

RCW 18.79.492 Nurse anesthetists workforce shortage report.

(Expires June 30, 2030.) (1) The University of Washington center for health workforce studies, in collaboration with the Washington state board of nursing, the Washington medical commission, and the department of health, shall study the workforce shortages in anesthesia care in each facility providing anesthesia services in Washington state, and shall submit an initial report to the legislature beginning June 30, 2025, with an update report annually thereafter. The center for health workforce studies shall submit a final report due June 30, 2029, detailing the progress made in the previous five years and any findings and policy recommendations to further address the workforce shortages and barriers to further expanding education of certified registered nurse anesthetists. The initial and each subsequent report shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Identifying the factors and barriers to entry into the profession of nurse anesthesiology;
- (b) Evaluating and assessing the current training and pipeline for certified registered nurse anesthetists;
- (c) Developing recommendations that reduce barriers for individuals who want to become certified registered nurse anesthetists and increasing the available clinical training slots for nurse anesthesia residents;
- (d) Creating and maintaining an implementation plan to improve the pipeline of certified registered nurse anesthetists in the state;
- (e) Identifying the number of qualified anesthesia providers, including, at a minimum, physician anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists, who may practice independently in the state of Washington at each facility providing anesthesia services; and
- (f) Providing policy recommendations to expand the nurse anesthesia workforce and optimize the cost of providing anesthesia services, including initiatives for all practicing independent anesthesia providers to practice at the top of their license.

(2) This section expires June 30, 2030. [2024 c 363 s 3.]

Intent—2024 c 363: See note following RCW 18.79.490.