authorized for certified anesthesiologist assistants; and  
3 amending RCW 18.71.310, 18.71D.020, and 43.70.110.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.71.310 and 2024 c 15 s 2 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) The commission shall enter into a contract with the entity to  
8 implement a physician health program. The commission may enter into a  
9 contract with the entity for up to six years in length. The physician  
10 health program may include any or all of the following:

11 (a) Entering into relationships supportive of the physician  
12 health program with professionals who provide either evaluation or  
13 treatment services, or both;

14 (b) Receiving and assessing reports of suspected impairment from  
15 any source;

16 (c) Intervening in cases of verified impairment, or in cases  
17 where there is reasonable cause to suspect impairment;

18 (d) Upon reasonable cause, referring suspected or verified  
19 impaired physicians for evaluation or treatment;

20 (e) Monitoring the treatment and rehabilitation of participants  
21 including those ordered by the commission;

1 (f) Providing monitoring and care management support of program  
2 participants;

3 (g) Performing such other activities as agreed upon by the  
4 commission and the entity; and

5 (h) Providing prevention and education services.

6 (2) A contract entered into under subsection (1) of this section  
7 shall be financed by a surcharge of \$70 per year or equivalent on  
8 each license renewal or issuance of a new license to be collected by  
9 the department of health from every (~~(physician, surgeon, and~~  
10 ~~physician assistant licensed under this chapter)~~) practitioner under  
11 the purview of the commission including, but not limited to,  
12 physicians, physician assistants, and anesthesiologist assistants in  
13 addition to other license fees. These (~~(moneys)~~) surcharges shall be  
14 placed in the impaired physician account to be used solely to support  
15 the physician health program.

16 (3) All funds in the impaired physician account shall be paid to  
17 the contract entity within sixty days of deposit.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.71D.020 and 2024 c 362 s 2 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 (1) The commission shall adopt rules fixing the qualifications  
21 and the educational and training requirements for licensure as an  
22 anesthesiologist assistant. The requirements shall include completion  
23 of an anesthesiologist assistant program accredited by the commission  
24 on accreditation of allied health education programs, or successor  
25 organization, and within one year successfully taking and passing an  
26 examination administered by the national commission for the  
27 certification of anesthesiologist assistants or other examination  
28 approved by the commission.

29 (2) Applicants for licensure shall file an application with the  
30 commission on a form prepared by the secretary with the approval of  
31 the commission, detailing the education, training, and experience of  
32 the applicant and such other information as the commission may  
33 require. The application shall be accompanied by a fee determined by  
34 the secretary as provided in RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. A surcharge  
35 of \$70 per year shall be charged on each license renewal or issuance  
36 of a new license to be collected by the department of health and  
37 deposited into the impaired physician account for certified  
38 anesthesiologist assistant participation in the physician health

1 program. Each applicant shall furnish proof satisfactory to the  
2 commission of the following:

3 (a) That the applicant has completed an accredited  
4 anesthesiologist assistant program approved by the commission and is  
5 eligible to take the examination approved by the commission; and

6 (b) That the applicant is physically and mentally capable of  
7 practicing as an anesthesiologist assistant with reasonable skill and  
8 safety. The commission may require an applicant to submit to such  
9 examination or examinations as it deems necessary to determine an  
10 applicant's physical or mental capability, or both, to safely  
11 practice as an anesthesiologist assistant.

12 (3)(a) The commission may approve, deny, or take other  
13 disciplinary action upon the application for a license as provided in  
14 the uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW.

15 (b) The license shall be renewed as determined under RCW  
16 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. The commission shall request licensees to  
17 submit information about their current professional practice at the  
18 time of license renewal and licensees must provide the information  
19 requested.

20 (4) No person shall practice as an anesthesiologist assistant or  
21 represent that they are a "certified anesthesiologist assistant" or  
22 "anesthesiologist assistant" or "C.A.A." or "A.A." without a license  
23 granted by the commission.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.70.110 and 2025 c 19 s 1 are each amended to read  
25 as follows:

26 (1) The secretary shall charge fees to the licensee for obtaining  
27 a license. Physicians regulated pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW who  
28 reside and practice in Washington and obtain or renew a retired  
29 active license are exempt from such fees. Municipal corporations  
30 providing emergency medical care and transportation services pursuant  
31 to chapter 18.73 RCW shall be exempt from such fees, provided that  
32 such other emergency services shall only be charged for their pro  
33 rata share of the cost of licensure and inspection, if appropriate.  
34 The secretary may charge different fees for registered nurses  
35 licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, licensed practical nurses licensed  
36 under chapter 18.79 RCW, and nurses who hold a valid multistate  
37 license issued by the state of Washington under chapter 18.80 RCW.  
38 The secretary may waive the fees when, in the discretion of the  
39 secretary, the fees would not be in the best interest of public

1 health and safety, or when the fees would be to the financial  
2 disadvantage of the state.

3 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, fees  
4 charged shall be based on, but shall not exceed, the cost to the  
5 department for the licensure of the activity or class of activities  
6 and may include costs of necessary inspection.

7 (3) License fees shall include amounts in addition to the cost of  
8 licensure activities in the following circumstances:

9 (a) For registered nurses and licensed practical nurses licensed  
10 under chapter 18.79 RCW, and for nurses who hold a valid multistate  
11 license issued by the state of Washington under chapter 18.80 RCW,  
12 support of a central nursing resource center as provided in RCW  
13 18.79.202;

14 (b) For all health care providers licensed under RCW 18.130.040,  
15 the cost of regulatory activities for retired volunteer medical  
16 worker licensees as provided in RCW 18.130.360; and

17 (c) For (~~physicians licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, physician~~  
18 ~~assistants licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW~~) every practitioner  
19 under the purview of the Washington medical commission including, but  
20 not limited to, physicians, physician assistants, anesthesiologist  
21 assistants licensed by the Washington medical commission, osteopathic  
22 physicians licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, naturopaths licensed  
23 under chapter 18.36A RCW, podiatrists licensed under chapter 18.22  
24 RCW, chiropractors licensed under chapter 18.25 RCW, psychologists  
25 and psychological associates licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW,  
26 registered nurses and licensed practical nurses licensed under  
27 chapter 18.79 RCW, nurses who hold a valid multistate license issued  
28 by the state of Washington under chapter 18.80 RCW, optometrists  
29 licensed under chapter 18.53 RCW, mental health counselors and mental  
30 health counselor associates licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW,  
31 massage therapists licensed under chapter 18.108 RCW, advanced social  
32 workers licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW, independent clinical  
33 social workers and independent clinical social worker associates  
34 licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW, midwives licensed under chapter  
35 18.50 RCW, marriage and family therapists and marriage and family  
36 therapist associates licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW, occupational  
37 therapists and occupational therapy assistants licensed under chapter  
38 18.59 RCW, dietitians and nutritionists certified under chapter  
39 18.138 RCW, speech-language pathologists licensed under chapter 18.35  
40 RCW, acupuncturists or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioners

1 licensed under chapter 18.06 RCW, and veterinarians and veterinary  
2 technicians licensed under chapter 18.92 RCW, the license fees shall  
3 include up to an additional twenty-five dollars to be transferred by  
4 the department to the University of Washington for the purposes of  
5 RCW 43.70.112.

6 (4) Department of health advisory committees may review fees  
7 established by the secretary for licenses and comment upon the  
8 appropriateness of the level of such fees.

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