

officer of county government who oversees or directs county employees to make the determination as to whether an employee safety award will be made.

Such awards shall be made annually from the county general fund by warrant on vouchers duly authorized by the board according to the following schedule based upon safe and accident-free performance:

5 years.....	\$ 2.50
10 years.....	5.00
15 years.....	7.50
20 years.....	10.00
25 years.....	12.50
30 years.....	20.00: PROVIDED, That the

board may give such department heads and other officers overseeing and directing county employees discretion to purchase a noncash award of equal value in lieu of the cash award. If a noncash award is given the warrants shall be made payable to the business enterprise from which the noncash award is purchased.

However, safety awards made to persons whose safe and accident-free performance has directly benefited the county road system shall be made from the county road fund by warrant on vouchers duly authorized by the board.

Passed the House March 10, 1971.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1971.

Approved by the Governor March 23, 1971.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 23, 1971.

CHAPTER 80

[Engrossed House Bill No. 720]

LIMITATION OF ACTIONS--

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

AN ACT Relating to limitations of actions; and adding a new section to chapter 4.16 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 4.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Any civil action for damages against a hospital which is licensed by the state of Washington or against the personnel of any hospital, or against a member of the healing arts including, but not limited to, a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW or chapter 18.57 RCW, chiropractor licensed under RCW 18.25, a dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW, or a nurse licensed under chapter 18.88 or 18.78 RCW, based upon alleged professional negligence shall be

commenced within (1) three years from the date of the alleged wrongful act, or (2) one year from the time that plaintiff discovers the injury or condition was caused by the wrongful act, whichever period of time expires last.

Passed the House March 9, 1971.

Passed the Senate March 8, 1971.

Approved by the Governor March 23, 1971.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 23, 1971.

CHAPTER 81

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 122]

COURTS--

POWERS AND DUTIES

AN ACT Relating to the judiciary; amending section 2, chapter 24, Laws of 1909 as amended by section 1, chapter 119, Laws of 1911, and RCW 2.04.071; amending section 14, page 324, Laws of 1890 and RCW 2.04.080; amending section 2, chapter 38, Laws of 1955 and RCW 2.04.100; amending section 1, chapter 206, Laws of 1909 and RCW 2.04.110; amending section 15, page 344, Laws of 1890 and RCW 2.08.080; amending section 11, page 343, Laws of 1890 as amended by section 1, chapter 149, Laws of 1967 and RCW 2.08.180; amending section 1, chapter 202, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 2.12.035; amending section 6, chapter 229, Laws of 1937 as last amended by section 2, chapter 243, Laws of 1957 and RCW 2.12.060; amending section 2, chapter 53, Laws of 1891 and RCW 2.20.020; amending section 3, chapter 124, Laws of 1909 and RCW 2.24.050; amending section 3, chapter 54, Laws of 1891 as amended by section 1, chapter 39, Laws of 1895 and RCW 2.28.030; amending section 3, chapter 57, Laws of 1891 and RCW 2.32.050; amending section 5, chapter 126, Laws of 1921 and RCW 2.48.200; amending section 8, chapter 259, Laws of 1957 and RCW 2.56.080; amending section 90, chapter 299, Laws of 1961 and RCW 3.50.410; amending section 1, chapter 60, Laws of 1929 and RCW 4.56.190; amending section 2, chapter 60, Laws of 1929 and RCW 4.56.200; amending section 8, chapter 60, Laws of 1929 and RCW 4.56.225; amending section 2, chapter 138, Laws of 1933 and RCW 4.76.030; amending section 7, chapter 60, Laws of 1893 and RCW 4.80.050; amending section 17, chapter 60, Laws of 1893 and RCW 4.80.140; amending section 384, page 203, Laws of 1854 as last amended by section 1, chapter 62, Laws of 1959 and RCW 4.84.170; amending section 385, page 204, Laws of 1854 as last amended by section