
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6115

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senate Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Keiser, Becker, Kastama, Conway, and Pflug)

READ FIRST TIME 01/26/12.

1 AN ACT Relating to the health care workforce; amending RCW
2 28C.18.120; reenacting and amending RCW 28C.18.010; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28B.20 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28C.18
4 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 35.21 RCW.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28C.18.010 and 2009 c 151 s 5 are each reenacted and
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
9 this section apply throughout this title.

10 (1) "Adult basic education" means instruction designed to achieve
11 mastery of skills in reading, writing, oral communication, and
12 computation at a level sufficient to allow the individual to function
13 effectively as a parent, worker, and citizen in the United States,
14 commensurate with that individual's actual ability level, and includes
15 English as a second language and preparation and testing service for
16 the general education development exam.

17 (2) "Board" means the workforce training and education coordinating
18 board.

1 (3) "Director" means the director of the workforce training and
2 education coordinating board.

3 (4) "Industry skill panel" means a regional partnership of
4 business, labor, and education leaders that identifies skill gaps in a
5 key economic cluster and enables the industry and public partners to
6 respond to and be proactive in addressing workforce skill needs.

7 (5) "Task force" means the health care personnel shortage task
8 force.

9 (6) "Training system" means programs and courses of secondary
10 vocational education, technical college programs and courses, community
11 college vocational programs and courses, private career school and
12 college programs and courses, employer-sponsored training, adult basic
13 education programs and courses, programs and courses funded by the
14 federal workforce investment act, programs and courses funded by the
15 federal vocational act, programs and courses funded under the federal
16 adult education act, publicly funded programs and courses for adult
17 literacy education, and apprenticeships, and programs and courses
18 offered by private and public nonprofit organizations that are
19 representative of communities or significant segments of communities
20 and provide job training or adult literacy services.

21 ((+6)) (7) "Vocational education" means organized educational
22 programs offering a sequence of courses which are directly related to
23 the preparation or retraining of individuals in paid or unpaid
24 employment in current or emerging occupations requiring other than a
25 baccalaureate or advanced degree. Such programs shall include
26 competency-based applied learning which contributes to an individual's
27 academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning, and problem-solving skills,
28 work attitudes, general employability skills, and the occupational-
29 specific skills necessary for economic independence as a productive and
30 contributing member of society. Such term also includes applied
31 technology education.

32 ((+7)) (8) "Workforce development council" means a local workforce
33 investment board as established in P.L. 105-220 Sec. 117.

34 ((+8)) (9) "Workforce skills" means skills developed through
35 applied learning that strengthen and reinforce an individual's academic
36 knowledge, critical thinking, problem solving, and work ethic and,
37 thereby, develop the employability, occupational skills, and management
38 of home and work responsibilities necessary for economic independence.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28C.18.120 and 2003 c 278 s 2 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 The board shall convene a health care personnel shortage task
4 force. The task force shall meet biannually to establish and maintain
5 a state strategic plan ensuring an adequate supply of health care
6 personnel and safeguarding the ability of the health care delivery
7 system in Washington state to provide quality, accessible health care
8 to Washington residents. The task force must:

9 (1) (~~Facilitate ongoing collaboration among stakeholders in~~
10 ~~order~~) Consist of stakeholders who shall work collaboratively with
11 each other and the board to address the health care personnel shortage.
12 The stakeholder groups are to be selected by the board, but must
13 include at least one representative of long-term care workers;

14 (2) (~~In collaboration with stakeholders, establish and maintain a~~
15 ~~state strategic plan for ensuring an adequate supply of health care~~
16 ~~personnel that safeguards the ability of the health care delivery~~
17 ~~system in Washington state to provide quality, accessible health care~~
18 ~~to residents of Washington; and~~) Work with the University of
19 Washington school of nursing to ensure that degree offerings and
20 elimination of programs, including changes to or elimination of the
21 school's midwife program, are in alignment with the state strategic
22 plan and that degree offerings are made with the goal of supporting the
23 social good and public health of the state;

24 (3) Make recommendations on development of a single web portal for
25 entry into the health care professions in order to recruit more
26 individuals into entry level health care occupations and promote
27 adequate preparation prior to entry;

28 (4) Identify ways to increase educational capacity and efficiency
29 in health care training programs to enable more people to qualify to
30 work in health care occupations. This must include methods to train
31 people currently in the workforce and development of a career ladder to
32 move people from entry level health care occupations to positions that
33 require more training and experience;

34 (5) Identify ways to monitor, manage, and retain critical
35 professions where they are most needed. Recommendations may include:

36 (a) Creation of new professions in both dental and medical fields
37 that are trained and compensated for work in underserved communities;
38 and

1 (b) Ways to coordinate between health professions, education and
2 training opportunities including apprenticeships, and ways to expand
3 use of professionals trained in other states;

4 (6) Examine the scope of practice of health care licensees to
5 ensure that licensees work at the top of the scope of their licenses
6 and also issue recommendations on scope of practice issues as they
7 relate to ensuring an adequate supply of qualified health care
8 personnel. The task force may assist the department of health in
9 performing sunrise reviews relating to scope of practice;

10 (7) Develop a data collection and analysis system to assist health
11 workforce supply and demand;

12 (8) Enable local communities to implement strategies to alleviate
13 the health care personnel shortage in their areas. This includes
14 assisting local fire departments in developing a community worker
15 program under section 6 of this act;

16 (9) Develop a mechanism to ensure continued collaboration among
17 stakeholders, track progress, create accountability, and to plan for
18 future health workforce needs;

19 (10) Investigate other activities as the task force deems necessary
20 to develop a qualified health care workforce;

21 (11) Coordinate grant activity as provided in section 5 of this
22 act; and

23 (12) Report to the governor and legislature by December 31, 2003,
24 and annually thereafter, on progress on the state strategic plan and
25 make additional recommendations as necessary.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28B.20 RCW
27 to read as follows:

28 The University of Washington school of nursing must consult with
29 the health care personnel shortage task force as described in RCW
30 28C.18.120. This consultation must be made when the school of nursing
31 makes changes to degree requirements or proposes to eliminate or add
32 degree offerings. Any change, elimination, or addition to a degree
33 program must be in accordance with the health care personnel shortage
34 task force's state strategic plan and must further the social good and
35 public health of the people in the state of Washington.

1 (3) In developing a community assistance referral and education
2 services program, a fire department may consult with the health care
3 personnel shortage task force to identify health care professions
4 capable of working in a nontraditional setting and providing
5 assistance, referral, and education services.

6 (4) Community assistance referral and education services programs
7 implemented under this section must, at least annually, measure any
8 reduction of repeated use of the 911 emergency system and any reduction
9 in avoidable emergency room trips attributable to implementation of the
10 program. Results of findings under this subsection are reportable to
11 the legislature or other local governments upon request.

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