

appointment to be valid only until a director is elected and qualified to fill such vacancy at the next regular district election.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. If any provision of this 1973 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Passed the Senate February 5, 1973.

Passed the House February 27, 1973.

Approved by the Governor March 7, 1973.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 7, 1973.

CHAPTER 48

[Senate Bill No. 2592]

OPTOMETRISTS--DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED

AN ACT Relating to optometrists; and adding new sections to chapter 18.53 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 18.53 RCW a new section to read as follows:

The legislature finds and declares that the costs of health care to the people are rising disproportionately to other costs and that there is a paramount concern that the right of the people to obtain access to health care in all its facets is being impaired thereby. For this reason, the reliance on the mechanism of insurance, whether profit or nonprofit, is the only effective manner in which the large majority of the people can attain access to quality health care, and it is therefore declared to be in the public interest that health care insurance be regulated to assure that all the people have access to health care rendered by whatever means, and to the greatest extent possible. This 1973 act, prohibiting discrimination against the legally recognized and licensed profession of optometrists, is necessary in the interest of the public health, welfare and safety.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is added to chapter 18.53 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the state and its political subdivisions shall accept the services of licensed optometrists for any service covered by their licenses with relation to any person receiving benefits, salaries, wages, or any other type of compensation from the state, it's agencies or subdivisions.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. There is added to chapter 18.53 RCW a new section to read as follows:

The state and its political subdivisions, and all officials, agents, employees, or representatives thereof, are prohibited from in any way discriminating against licensed optometrists in performing and receiving compensation for services covered by their licenses.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. There is added to chapter 18.53 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the state and its political subdivisions, and all officials, agents, employees, or representatives thereof, are prohibited from entering into any agreement or contract with any individual, group, association, or corporation which in any way, directly or indirectly, discriminates against licensed optometrists in performing and receiving compensation for services covered by their licenses.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. There is added to chapter 18.53 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of sections 1 through 4 and 6 of this 1973 act it is immaterial whether the cost of any policy, plan, agreement, or contract be deemed additional compensation for services, or otherwise.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. There is added to chapter 18.53 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Sections 1 through 5 of this 1973 act shall apply to all agreements, renewals, or contracts issued on or after the effective date of this 1973 act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. If any provision of this 1973 act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Passed the Senate February 19, 1973.

Passed the House February 23, 1973.

Approved by the Governor March 7, 1973.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 7, 1973.

CHAPTER 49

[House Bill No. 281]

SCHOOL DISTRICTS--ADVERSE PROCEEDINGS--

HEARING OFFICER AUTHORIZED

AN ACT Relating to education; amending section 28A.58.450; chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as amended by section 13, chapter 34, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.58.450; amending section 16, chapter 15, Laws of 1970 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.67.070; and amending section 18, chapter 34, Laws of 1969