

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESHB 1503

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Health & Long Term Care, March 16, 2023

Title: An act relating to the collection of health care professionals' information at the time of license application and license renewal.

Brief Description: Collecting health care professionals' information at the time of license application and license renewal.

Sponsors: House Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce (originally sponsored by Representatives Riccelli, Santos, Reeves, Macri and Reed).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/8/23, 94-0.

Committee Activity: Health & Long Term Care: 3/14/23, 3/16/23 [DPA].

Brief Summary of Amended Bill

- Requires health professionals to submit demographic information upon initial licensure and renewal.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Cleveland, Chair; Robinson, Vice Chair; Rivers, Ranking Member; Muzzall, Assistant Ranking Member; Conway, Dhingra, Holy, Padden, Randall and Van De Wege.

Staff: Andie Parnell (786-7439)

Background: Health Professions. The Department of Health (DOH) certifies, licenses, and regulates health professions in Washington State. Some of these health professions have their own governing boards, commissions, or advisory committees, such as the Washington Medical Commission (WMC). WMC regulates licenses for physician assistants, physicians,

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and surgeons in Washington State. WMC establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensure, consistent standards of practice and continuing competency.

Most disciplining authorities do not collect demographic information from licensees, upon initial licensure or renewal. WMC, however, is required to collect demographic data on physicians and physician assistants at the time of license renewal. The information may include practice setting, medical specialty, board certification, or other relevant data determined by WMC. WMC's form for submitting this information requests information on race, ethnicity, gender, spoken language, and specialty.

School District Reporting. All school districts in Washington must submit student-level data to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Reporting must comply with federal race and ethnicity reporting guidelines, and include the subracial and subethnic categories within those guidelines with the following modifications:

- disaggregate the Black category to differentiate students of African origin and students native to the United States with African ancestors;
- disaggregate countries of origin for Asian students;
- disaggregate the White category to include subethnic categories for Eastern European nationalities that have significant populations in Washington; and
- for students who report as multiracial, collection of their racial and ethnic combination of categories.

Student data-related reports required of OSPI must be disaggregated by certain ethnic and racial categories, including White, Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, and Pacific Islander/Hawaiian Native.

Summary of Amended Bill: All applicants for licensure on or after January 1, 2025, must provide the following information with their application:

- race;
- ethnicity;
- gender;
- languages spoken;
- provider specialty, where applicable;
- primary practice location, if known at the time of application; and
- secondary practice location, if applicable and if known at the time of application.

All license holders must provide the following information when they renew their licenses on or after January 1, 2025, in addition to any other information required by the relevant disciplining authority:

- the demographic information required with initial licensure application, except, after license holders provide this information one time, they must be required to provide only changes to this information with subsequent renewals;
- whether the licensee is currently practicing;
- primary practice location at the time of renewal; and

- secondary practice location at the time of renewal, if applicable.

The demographic information form must include the same race and ethnicity categories and subgroups required for the collection of student-level data.

These requirements do not apply to health professionals licensed by WMC.

EFFECT OF HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT(S):

- Prohibits DOH from ever selling information collected about health professionals from license applications or license renewals.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Engrossed Substitute House Bill: *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: Washington currently lacks comprehensive demographic information on health professionals licensed in the state. This information is necessary for understanding the racial and ethnic diversity in our health profession workforce. Having access to this information is important for referring patients to diverse providers that they trust, and that understand the patient's background. This is an important health equity measure to increase treatment and acceptance.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Marcus Riccelli, Prime Sponsor; Lolinda Turner, Delta Dental of WA; Renee Fullerton, Health Workforce Council.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.