
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1255

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Simmons, Harris, Peterson, Reed, Riccelli, Macri, Bateman, and Doglio)

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) A person is not eligible for the stipend program if they have
22 previously applied for and participated in the stipend program.

23 (5) The commission may defray up to 80 percent of each out-of-
24 pocket expense deemed eligible for defrayment under this section.

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

30 (7) A person participating in the stipend program established in
31 this section shall document their out-of-pocket expenses in a manner
32 specified by the commission.

33 (8) The commission must provide updated information on its
34 website regarding the total number of individuals that have
35 participated in the stipend program, the average total amount of
36 eligible expenses defrayed for each participant, the aggregated total
37 amount of expenses that have been defrayed for all individuals that
38 have participated in the stipend program, and the amount of funds
39 available for the stipend program.

1 (9) The commission shall establish the stipend program no later
2 than July 1, 2024.

3 (10) The commission may adopt rules necessary to implement this
4 section.

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