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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6626

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Conway, O'Ban, Hunt, Zeiger, Hobbs, Becker, Randall, Short, Brown, and Wagoner

Read first time 01/27/20. Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the position of military spouse  
2 liaison; amending RCW 43.70.250; adding a new section to chapter  
3 43.60A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.60A  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The position of military spouse liaison is created within the  
8 department.

9 (2) The duties of the military spouse liaison include, but are  
10 not limited to:

11 (a) Conducting outreach to and advocating on behalf of military  
12 spouses in Washington;

13 (b) Providing assistance and information to military spouses  
14 seeking professional licenses and credentials or other employment in  
15 Washington;

16 (c) Coordinating research on issues facing military spouses and  
17 creating informational materials to assist military spouses and their  
18 families;

19 (d) Examining barriers and providing recommendations to assist  
20 spouses in accessing high quality child care and developing resources  
21 in coordination with military installations and the department of

1 children, youth, and families to increase access to high quality  
2 child care for military families; and

3 (e) Developing, in coordination with the employment security  
4 department and employers, a common form for military spouses to  
5 complete highlighting specific skills, education, and training to  
6 help spouses quickly find meaningful employment in relevant economic  
7 sectors.

8 (3) The military spouse liaison is encouraged to periodically  
9 report on the work of the liaison to the relevant standing committees  
10 of the legislature and the joint committee on veterans' and military  
11 affairs and participate in policy development relating to military  
12 spouses.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.70.250 and 2019 c 415 s 966 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (1) It shall be the policy of the state of Washington that the  
16 cost of each professional, occupational, or business licensing  
17 program be fully borne by the members of that profession, occupation,  
18 or business.

19 (2) The secretary shall from time to time establish the amount of  
20 all application fees, license fees, registration fees, examination  
21 fees, permit fees, renewal fees, and any other fee associated with  
22 licensing or regulation of professions, occupations, or businesses  
23 administered by the department. Any and all fees or assessments, or  
24 both, levied on the state to cover the costs of the operations and  
25 activities of the interstate health professions licensure compacts  
26 with participating authorities listed under chapter 18.130 RCW shall  
27 be borne by the persons who hold licenses issued pursuant to the  
28 authority and procedures established under the compacts. All spouses  
29 or state-registered domestic partners of service members of any  
30 branch of the United States armed forces, national guard, or armed  
31 forces reserves shall have application fees, license fees, and any  
32 other fees associated with licensing waived by the department. In  
33 fixing said fees, the secretary shall set the fees for each program  
34 at a sufficient level to defray the costs of administering that  
35 program and the cost of regulating licensed volunteer medical workers  
36 in accordance with RCW 18.130.360, except as provided in RCW  
37 18.79.202. In no case may the secretary increase a licensing fee for  
38 an ambulatory surgical facility licensed under chapter 70.230 RCW  
39 during the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium, nor may he or she commence the

1 adoption of rules to increase a licensing fee during the 2019-2021  
2 fiscal biennium.

3 (3) All such fees shall be fixed by rule adopted by the secretary  
4 in accordance with the provisions of the administrative procedure  
5 act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The nursing care quality assurance  
7 commission shall work with the national council of state boards of  
8 nursing and the national licensure compact administrators to develop  
9 a plan and timeline to address elements of the nurse licensure  
10 compact that currently fail to address concerns regarding:

11 (a) The financing mechanisms of the interstate compact and how  
12 state licensing fees from a multistate license are spent by the  
13 compact's governing authority;

14 (b) What educational and continuing education criteria an  
15 applicant must meet to receive a multistate licensure through the  
16 nurse licensure compact, especially when a state legislature has  
17 determined certain topics to be necessary and therefore required for  
18 nurses or all health care professionals;

19 (c) How the national council for the state boards of nursing and  
20 the national licensure compact administrators ensure their applicants  
21 and licensees understand what practice rules apply when practicing  
22 outside the home state;

23 (d) How the national council for the state boards of nursing and  
24 the national licensure compact administrators track where multistate  
25 licensees are practicing; and

26 (e) What data the interstate national council for the state  
27 boards of nursing and the national licensure compact administrators  
28 can provide to show that interstate compacts are increasing access to  
29 care, helping with health profession shortages in certain states, and  
30 improving protection of the public.

31 (2) The nursing care quality assurance commission shall report to  
32 the legislature on progress on the above topics by December 1, 2021.

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