
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6061

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Becker and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring training standards in providing
2 telemedicine services; and amending RCW 43.70.495.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.70.495 and 2019 c 48 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that a large segment of Washington
7 residents do not have access to critical health care services.
8 Telemedicine is a way to increase access to health care services to
9 those who would otherwise not have reasonable access. The legislature
10 therefore intends to ensure that health care professionals who
11 provide services through telemedicine, as defined in RCW 70.41.020,
12 in cities and rural areas alike, have current information available,
13 making it possible for them to provide telemedicine services to the
14 entire state of Washington.

15 (2) (~~Beginning~~) Except as permitted under subsection (3) of
16 this section, beginning January 1, ((2020)) 2021, a health care
17 professional who provides clinical services through telemedicine
18 ((may)), other than a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW or
19 an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, shall
20 complete a telemedicine training. By January 1, 2020, the
21 telemedicine collaborative shall make a telemedicine training

1 available on its web site for use by health care professionals who
2 use telemedicine technology. If a health care professional completes
3 the training, the health care professional shall sign and retain an
4 attestation. The training:

5 (a) Must include information on current state and federal law,
6 liability, informed consent, and other criteria established by the
7 collaborative for the advancement of telemedicine, in collaboration
8 with the department and the Washington state medical quality
9 assurance commission;

10 (b) Must include a question and answer methodology to demonstrate
11 accrual of knowledge; and

12 (c) May be made available in electronic format and completed over
13 the internet.

14 (3) (~~The training may be incorporated into existing telemedicine~~
15 ~~training programs, provided that the training meets the requirements~~
16 ~~in subsection (2) of this section.)) A health care professional is
17 deemed to have met the requirements of subsection (2) of this section
18 if the health care professional:~~

19 (a) Completes an alternative telemedicine training; and

20 (b) Signs and retains an attestation that he or she completed the
21 alternative telemedicine training.

22 (4) (~~For purposes of this section, a "health~~) The definitions
23 in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context
24 clearly requires otherwise.

25 (a) "Alternative telemedicine training" means training that
26 includes components that are substantively similar to the
27 telemedicine training developed by the telemedicine collaborative
28 under subsection (2) of this section. "Alternative telemedicine
29 training" may include, but is not limited to:

30 (i) Training offered by hospitals and other health care
31 facilities to employees of the facility;

32 (ii) Continuing education courses; and

33 (iii) Trainings developed by a health care professional board or
34 commission.

35 (b) "Health care professional" means a person licensed,
36 registered, or certified to provide health services.

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