

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 1071

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to advanced registered nurse practitioners.

Brief Description: Concerning advanced registered nurse practitioners.

Sponsors: House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Green, Morrell, Dickerson and Kenney).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 1/22/09, 1/30/09 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/13/09, 95-0.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 4/7/09, 43-0.

House Concurred.

Passed House: 4/16/09, 97-0.

Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Grants specific authority to advanced registered nurse practitioners, working in mental health care, to recommend and provide certain treatment.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Driscoll, Vice Chair; Ericksen, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Campbell, Green, Herrera, Hinkle, Kelley, Moeller, Morrell and Pedersen.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146)

Background:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) are registered nurses with additional formal specialized training in areas such as pediatrics, midwifery, geriatrics, anesthesiology, and psychiatry. The ARNPs function more independently than registered nurses and assume primary responsibility and accountability for care of their patients. An ARNP can examine patients and establish medical diagnoses, admit patients to health care facilities, order and interpret lab tests, implement a plan of care for patients, prescribe medications and refer clients to other health care practitioners or facilities.

The Washington Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission recognizes a specialty designation for psychiatric nurse practitioners or clinical specialists in psychiatric-mental health nursing.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

Advanced registered nurse practitioners are specifically added to the list of mental health professionals who can recommend and provide certain mental health treatment.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Advanced registered nurse practitioners with a specialty in mental health are a valuable member of the mental health treatment team. With a shortage of psychiatrists, advanced registered nurse practitioners can perform critical mental health services efficiently and effectively.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Green, prime sponsor; Leslie Emerick, Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses; and Lisa Trigg, Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.