
SENATE BILL 5222

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Randall, Cleveland, and Keiser

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring health carriers to reimburse
2 advanced registered nurse practitioners at the same rate as
3 physicians for the same services; adding a new section to chapter
4 48.43 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Given the gravity of the COVID-19 crisis
7 and the threat future pandemics present to the residents of
8 Washington, the legislature recognizes the importance of supporting
9 health care practitioners throughout the state. This act intends to
10 help maintain a sufficient number of health care providers,
11 especially in underserved and rural communities, by requiring health
12 carriers to reimburse advanced registered nurse practitioners and
13 physicians the same rate for providing the same health care services.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) For health plans issued or renewed on or after January 1,
17 2022, a health carrier may not reimburse a contracted health care
18 practitioner who is an advanced registered nurse practitioner
19 licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW in an amount less than the allowed
20 amount that the health carrier would reimburse for the same service

1 if provided by a contracted provider who is a physician licensed
2 under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW in the same service area as defined
3 in WAC 284-43-0160.

4 (2) A health carrier may not reduce the reimbursement amount paid
5 to physicians licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW to comply
6 with this section.

7 (3) This section does not apply to advanced registered nurse
8 practitioners who are employees of a health maintenance organization
9 regulated under chapter 48.46 RCW.

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