
HOUSE BILL 1937

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representative Shavers

Prefiled 12/13/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring certain health care providers to
2 report suspected victims of human trafficking to law enforcement;
3 adding new sections to chapter 18.36A RCW; adding new sections to
4 chapter 18.57 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 18.71 RCW; adding
5 new sections to chapter 18.71A RCW; adding new sections to chapter
6 18.79 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 18.88A RCW; adding a new
7 section to chapter 70.41 RCW; creating a new section; and providing
8 an expiration date.

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

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.36A
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) When any naturopath licensed under this chapter has
13 reasonable cause to believe that a patient is a victim of trafficking
14 under RCW 9A.40.100, the naturopath shall report the naturopath's
15 reasonable suspicion, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law
16 enforcement agency if a report is not required under RCW 26.44.030 or
17 74.34.035. A report under this subsection must be made as soon as
18 reasonably practicable.

19 (2) A naturopath who, in good faith and without gross negligence,
20 reports suspected trafficking under this section is immune from civil
21 liability, criminal liability, or an action against the naturopath's

1 license under this chapter or chapter 18.130 RCW, the uniform
2 disciplinary act, arising from, or related to, the report.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.36A
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The office of crime victims advocacy shall supply the board with
6 information on methods of recognizing victims of human trafficking,
7 what services are available for these victims, and where to report
8 potential trafficking situations. The information supplied must be
9 culturally sensitive and must include information relating to minor
10 victims. The board shall disseminate this information to licensees
11 by: Providing the information on the board's website; including the
12 information in newsletters; holding trainings at meetings attended by
13 organization members; or another distribution method determined by
14 the board. The board shall report to the office of crime victims
15 advocacy on the method or methods it uses to distribute information
16 under this section.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.57
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) When any physician licensed under this chapter has reasonable
20 cause to believe that a patient is a victim of trafficking under RCW
21 9A.40.100, the physician shall report the physician's reasonable
22 suspicion, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law
23 enforcement agency if a report is not required under RCW 26.44.030 or
24 74.34.035. A report under this subsection must be made as soon as
25 reasonably practicable.

26 (2) A physician who, in good faith and without gross negligence,
27 reports suspected trafficking under this section is immune from civil
28 liability, criminal liability, or an action against the physician's
29 license under this chapter or chapter 18.130 RCW, the uniform
30 disciplinary act, arising from, or related to, the report.

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

33 The office of crime victims advocacy shall supply the board with
34 information on methods of recognizing victims of human trafficking,
35 what services are available for these victims, and where to report
36 potential trafficking situations. The information supplied must be
37 culturally sensitive and must include information relating to minor

1 victims. The board shall disseminate this information to licensees
2 by: Providing the information on the board's website; including the
3 information in newsletters; holding trainings at meetings attended by
4 organization members; or another distribution method determined by
5 the board. The board shall report to the office of crime victims
6 advocacy on the method or methods it uses to distribute information
7 under this section.

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

10 (1) When any physician licensed under this chapter has reasonable
11 cause to believe that a patient is a victim of trafficking under RCW
12 9A.40.100, the physician shall report the physician's reasonable
13 suspicion, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law
14 enforcement agency if a report is not required under RCW 26.44.030 or
15 74.34.035. A report under this subsection must be made as soon as
16 reasonably practicable.

17 (2) A physician who, in good faith and without gross negligence,
18 reports suspected trafficking under this section is immune from civil
19 liability, criminal liability, or an action against the physician's
20 license under this chapter or chapter 18.130 RCW, the uniform
21 disciplinary act, arising from, or related to, the report.

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

24 (1) When any physician assistant licensed under this chapter has
25 reasonable cause to believe that a patient is a victim of trafficking
26 under RCW 9A.40.100, the physician assistant shall report the
27 physician assistant's reasonable suspicion, or cause a report to be
28 made, to the proper law enforcement agency if a report is not
29 required under RCW 26.44.030 or 74.34.035. A report under this
30 subsection must be made as soon as reasonably practicable.

31 (2) A physician assistant who, in good faith and without gross
32 negligence, reports suspected trafficking under this section is
33 immune from civil liability, criminal liability, or an action against
34 the physician assistant's license under this chapter or chapter
35 18.130 RCW, the uniform disciplinary act, arising from, or related
36 to, the report.

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

3 The office of crime victims advocacy shall supply the commission
4 with information on methods of recognizing victims of human
5 trafficking, what services are available for these victims, and where
6 to report potential trafficking situations. The information supplied
7 must be culturally sensitive and must include information relating to
8 minor victims. The commission shall disseminate this information to
9 licensees by: Providing the information on the commission's website;
10 including the information in newsletters; holding trainings at
11 meetings attended by organization members; or another distribution
12 method determined by the commission. The commission shall report to
13 the office of crime victims advocacy on the method or methods it uses
14 to distribute information under this section.

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

17 (1) When any licensed practical nurse, nursing technician,
18 registered nurse, or advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed
19 under this chapter has reasonable cause to believe that a patient is
20 a victim of trafficking under RCW 9A.40.100, the licensed practical
21 nurse, nursing technician, registered nurse, or advanced registered
22 nurse practitioner shall report the licensed practical nurse's,
23 nursing technician's, registered nurse's, or advanced registered
24 nurse practitioner's reasonable suspicion, or cause a report to be
25 made, to the proper law enforcement agency if a report is not
26 required under RCW 26.44.030 or 74.34.035. A report under this
27 subsection must be made as soon as reasonably practicable.

28 (2) A licensed practical nurse, nursing technician, registered
29 nurse, or advanced registered nurse practitioner who, in good faith
30 and without gross negligence, reports suspected trafficking under
31 this section is immune from civil liability, criminal liability, or
32 an action against the licensed practical nurse's, nursing
33 technician's, registered nurse's, or advanced registered nurse
34 practitioner's license under this chapter or chapter 18.130 RCW, the
35 uniform disciplinary act, arising from, or related to, the report.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 18.79
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 The office of crime victims advocacy shall supply the board with
2 information on methods of recognizing victims of human trafficking,
3 what services are available for these victims, and where to report
4 potential trafficking situations. The information supplied must be
5 culturally sensitive and must include information relating to minor
6 victims. The board shall disseminate this information to licensed
7 practical nurses, nursing technicians, registered nurses, and
8 advanced registered nurse practitioners by: Providing the information
9 on the board's website; including the information in newsletters;
10 holding trainings at meetings attended by organization members; or
11 another distribution method determined by the board. The board shall
12 report to the office of crime victims advocacy on the method or
13 methods it uses to distribute information under this section.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 18.88A
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) When any nursing assistant registered under this chapter has
17 reasonable cause to believe that a patient is a victim of trafficking
18 under RCW 9A.40.100, the nursing assistant shall report the nursing
19 assistant's reasonable suspicion, or cause a report to be made, to
20 the proper law enforcement agency if a report is not required under
21 RCW 26.44.030 or 74.34.035. A report under this subsection must be
22 made as soon as reasonably practicable.

23 (2) A nursing assistant who, in good faith and without gross
24 negligence, reports suspected trafficking under this section is
25 immune from civil liability, criminal liability, or an action against
26 the nursing assistant's registration under this chapter or chapter
27 18.130 RCW, the uniform disciplinary act, arising from, or related
28 to, the report.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 18.88A
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 The office of crime victims advocacy shall supply the secretary
32 with information on methods of recognizing victims of human
33 trafficking, what services are available for these victims, and where
34 to report potential trafficking situations. The information supplied
35 must be culturally sensitive and must include information relating to
36 minor victims. The secretary shall disseminate this information to
37 nursing assistants by: Providing the information on the secretary's
38 website; including the information in newsletters; holding trainings

1 at meetings attended by organization members; or another distribution
2 method determined by the secretary. The secretary shall report to the
3 office of crime victims advocacy on the method or methods it uses to
4 distribute information under this section.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 70.41
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Each hospital licensed under this chapter shall adopt a
8 written policy requiring hospital employees to report to the hospital
9 when they have a reasonable suspicion that a patient is a victim of
10 trafficking under RCW 9A.40.100. As soon as reasonably practicable
11 following receipt of the employee's report, the hospital shall report
12 the employee's reasonable suspicion to the proper law enforcement
13 agency, unless a report is required under RCW 26.44.100, 74.34.035,
14 or section 1, 3, or 4 of this act.

15 (2) A hospital or its employee who, in good faith and without
16 gross negligence, reports suspected trafficking under this section is
17 immune from civil liability, criminal liability, or an action against
18 the hospital's or employee's license, arising from, or related to,
19 the report.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** (1) No later than January 1, 2025, the
21 office of crime victims advocacy shall update the materials on human
22 trafficking it developed under chapter 492, Laws of 2009. The
23 materials must be updated in a manner consistent with current best
24 practices and the requirements of this act.

25 (2) This section expires February 1, 2025.

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