
HOUSE BILL 1783

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Green, Morrell, Wood and Springer

Read first time 02/04/2005. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of arbitration in resolving medical
2 staff disputes regarding membership and privileges; adding a new
3 section to chapter 70.41 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 71.12
4 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a strong
7 interest in the prompt resolution of disputes between practitioners
8 with medical staff membership and hospitals regarding privileges and
9 membership disputes. The legislature finds that the use of arbitration
10 can expedite resolution of those disputes after the hospital governing
11 authority has made a decision.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.41 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 Hospital governing authorities may require that disputes regarding
15 admitting privileges or membership be resolved by arbitration after the
16 governing authority has made its final decision. The hospital may
17 require the practitioner to pay up to one-half of the costs of the

1 arbitrator and may require that the prevailing party pay the attorneys'
2 fees of the other party only where the arbitrator finds the appeal was
3 frivolous.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 71.12 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 Hospital governing authorities may require that disputes regarding
7 admitting privileges or membership be resolved by arbitration after the
8 governing authority has made its final decision. The hospital may
9 require the practitioner to pay up to one-half of the costs of the
10 arbitrator and may require that the prevailing party pay the attorneys'
11 fees of the other party only where the arbitrator finds the appeal was
12 frivolous.

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