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**HOUSE BILL 1255**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Simmons and Harris

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing stigma and incentivizing health care  
2 professionals licensed by the Washington state nursing care quality  
3 assurance commission to participate in a substance use disorder  
4 monitoring and treatment program; and adding a new section to chapter  
5 18.79 RCW.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.79  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The department or commission may not post information  
10 regarding an enforcement action taken by the commission against a  
11 person licensed under this chapter, including any supporting  
12 documents or indication that the enforcement action was taken, on any  
13 public website when the following conditions are met:

14 (a) In connection with the enforcement action, the person has  
15 been required by an order or agreement with the commission to contact  
16 a commission-approved substance use disorder monitoring program  
17 authorized by RCW 18.130.175, and if recommended by the program, to  
18 contract with and participate in the program;

19 (b) The commission has found that the person has substantially  
20 complied with the terms of the order or agreement; and

1 (c) If the website is a third-party website, the department or  
2 commission has the ability to prevent information regarding the  
3 enforcement action from being posted on the public website.

4 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
5 specific purpose, the commission shall establish a stipend program to  
6 defray the out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with  
7 participation in the commission's approved substance use disorder  
8 monitoring program authorized by RCW 18.130.175.

9 (3) To be eligible for the stipend program, a person must:

10 (a) Hold an active, inactive, or suspended license issued  
11 pursuant to this chapter;

12 (b) Submit an application on forms provided by the commission;

13 (c) Be actively participating in the commission's approved  
14 substance use disorder monitoring program or have completed the  
15 commission's approved substance use disorder monitoring program  
16 within six months of submission of an application for the stipend  
17 program; and

18 (d) Have a demonstrated need for financial assistance with the  
19 expenses incurred in connection with participation in the  
20 commission's approved substance use disorder monitoring program.

21 (4) Out-of-pocket expenses eligible for defrayment under this  
22 section include the costs of substance use evaluation, treatment, and  
23 other ancillary services, including drug testing, participation in  
24 professional peer support groups, and any other expenses deemed  
25 appropriate by the commission.

26 (5) A person participating in the stipend program established in  
27 this section shall document their out-of-pocket expenses in a manner  
28 specified by the commission.

29 (6) The commission shall establish the stipend program no later  
30 than July 1, 2024.

31 (7) The commission may adopt rules necessary to implement this  
32 section.

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