
SENATE BILL 6170

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Becker, Pedersen, Cleveland, Hasegawa, McCoy, Kohl-
Welles, Frockt, McAuliffe, and Kline

Read first time 01/16/14. Referred to Committee on Health Care .

1 AN ACT Relating to continuing education related to cultural
2 competency for health care professionals; amending RCW 43.70.615; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) For purposes of this section, "disciplining authority" means
8 the regulatory entities identified in RCW 18.130.040 and authorized to
9 establish continuing education requirements for the health care
10 professions governed by those regulatory entities.

11 (2)(a) By July 1, 2016, a disciplining authority must adopt rules
12 requiring a person authorized to practice the profession regulated by
13 the disciplining authority to receive cultural competency continuing
14 education training. A disciplining authority may consult with
15 individuals or organizations having expertise in health disparities or
16 with the department of health in the development of these rules.

17 (b) Cultural competency continuing education courses may be taken
18 in addition to or, if a disciplining authority determines a cultural

1 competency continuing education course fulfills existing continuing
2 education requirements, in place of other continuing education
3 requirements imposed by the disciplining authority.

4 (3)(a) By July 1, 2015, the department of health must approve,
5 develop, and make available to each disciplining authority a list of
6 continuing education opportunities related to cultural competency. The
7 continuing education opportunities may include, but are not limited to,
8 the following:

- 9 (i) Courses delivered either in person or electronically;
- 10 (ii) Experiential learning such as cultural or linguistic
11 immersion;
- 12 (iii) Service learning; or
- 13 (iv) Specially designed cultural experiences.

14 (b) The continuing education opportunities must teach attitudes,
15 knowledge, and skills that enable a health care professional to care
16 effectively for patients from diverse cultures, groups, and communities
17 including, but not limited to, the following:

- 18 (i) Applying linguistic skills to communicate effectively with
19 patients from diverse cultures, groups, and communities; and
- 20 (ii) Using cultural information to establish therapeutic
21 relationships; and
- 22 (iii) Eliciting, understanding, and applying cultural and ethnic
23 data in the process of clinical care.

24 (c) The department of health may collaborate with or award grant
25 funding to a public or private entity with an expertise in cultural
26 competency or health disparities to develop the list of or offer
27 approved continued education opportunities related to cultural
28 competency.

29 (4) The department of health may accept gifts, grants, or
30 contributions from any public or private source to carry out this
31 section. The department must deposit moneys received under this
32 subsection into the health professions account created in RCW
33 43.70.320.

34 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.70.615 and 2006 c 237 s 2 are each amended to read
35 as follows:

36 (1) For the purposes of this section, "multicultural health" means
37 the provision of health care services with the knowledge and awareness

1 of the causes and effects of the determinants of health that lead to
2 disparities in health status between different genders and racial and
3 ethnic populations and the practice skills necessary to respond
4 appropriately.

5 (2) The department, in consultation with the disciplining
6 authorities as defined in RCW 18.130.040, shall establish, within
7 available department general funds, an ongoing multicultural health
8 awareness and education program as an integral part of its health
9 professions regulation. The purpose of the education program is to
10 raise awareness and educate health care professionals regarding the
11 knowledge, attitudes, and practice skills necessary to care for diverse
12 populations to achieve a greater understanding of the relationship
13 between culture and health. ~~((The disciplining authorities having the
14 authority to offer continuing education may provide training in the
15 dynamics of providing culturally competent, multicultural health care
16 to diverse populations.))~~ Any such education shall be developed in
17 collaboration with education programs that train students in that
18 health profession. ~~((A disciplining authority may require that
19 instructors of continuing education or continuing competency programs
20 integrate multicultural health into their curricula when it is
21 appropriate to the subject matter of the instruction.))~~ No funds from
22 the health professions account may be utilized to fund activities under
23 this section unless the disciplining authority authorizes expenditures
24 from its proportions of the account. ~~((A disciplining authority may
25 defray costs by authorizing a fee to be charged for participants or
26 materials relating to any sponsored program.))~~

27 (3) By July 1, 2008, each education program with a curriculum to
28 train health professionals for employment in a profession credentialed
29 by a disciplining authority under chapter 18.130 RCW shall integrate
30 into the curriculum instruction in multicultural health as part of its
31 basic education preparation curriculum. The department may not deny
32 the application of any applicant for a credential to practice a health
33 profession on the basis that the education or training program that the
34 applicant successfully completed did not include integrated
35 multicultural health curriculum as part of its basic instruction.

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