

Health Workforce Council 2025 Legislative Update

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HB 1114 – Respiratory Care Compact

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Leavitt

- Authorizes Washington to participate in the multi-state respiratory care interstate compact with compact privilege model
 - Compact not yet active



Youth healthcare employment

HB 1414 (Connors) – Access to career opportunities for students

- Expands the CTE Taskforce created in 2024
- Directs the taskforce to recommend changes to laws/rules/practices that pose a barrier for students who have enrolled or completed CTE programs to enter employment

HB 1722 (Connors) – State restrictions on 16-17 year old students

- Requires DOH to create a process to allow students 16 and older to begin EMT training under some circumstances
- LNI cannot prohibit minors from working in an occupation based on bodily fluid exposure risk if they hold license or certificate from DOH that includes relevant risk prevention training
 - Bill is mainly targeted to EMS and firefighting, but the LNI change would apply to any DOH license/certification



HB 1427 – Certified peer support specialists

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Davis

- Changes the name of the profession to certified peer support specialist
- Directs HCA to contract to:
 - Develop supplemental courses related to domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking
 - Develop ways to expand access to peer support services through a variety of mechanisms
- Requires access to peer services in an MCO's network be given significant weight during procurement for Medicaid services



SB 5051 – Regulation of nursing assistants

Prime Sponsor: Sen. Bateman

- Moves disciplinary authority for the nursing assistant profession from DOH to Washington Board of Nursing
- Expands WABON by adding two positions
 - Two members must be certified nursing assistants
 - One member must be an RN or LPN and a program director or educator in an NA training program

Prime Sponsor: Sen. Valdez

- Makes changes to limited licenses from the Washington Medical Commission for international medical graduates who have not completed graduate medical education
 - One year residency requirement is removed
 - IMGs must only complete steps 1 and 2 of the US Medical Licensing Exam to be eligible
 - Limited licensed may be renewed up to three times, for a total of 8 years



SB 5663 – Online CTC course offerings

Prime Sponsor: Sen. Slatter

- Allows community and technical colleges to distribute information about their online course offerings outside their district



Council recommendations to policymakers

- Maintain funding to support behavioral health and other health professional loan repayment awards in Washington Health Corps
- Dedicate funds to complete the evaluation of the WHC
- Require eligible healthcare employers to provide educational materials about Public Service Loan Forgiveness to employees; Office of Student Loan Advocate provide outreach to eligible employers
- Address childcare, affordable housing, transportation needs

Questions?

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