

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 5051**

Chapter 5, Laws of 2025

69th Legislature  
2025 Regular Session

NURSING ASSISTANTS—REGULATORY AUTHORITY

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026—Except for section 2, which takes effect June 30, 2027.

Passed by the Senate February 7, 2025  
Yeas 49 Nays 0

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 26, 2025  
Yeas 98 Nays 0

Laurie Jinkins

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved April 4, 2025 11:08 AM

BOB FERGUSON

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 5051** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

SARAH BANNISTER

**Secretary**

FILED

April 7, 2025

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SENATE BILL 5051**

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Passed Legislature - 2025 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Bateman, Riccelli, Cleveland, Nobles, and Wellman; by request of Washington State Board of Nursing

Prefiled 12/13/24. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1       AN ACT Relating to consolidating regulatory authority for nursing  
2 assistants; amending RCW 18.79.070, 18.79.070, 18.88A.020,  
3 18.88A.030, 18.88A.040, 18.88A.050, 18.88A.060, 18.88A.080,  
4 18.88A.082, 18.88A.085, 18.88A.087, 18.88A.088, 18.88A.090,  
5 18.88A.110, 18.88A.120, 18.88A.150, 18.88A.210, and 18.88B.060;  
6 reenacting and amending RCW 18.130.040; repealing RCW 18.88A.100;  
7 providing effective dates; and providing an expiration date.

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

9       **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.79.070 and 2022 c 240 s 32 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11       (1) The state (~~(nursing care quality assurance commission)~~) board  
12 of nursing is established, consisting of (~~(fifteen)~~) 17 members to be  
13 appointed by the governor to four-year terms. The governor shall  
14 consider nursing members who are recommended for appointment by the  
15 appropriate professional associations in the state. No person may  
16 serve as a member of the (~~(commission)~~) board for more than two  
17 consecutive full terms.

18       (2) There must be seven registered nurse members, two advanced  
19 registered nurse practitioner members, (~~(three)~~) two licensed  
20 practical nurse members, two certified nursing assistant members, a  
21 registered nurse or licensed practical nurse member, and three public

1 members on the (~~commission~~) board. Each member of the  
2 (~~commission~~) board must be a resident of this state.

3 (3) (a) Registered nurse members of the (~~commission~~) board must:

4 (i) Be licensed as registered nurses under this chapter; and

5 (ii) Have had at least three years' experience in the active  
6 practice of nursing and have been engaged in that practice within two  
7 years of appointment.

8 (b) In addition:

9 (i) At least one member must be on the faculty at a four-year  
10 university nursing program;

11 (ii) At least one member must be on the faculty at a two-year  
12 community college nursing program;

13 (iii) At least two members must be staff nurses providing direct  
14 patient care; and

15 (iv) At least one member must be a nurse manager or a nurse  
16 executive.

17 (4) Advanced registered nurse practitioner members of the  
18 (~~commission~~) board must:

19 (a) Be licensed as advanced registered nurse practitioners under  
20 this chapter; and

21 (b) Have had at least three years' experience in the active  
22 practice of advanced registered nursing and have been engaged in that  
23 practice within two years of appointment.

24 (5) Licensed practical nurse members of the (~~commission~~) board  
25 must:

26 (a) Be licensed as licensed practical nurses under this chapter;  
27 and

28 (b) Have had at least three years' actual experience as a  
29 licensed practical nurse and have been engaged in practice as a  
30 practical nurse within two years of appointment.

31 (6) Certified nursing assistant members of the board must:

32 (a) Be currently employed as certified nursing assistants,  
33 licensed under chapter 18.88A RCW; and

34 (b) Have at least two years' experience as a certified nursing  
35 assistant.

36 (7) The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse member must  
37 be currently either a program director or educator in an approved  
38 nursing assistant training program.

39 (8) Public members of the (~~commission~~) board may not be a  
40 member of any other health care licensing board or commission, or

1 have a fiduciary obligation to a facility rendering health services  
2 regulated by the ~~((commission))~~ board, or have a material or  
3 financial interest in the rendering of health services regulated by  
4 the ~~((commission))~~ board.

5 ~~((In appointing the initial members of the \*commission, it is the  
6 intent of the legislature that, to the extent possible, the governor  
7 appoint the existing members of the board of nursing and the board of  
8 practical nursing repealed under chapter 9, Laws of 1994 sp. sess.  
9 The governor may appoint initial members of the commission to  
10 staggered terms of from one to four years. Thereafter, all members  
11 shall be appointed to full four-year terms.))~~ Members of the  
12 ~~((commission))~~ board hold office until their successors are  
13 appointed.

14 When the secretary appoints pro tem members, reasonable efforts  
15 shall be made to ensure that at least one pro tem member is a  
16 registered nurse who is currently practicing and, in addition to  
17 meeting other minimum qualifications, has graduated from an associate  
18 or baccalaureate nursing program within three years of appointment.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.79.070 and 2024 c 239 s 5 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1) The state board ~~((of nursing))~~ of nursing is established,  
22 consisting of ~~((fifteen))~~ 17 members to be appointed by the governor  
23 to four-year terms. The governor shall consider nursing members who  
24 are recommended for appointment by the appropriate professional  
25 associations in the state. No person may serve as a member of the  
26 board for more than two consecutive full terms.

27 (2) There must be seven registered nurse members, two advanced  
28 practice registered nurse members, ~~((three))~~ two licensed practical  
29 nurse members, two certified nursing assistant members, a registered  
30 nurse or licensed practical nurse member, and three public members on  
31 the board. Each member of the board must be a resident of this state.

32 (3) (a) Registered nurse members of the board must:

33 (i) Be licensed as registered nurses under this chapter; and

34 (ii) Have had at least three years' experience in the active  
35 practice of nursing and have been engaged in that practice within two  
36 years of appointment.

37 (b) In addition:

38 (i) At least one member must be on the faculty at a four-year  
39 university nursing program;

1 (ii) At least one member must be on the faculty at a two-year  
2 community college nursing program;

3 (iii) At least two members must be staff nurses providing direct  
4 patient care; and

5 (iv) At least one member must be a nurse manager or a nurse  
6 executive.

7 (4) Advanced practice registered nurse members of the board must:

8 (a) Be licensed as advanced practice registered nurses under this  
9 chapter; and

10 (b) Have had at least three years' experience in the active  
11 practice of advanced practice registered nursing and have been  
12 engaged in that practice within two years of appointment.

13 (5) Licensed practical nurse members of the board must:

14 (a) Be licensed as licensed practical nurses under this chapter;  
15 and

16 (b) Have had at least three years' actual experience as a  
17 licensed practical nurse and have been engaged in practice as a  
18 practical nurse within two years of appointment.

19 (6) Certified nursing assistant members of the board must:

20 (a) Be currently employed as certified nursing assistants,  
21 licensed under chapter 18.88A RCW; and

22 (b) Have at least two years' experience as a certified nursing  
23 assistant.

24 (7) The registered nurse or licensed practical nurse member must  
25 be currently either a program director or educator in an approved  
26 nursing assistant training program.

27 (8) Public members of the board may not be a member of any other  
28 health care licensing board or commission, or have a fiduciary  
29 obligation to a facility rendering health services regulated by the  
30 board, or have a material or financial interest in the rendering of  
31 health services regulated by the board.

32 Members of the board hold office until their successors are  
33 appointed.

34 When the secretary appoints pro tem members, reasonable efforts  
35 shall be made to ensure that at least one pro tem member is a  
36 registered nurse who is currently practicing and, in addition to  
37 meeting other minimum qualifications, has graduated from an associate  
38 or baccalaureate nursing program within three years of appointment.

1       **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.88A.020 and 2018 c 201 s 9008 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
4 this section apply throughout this chapter.

5       (1) "Alternative training" means a nursing assistant-certified  
6 program meeting criteria adopted by the (~~commission~~) board under  
7 RCW 18.88A.087 to meet the requirements of a state-approved nurse  
8 aide competency evaluation program consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec.  
9 1395i-3(e) and (f) of the federal social security act.

10       (2) "Approved training program" means a nursing assistant-  
11 certified training program approved by the (~~commission~~) board to  
12 meet the requirements of a state-approved nurse aide training and  
13 competency evaluation program consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec.  
14 1395i-3(e) and (f) of the federal social security act. For community  
15 college, vocational-technical institutes, skill centers, and  
16 secondary school as defined in chapter 28B.50 RCW, nursing assistant-  
17 certified training programs shall be approved by the (~~commission~~)  
18 board in cooperation with the board for community and technical  
19 colleges or the superintendent of public instruction.

20       (3) (~~"Commission" means the Washington nursing care quality~~  
21 ~~assurance commission~~) "Board" means the Washington state board of  
22 nursing.

23       (4) "Competency evaluation" means the measurement of an  
24 individual's knowledge and skills as related to safe, competent  
25 performance as a nursing assistant.

26       (5) "Department" means the department of health.

27       (6) "Executive director" means the executive director of the  
28 board hired pursuant to RCW 18.79.390.

29       (7) "Health care facility" means a nursing home, hospital  
30 licensed under chapter 70.41 or 71.12 RCW, hospice care facility,  
31 home health care agency, hospice agency, licensed or certified  
32 service provider under chapter 71.24 RCW other than an individual  
33 health care provider, or other entity for delivery of health care  
34 services as defined by the (~~commission~~) board.

35       (~~(7)~~) (8) "Medication assistant" means a nursing assistant-  
36 certified with a medication assistant endorsement issued under RCW  
37 18.88A.082 who is authorized, in addition to his or her duties as a  
38 nursing assistant-certified, to administer certain medications and  
39 perform certain treatments in a nursing home under the supervision of  
40 a registered nurse under RCW 18.88A.082.

1        ~~((8))~~ (9) "Nursing assistant" means an individual, regardless  
2 of title, who, under the direction and supervision of a registered  
3 nurse or licensed practical nurse, assists in the delivery of nursing  
4 and nursing-related activities to patients in a health care facility  
5 or an individual, regardless of title, who uses their nursing  
6 assistant credential to work as a long-term care worker as allowed by  
7 RCW 18.88B.041(1) (a) or (b). The two levels of nursing assistants  
8 are:

9        (a) "Nursing assistant-certified," an individual certified under  
10 this chapter; and

11        (b) "Nursing assistant-registered," an individual registered  
12 under this chapter.

13        ~~((9))~~ (10) "Nursing home" means a nursing home licensed under  
14 chapter 18.51 RCW.

15        ~~((10))~~ (11) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

16        **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.88A.030 and 2021 c 203 s 16 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18        (1)(a) A nursing assistant may assist in the care of individuals  
19 as delegated by and under the direction and supervision of a licensed  
20 (registered) nurse or licensed practical nurse or work as a long-term  
21 care worker as allowed by RCW 18.88B.041(1) (a) or (b).

22        (b) A health care facility shall not assign a nursing assistant-  
23 registered to provide care until the nursing assistant-registered has  
24 demonstrated skills necessary to perform competently all assigned  
25 duties and responsibilities.

26        (c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to confer on a  
27 nursing assistant the authority to administer medication unless  
28 delegated as a specific nursing task pursuant to this chapter or to  
29 practice as a licensed (registered) nurse or licensed practical nurse  
30 as defined in chapter 18.79 RCW.

31        (2)(a) A nursing assistant employed in a nursing home must have  
32 successfully obtained certification through: (i) An approved training  
33 program and the competency evaluation within a period of time  
34 determined in rule by the ~~((commission))~~ board; or (ii) alternative  
35 training and the competency evaluation prior to employment.

36        (b) Certification is voluntary for nursing assistants working in  
37 health care facilities other than nursing homes unless otherwise  
38 required by state or federal law or regulation.

1 (3) The ((~~commission~~)) board may adopt rules to implement the  
2 provisions of this chapter.

3 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.88A.040 and 2012 c 208 s 4 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) No person may practice or represent himself or herself as a  
6 nursing assistant-registered by use of any title or description  
7 without being registered by the ((~~department~~)) board pursuant to this  
8 chapter.

9 (2) ((~~After October 1, 1990, no~~)) No person may by use of any  
10 title or description, practice or represent himself or herself as a  
11 nursing assistant-certified without applying for certification,  
12 meeting the qualifications, and being certified by the ((~~department~~))  
13 board pursuant to this chapter.

14 (3) ((~~After July 1, 2013, no~~)) No person may practice, or  
15 represent himself or herself by any title or description, as a  
16 medication assistant without a medication assistant endorsement  
17 issued under RCW 18.88A.082.

18 **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.88A.050 and 2012 c 208 s 5 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 In addition to any other authority provided by law, the secretary  
21 has the authority to:

22 (1) Set all nursing assistant certification, registration,  
23 medication assistant endorsement, and renewal fees in accordance with  
24 RCW 43.70.250 and to collect and deposit all such fees in the health  
25 professions account established under RCW 43.70.320; and

26 ((~~Establish forms, procedures, and the competency evaluation~~  
27 ~~necessary to administer this chapter;~~

28 ((~~Hire clerical, administrative, and investigative staff as~~  
29 ~~needed to implement this chapter;~~

30 ((~~Issue a nursing assistant registration to any applicant who~~  
31 ~~has met the requirements for registration;~~

32 ((~~After January 1, 1990, issue a nursing assistant certificate~~  
33 ~~to any applicant who has met the training, competency evaluation, and~~  
34 ~~conduct requirements for certification under this chapter;~~

35 ((~~Issue a medication assistant endorsement to any applicant who~~  
36 ~~has met the requirements of RCW 18.88A.082;~~



1       ~~(7) Maintain the official record for the department of all~~  
2 ~~applicants and persons with registrations, certificates, and~~  
3 ~~medication assistant endorsements under this chapter;~~

4       ~~(8) Exercise disciplinary authority as authorized in chapter~~  
5 ~~18.130 RCW;~~

6       ~~(9) Deny registration to any applicant who fails to meet~~  
7 ~~requirement for registration as a nursing assistant;~~

8       ~~(10) Deny certification to applicants who do not meet the~~  
9 ~~training, competency evaluation, and conduct requirements for~~  
10 ~~certification as a nursing assistant; and~~

11       ~~(11) Deny medication assistant endorsement to applicants who do~~  
12 ~~not meet the requirements of RCW 18.88A.082)) Employ staff that are~~  
13 ~~hired and managed by the executive director provided that nothing~~  
14 ~~contained in this section may be construed to alter any existing~~  
15 ~~collective bargaining unit or the provisions of any existing~~  
16 ~~collective bargaining agreement.~~

17       **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.88A.060 and 2012 c 208 s 6 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19       In addition to any other authority provided by law, the  
20 ((~~commission~~)) board may:

21       (1) Determine minimum nursing assistant education requirements  
22 and approve training programs;

23       (2) Approve education and training programs and examinations for  
24 medication assistants as provided in RCW 18.88A.082;

25       (3) Define the prescriber-ordered treatments a medication  
26 assistant is authorized to perform under RCW 18.88A.082;

27       (4) Prepare, grade, and administer, or determine the nature of,  
28 and supervise the grading and administration of, the competency  
29 evaluation for applicants for nursing assistant certification, using  
30 the same competency evaluation for all applicants, whether qualifying  
31 to take the competency evaluation under an approved training program  
32 or alternative training;

33       (5) Establish forms and procedures for evaluation of an  
34 applicant's alternative training under criteria adopted pursuant to  
35 RCW 18.88A.087;

36       (6) Define and approve any experience requirement for nursing  
37 assistant certification;

38       (7) Adopt rules implementing a continuing competency evaluation  
39 program for nursing assistants; ((~~and~~))

1       (8) Establish forms, procedures, and the competency evaluation  
2 necessary to administer this chapter;

3       (9) Issue a nursing assistant registration to any applicant who  
4 has met the requirements for registration;

5       (10) Maintain the official record for the department of all  
6 applicants and persons with registrations, certificates, and  
7 medication assistant endorsements under this chapter;

8       (11) Exercise disciplinary authority as authorized in chapter  
9 18.130 RCW;

10       (12) Deny registration to any applicant who fails to meet  
11 requirements for registration as a nursing assistant;

12       (13) Deny certification to applicants who do not meet the  
13 training, competency evaluation, and conduct requirements for  
14 certification as a nursing assistant;

15       (14) Deny medication assistant endorsement to applicants who do  
16 not meet the requirements of RCW 18.88A.082;

17       (15) Issue a medication assistant endorsement to any applicant  
18 who has met the requirements of RCW 18.88A.082;

19       (16) Delegate certain disciplinary functions to staff where no  
20 clinical expertise or standard of care issues are involved;

21       (17) Issue a nursing assistant certificate to any applicant who  
22 has met the training, competency evaluation, and conduct requirements  
23 for certification under this chapter; and

24       (18) Adopt rules to enable it to carry into effect the provisions  
25 of this chapter.

26       **Sec. 8.** RCW 18.88A.080 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 711 are each amended  
27 to read as follows:

28       (1) The ((~~secretary~~)) board shall issue a registration to any  
29 applicant who pays any applicable fees and submits, on forms provided  
30 by the ((~~secretary~~)) board, the applicant's name, address, and other  
31 information as determined by the ((~~secretary~~)) board, provided there  
32 are no grounds for denial of registration or issuance of a  
33 conditional registration under this chapter or chapter 18.130 RCW.

34       (2) Applicants must file an application with the ((~~commission~~))  
35 board for registration within three days of employment.

36       **Sec. 9.** RCW 18.88A.082 and 2012 c 208 s 3 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

1 (1) (~~Beginning July 1, 2013, the secretary~~) The board shall  
2 issue a medication assistant endorsement to any nursing assistant-  
3 certified who meets the following requirements:

4 (a) Ongoing certification as a nursing assistant-certified in  
5 good standing under this chapter;

6 (b) Completion of a minimum number of hours of documented work  
7 experience as a nursing assistant-certified in a long-term care  
8 setting as defined in rule by the (~~commission~~) board;

9 (c) Successful completion of an education and training program  
10 approved by the (~~commission~~) board by rule, such as the model  
11 medication assistant-certified curriculum adopted by the national  
12 council of state boards of nursing. The education and training  
13 program must include training on the specific tasks listed in  
14 subsection (2) of this section as well as training on identifying  
15 tasks that a medication assistant may not perform under subsection  
16 (4) of this section;

17 (d) Passage of an examination approved by the (~~commission~~)  
18 board by rule, such as the medication aide competency examination  
19 available through the national council of state boards of nursing;  
20 and

21 (e) Continuing competency requirements as defined in rule by the  
22 (~~commission~~) board.

23 (2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, a medication  
24 assistant may perform the following additional tasks:

25 (a) The administration of medications orally, topically, and  
26 through inhalation;

27 (b) The performance of simple prescriber-ordered treatments,  
28 including blood glucose monitoring, noncomplex clean dressing  
29 changes, pulse oximetry reading, and oxygen administration, to be  
30 defined by the (~~commission~~) board by rule; and

31 (c) The documentation of the tasks in this subsection (2) on  
32 applicable medication or treatment forms.

33 (3) A medication assistant may only perform the additional tasks  
34 in subsection (2) of this section:

35 (a) In a nursing home;

36 (b) Under the direct supervision of a designated registered nurse  
37 who is on-site and immediately accessible during the medication  
38 assistant's shift. The registered nurse shall assess the resident  
39 prior to the medication assistant administering medications or  
40 treatments and determine whether it is safe to administer the

1 medications or treatments. The judgment and decision to administer  
2 medications or treatments is retained by the registered nurse; and

3 (c) If, while functioning as a medication assistant, the primary  
4 responsibility of the medication assistant is performing the  
5 additional tasks. The (~~commission~~) board may adopt rules regarding  
6 the medication assistant's primary responsibilities and limiting the  
7 duties, within the scope of practice of a nursing assistant-  
8 certified, that a nursing assistant-certified may perform while  
9 functioning as a medication assistant.

10 (4) A medication assistant may not:

11 (a) Accept telephone or verbal orders from a prescriber;

12 (b) Calculate medication dosages;

13 (c) Inject any medications;

14 (d) Perform any sterile task;

15 (e) Administer medications through a tube;

16 (f) Administer any Schedule I, II, or III controlled substance;

17 or

18 (g) Perform any task that requires nursing judgment.

19 (5) Nothing in this section requires a nursing home to employ a  
20 nursing assistant-certified with a medication assistant endorsement.

21 (6) A medication assistant is responsible and accountable for his  
22 or her specific functions.

23 (7) A medication assistant's employer may limit or restrict the  
24 range of functions permitted under this section, but may not expand  
25 those functions.

26 **Sec. 10.** RCW 18.88A.085 and 2010 c 169 s 7 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 (1) (~~After January 1, 1990, the secretary~~) The board shall  
29 issue a nursing assistant certificate to any applicant who  
30 demonstrates to the (~~secretary's~~) board's satisfaction that the  
31 following requirements have been met:

32 (a) Successful completion of an approved training program or  
33 successful completion of alternative training meeting established  
34 criteria adopted by the (~~commission~~) board under RCW 18.88A.087;  
35 and

36 (b) Successful completion of the competency evaluation.

37 (2) In addition, applicants shall be subject to the grounds for  
38 denial of certification under chapter 18.130 RCW.

1       **Sec. 11.** RCW 18.88A.087 and 2021 c 203 s 17 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) The ~~((commission))~~ board shall adopt criteria for evaluating  
4 an applicant's alternative training to determine the applicant's  
5 eligibility to take the competency evaluation for nursing assistant  
6 certification. At least one option adopted by the ~~((commission))~~  
7 board must allow an applicant to take the competency evaluation if he  
8 or she:

9       (a) (i) Is a certified home care aide pursuant to chapter 18.88B  
10 RCW; or

11       (ii) Is a certified medical assistant pursuant to a certification  
12 program accredited by a national medical assistant accreditation  
13 organization and approved by the ~~((commission))~~ board; and

14       (b) Has successfully completed at least twenty-four hours of  
15 training that the ~~((commission))~~ board determines is necessary to  
16 provide training equivalent to approved training on topics not  
17 addressed in the training specified for certification as a home care  
18 aide or medical assistant, as applicable. In the ~~((commission's))~~  
19 board's discretion, a portion of these hours may include clinical  
20 training.

21       (2) (a) The ~~((commission))~~ board, in consultation with the  
22 secretary, the department of social and health services, and  
23 consumer, employer, and worker representatives, shall adopt rules to  
24 implement this section and to provide for a program of credentialing  
25 reciprocity to the extent required by this section between home care  
26 aide and medical assistant certification and nursing assistant  
27 certification. The secretary shall also adopt such rules as may be  
28 necessary to implement this section and the credentialing reciprocity  
29 program.

30       (b) Rules adopted under this section must be consistent with  
31 requirements under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395i-3(e) and (f) of the federal  
32 social security act relating to state-approved competency evaluation  
33 programs for certified nurse aides.

34       ~~((3) The secretary, in consultation with the commission, shall  
35 report annually by December 1st to the governor and the appropriate  
36 committees of the legislature on the progress made in achieving  
37 career advancement for certified home care aides and medical  
38 assistants into nursing practice.))~~

1       **Sec. 12.** RCW 18.88A.088 and 2011 c 32 s 10 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       An applicant with military training or experience satisfies the  
4 training or experience requirements of this chapter unless the  
5 (~~commission~~) board determines that the military training or  
6 experience is not substantially equivalent to the standards of this  
7 state.

8       **Sec. 13.** RCW 18.88A.090 and 2010 c 169 s 8 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10       (1) The (~~commission~~) board shall examine each applicant, by a  
11 written or oral and a manual component of competency evaluation. The  
12 competency evaluation shall be limited to the purpose of determining  
13 whether the applicant possesses the minimum skill and knowledge  
14 necessary to practice competently.

15       (2) Any applicant failing to make the required grade in the first  
16 competency evaluation may take up to three subsequent competency  
17 evaluations as the applicant desires upon prepaying a fee determined  
18 by the secretary under RCW 43.70.250 for each subsequent competency  
19 evaluation. Upon failing four competency evaluations, the secretary  
20 may invalidate the original application and require such remedial  
21 education before the person may take future competency evaluations.

22       The (~~commission~~) board may approve a competency evaluation  
23 prepared or administered by a private testing agency or association  
24 of licensing agencies for use by an applicant in meeting the  
25 credentialing requirements.

26       **Sec. 14.** RCW 18.88A.110 and 2010 c 169 s 9 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28       An applicant holding a credential in another state may be  
29 certified by endorsement to practice in this state without the  
30 competency evaluation if the (~~secretary~~) board determines that the  
31 other state's credentialing standards are substantially equivalent to  
32 the standards in this state.

33       **Sec. 15.** RCW 18.88A.120 and 2012 c 208 s 7 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35       Applications for registration, certification, and medication  
36 assistant endorsement shall be submitted on forms provided by the  
37 (~~secretary~~) board. The (~~secretary~~) board may require any

1 information and documentation that reasonably relates to the need to  
2 determine whether the applicant meets the criteria for registration,  
3 certification, and medication assistant endorsement credentialing  
4 provided for in this chapter and chapter 18.130 RCW. Each applicant  
5 shall comply with administrative procedures, administrative  
6 requirements, and fees determined by the secretary under RCW  
7 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

8 **Sec. 16.** RCW 18.88A.150 and 2012 c 208 s 9 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 The uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs  
11 unregistered, uncertified, or unendorsed practice, issuance of  
12 certificates, registrations, and medication assistant endorsements,  
13 and the discipline of persons registered or with certificates under  
14 this chapter. The ((secretary)) board shall be the disciplinary  
15 authority under this chapter.

16 **Sec. 17.** RCW 18.88A.210 and 2008 c 146 s 12 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) A nursing assistant meeting the requirements of this section  
19 who provides care to individuals in community-based care settings or  
20 in-home care settings, as defined in RCW 18.79.260(3), may accept  
21 delegation of nursing care tasks by a registered nurse as provided in  
22 RCW 18.79.260(3).

23 (2) For the purposes of this section, "nursing assistant" means a  
24 nursing assistant-registered or a nursing assistant-certified.  
25 Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the authority of  
26 nurses to delegate nursing tasks to other persons, including licensed  
27 practical nurses, as authorized by law.

28 (3)(a) Before commencing any specific nursing care tasks  
29 authorized under this chapter, the nursing assistant must (i) provide  
30 to the delegating nurse a certificate of completion issued by the  
31 department of social and health services indicating the completion of  
32 basic core nurse delegation training, (ii) be regulated by the  
33 department of health pursuant to this chapter, subject to the uniform  
34 disciplinary act under chapter 18.130 RCW, and (iii) meet any  
35 additional training requirements identified by the ((nursing care  
36 quality assurance commission)) board. Exceptions to these training  
37 requirements must adhere to RCW 18.79.260(3)(e)(vi).

1 (b) In addition to meeting the requirements of (a) of this  
2 subsection, before commencing the care of individuals with diabetes  
3 that involves administration of insulin by injection, the nursing  
4 assistant must provide to the delegating nurse a certificate of  
5 completion issued by the department of social and health services  
6 indicating completion of specialized diabetes nurse delegation  
7 training. The training must include, but is not limited to,  
8 instruction regarding diabetes, insulin, sliding scale insulin  
9 orders, and proper injection procedures.

10 **Sec. 18.** RCW 18.88B.060 and 2012 c 164 s 303 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) The department has the authority to:

13 (a) Establish forms, procedures, and examinations necessary to  
14 certify home care aides pursuant to this chapter;

15 (b) Hire clerical, administrative, and investigative staff as  
16 needed to implement this section;

17 (c) Issue certification as a home care aide to any applicant who  
18 has successfully completed the home care aide examination, and renew  
19 such certificates;

20 (d) Maintain the official record of all applicants and persons  
21 with certificates;

22 (e) Exercise disciplinary authority as authorized in chapter  
23 18.130 RCW, except that the state board of nursing has disciplinary  
24 authority over nursing assistants licensed under chapter 18.88A RCW  
25 working as long-term care workers under this chapter; and

26 (f) Deny certification to applicants who do not meet training,  
27 competency examination, and conduct requirements, including  
28 background checks, for certification.

29 (2) The department shall adopt rules that establish the  
30 procedures, including criteria for reviewing an applicant's state and  
31 federal background checks, and examinations necessary to implement  
32 this section.

33 **Sec. 19.** RCW 18.130.040 and 2024 c 362 s 8, 2024 c 217 s 7, and  
34 2024 c 50 s 5 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

35 (1) This chapter applies only to the secretary and the boards and  
36 commissions having jurisdiction in relation to the professions  
37 licensed under the chapters specified in this section. This chapter



1 does not apply to any business or profession not licensed under the  
2 chapters specified in this section.

3 (2) (a) The secretary has authority under this chapter in relation  
4 to the following professions:

5 (i) Dispensing opticians licensed and designated apprentices  
6 under chapter 18.34 RCW;

7 (ii) Midwives licensed under chapter 18.50 RCW;

8 (iii) Ocularists licensed under chapter 18.55 RCW;

9 (iv) Massage therapists and businesses licensed under chapter  
10 18.108 RCW;

11 (v) Dental hygienists licensed under chapter 18.29 RCW;

12 (vi) Acupuncturists or acupuncture and Eastern medicine  
13 practitioners licensed under chapter 18.06 RCW;

14 (vii) Radiologic technologists certified and X-ray technicians  
15 registered under chapter 18.84 RCW;

16 (viii) Respiratory care practitioners licensed under chapter  
17 18.89 RCW;

18 (ix) Hypnotherapists registered, agency affiliated counselors  
19 registered, certified, or licensed, and advisors and counselors  
20 certified under chapter 18.19 RCW;

21 (x) Persons licensed as mental health counselors, mental health  
22 counselor associates, marriage and family therapists, marriage and  
23 family therapist associates, social workers, social work associates—  
24 advanced, and social work associates—independent clinical under  
25 chapter 18.225 RCW;

26 (xi) Persons registered as nursing pool operators under chapter  
27 18.52C RCW;

28 ~~((Nursing assistants registered or certified or medication  
29 assistants endorsed under chapter 18.88A RCW;~~

30 ~~(~~xiii~~))~~ Dietitians and nutritionists certified under chapter  
31 18.138 RCW;

32 ~~((~~xiv~~))~~ (xiii) Substance use disorder professionals, substance  
33 use disorder professional trainees, or co-occurring disorder  
34 specialists certified under chapter 18.205 RCW;

35 ~~((~~xv~~))~~ (xiv) Sex offender treatment providers and certified  
36 affiliate sex offender treatment providers certified under chapter  
37 18.155 RCW;

38 ~~((~~xvi~~))~~ (xv) Persons licensed and certified under chapter 18.73  
39 RCW or RCW 18.71.205;

1       (~~(xvii)~~) (xvi) Orthotists and prosthetists licensed under  
2 chapter 18.200 RCW;

3       (~~(xviii)~~) (xvii) Surgical technologists registered under  
4 chapter 18.215 RCW;

5       (~~(xix)~~) (xviii) Recreational therapists under chapter 18.230  
6 RCW;

7       (~~(xx)~~) (xix) Animal massage therapists certified under chapter  
8 18.240 RCW;

9       (~~(xxi)~~) (xx) Athletic trainers licensed under chapter 18.250  
10 RCW;

11       (~~(xxii)~~) (xxi) Home care aides certified under chapter 18.88B  
12 RCW;

13       (~~(xxiii)~~) (xxii) Genetic counselors licensed under chapter  
14 18.290 RCW;

15       (~~(xxiv)~~) (xxiii) Reflexologists certified under chapter 18.108  
16 RCW;

17       (~~(xxv)~~) (xxiv) Medical assistants-certified, medical  
18 assistants-hemodialysis technician, medical assistants-phlebotomist,  
19 forensic phlebotomist, medical assistant-EMT, and medical assistants-  
20 registered certified and registered under chapter 18.360 RCW;

21       (~~(xxvi)~~) (xxv) Behavior analysts, assistant behavior analysts,  
22 and behavior technicians under chapter 18.380 RCW;

23       (~~(xxvii)~~) (xxvi) Birth doulas certified under chapter 18.47  
24 RCW;

25       (~~(xxviii)~~) (xxvii) Music therapists licensed under chapter  
26 18.233 RCW;

27       (~~(xxix)~~) (xxviii) Behavioral health support specialists  
28 certified under chapter 18.227 RCW; and

29       (~~(xxx)~~) (xxix) Certified peer specialists and certified peer  
30 specialist trainees under chapter 18.420 RCW.

31       (b) The boards and commissions having authority under this  
32 chapter are as follows:

33       (i) The podiatric medical board as established in chapter 18.22  
34 RCW;

35       (ii) The chiropractic quality assurance commission as established  
36 in chapter 18.25 RCW;

37       (iii) The dental quality assurance commission as established in  
38 chapter 18.32 RCW governing licenses issued under chapter 18.32 RCW,  
39 licenses and registrations issued under chapter 18.260 RCW, licenses

1 issued under chapter 18.265 RCW, and certifications issued under  
2 chapter 18.350 RCW;

3 (iv) The board of hearing and speech as established in chapter  
4 18.35 RCW;

5 (v) The board of examiners for nursing home administrators as  
6 established in chapter 18.52 RCW;

7 (vi) The optometry board as established in chapter 18.54 RCW  
8 governing licenses issued under chapter 18.53 RCW;

9 (vii) The board of osteopathic medicine and surgery as  
10 established in chapter 18.57 RCW governing licenses issued under  
11 chapter 18.57 RCW;

12 (viii) The pharmacy quality assurance commission as established  
13 in chapter 18.64 RCW governing licenses issued under chapters 18.64  
14 and 18.64A RCW;

15 (ix) The Washington medical commission as established in chapter  
16 18.71 RCW governing licenses and registrations issued under chapters  
17 18.71, 18.71A, and 18.71D RCW;

18 (x) The board of physical therapy as established in chapter 18.74  
19 RCW;

20 (xi) The board of occupational therapy practice as established in  
21 chapter 18.59 RCW;

22 (xii) The board of nursing as established in chapter 18.79 RCW  
23 governing licenses and registrations issued under that chapter and  
24 under chapter 18.80 RCW, and nursing assistants registered or  
25 certified or medication assistants endorsed under chapter 18.88A RCW;

26 (xiii) The examining board of psychology and its disciplinary  
27 committee as established in chapter 18.83 RCW;

28 (xiv) The veterinary board of governors as established in chapter  
29 18.92 RCW;

30 (xv) The board of naturopathy established in chapter 18.36A RCW,  
31 governing licenses and certifications issued under that chapter; and

32 (xvi) The board of denturists established in chapter 18.30 RCW.

33 (3) In addition to the authority to discipline license holders,  
34 the disciplining authority has the authority to grant or deny  
35 licenses. The disciplining authority may also grant a license subject  
36 to conditions, which must be in compliance with chapter 18.415 RCW.

37 (4) All disciplining authorities shall adopt procedures to ensure  
38 substantially consistent application of this chapter, the uniform  
39 disciplinary act, among the disciplining authorities listed in  
40 subsection (2) of this section.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 20.**    RCW 18.88A.100 (Waiver of examination for  
2    initial applications) and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 714 are each repealed.

3        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 21.**    (1) Sections 1 and 3 through 20 of this  
4    act take effect July 1, 2026.

5        (2) Section 2 of this act takes effect June 30, 2027.

6        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 22.**    Section 1 of this act expires June 30,  
7    2027.

Passed by the Senate February 7, 2025.

Passed by the House March 26, 2025.

Approved by the Governor April 4, 2025.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 7, 2025.

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