
HOUSE BILL 2807

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Walsh and Blake

1 AN ACT Relating to the treatment of patients with chronic pain;
2 adding a new section to chapter 18.22 RCW; adding a new section to
3 chapter 18.32 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.57 RCW; adding
4 a new section to chapter 18.57A RCW; adding a new section to chapter
5 18.71 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.71A RCW; adding a new
6 section to chapter 18.79 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington
9 residents suffering from chronic pain are unable to obtain necessary
10 prescription medications at effective doses to treat their pain
11 because previous opioid-related laws and rules have created a
12 chilling effect among health care practitioners. These health care
13 practitioners are afraid of facing discipline, losing their license
14 to practice, and of possible civil liability if they prescribe high
15 doses of opioids to patients with chronic pain.

16 Therefore, the legislature intends to end the chilling effect
17 created by these laws to allow patients in Washington with chronic
18 pain to receive prescription medications at levels that effectively
19 treat their pain.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.22
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 No podiatric physician and surgeon licensed under this chapter
4 acting in good faith may be subject to civil liability or
5 disciplinary action by the board or department for prescribing opioid
6 drugs in excess or in violation of department and board rules to a
7 patient with chronic pain who has requested such a prescription and
8 has provided written informed consent.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.32
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 No dentist licensed under this chapter acting in good faith may
12 be subject to civil liability or disciplinary action by the
13 commission or department of health for prescribing opioid drugs in
14 excess or in violation of department and commission rules to a
15 patient with chronic pain who has requested such a prescription and
16 has provided written informed consent.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.57
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 No osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under this chapter
20 acting in good faith may be subject to civil liability or
21 disciplinary action by the board or department for prescribing opioid
22 drugs in excess or in violation of department and board rules to a
23 patient with chronic pain who has requested such a prescription and
24 has provided written informed consent.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 18.57A
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 No osteopathic physician's assistant licensed under this chapter
28 acting in good faith may be subject to civil liability or
29 disciplinary action by the board or department of health for
30 prescribing opioid drugs in excess or in violation of department and
31 board rules to a patient with chronic pain who has requested such a
32 prescription and has provided written informed consent.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 18.71
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 No physician licensed under this chapter acting in good faith may
36 be subject to civil liability or disciplinary action by the

1 commission or department of health for prescribing opioid drugs in
2 excess or in violation of department and commission rules to a
3 patient with chronic pain who has requested such a prescription and
4 has provided written informed consent.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 18.71A
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 No physician assistant licensed under this chapter acting in good
8 faith may be subject to civil liability or disciplinary action by the
9 commission or department for prescribing opioid drugs in excess or in
10 violation of department and commission rules to a patient with
11 chronic pain who has requested such a prescription and has provided
12 written informed consent.

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

15 No advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under this
16 chapter acting in good faith may be subject to civil liability or
17 disciplinary action by the commission or department for prescribing
18 opioid drugs in excess or in violation of department and commission
19 rules to a patient with chronic pain who has requested such a
20 prescription and has provided written informed consent.

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