

CHAPTER 58.

[Substitute Senate Bill No. 479.]

HEALING PROFESSIONS—REBATES, FEE-SPLITTING,
ETC. PROHIBITED—PENALTIES.

AN ACT relating to practitioners of the healing professions and prohibiting certain practices relating thereto; reenacting section 1, chapter 204, Laws of 1949 and RCW 19.68.010; amending section 2, chapter 204, Laws of 1949 and RCW 19.68.020; reenacting section 3, chapter 204, Laws of 1949 and RCW 19.68.030; and prescribing penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

RCW 19.68.010 amended.

SECTION 1. Section 1, chapter 204, Laws of 1949 and RCW 19.68.010 are each reenacted to read as follows:

Rebating by practitioners of healing professions. Prohibited—Penalty.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or association, whether organized as a cooperative, or for profit or nonprofit, to pay, or offer to pay or allow, directly or indirectly, to any person licensed by the state of Washington to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery, drugless treatment in any form, or dentistry, and it shall be unlawful for such person to request, receive or allow, directly or indirectly, a rebate, refund, commission, unearned discount or profit by means of a credit or other valuable consideration in connection with the referral of patients to any person, firm, corporation or association, or in connection with the furnishings of medical, surgical or dental care, diagnosis, treatment or service, on the sale, rental, furnishing or supplying of clinical laboratory supplies or services of any kind, or any other goods, services or supplies prescribed for medical diagnosis, care or treatment.

Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

RCW 19.68.020 amended.

SEC. 2. Section 2, chapter 204, Laws of 1949 and RCW 19.68.020 are each amended to read as follows:

Deemed unprofessional conduct.

The acceptance directly or indirectly by any person so licensed of any rebate, refund, commission,

unearned discount, or profit by means of a credit or other valuable consideration whether in the form of money or otherwise, as compensation for referring patients to any person, firm, corporation or association as set forth in section 3 of this act, constitutes unprofessional conduct.

SEC. 3. Section 3, chapter 204, Laws of 1949 and RCW 19.68.030 are each reenacted to read as follows:

RCW 19.68.030 amended.

The license of any person so licensed may be revoked or suspended if he has directly or indirectly requested, received or participated in the division, transference, assignment, rebate, splitting or refunding of a fee for, or has directly or indirectly requested, received or profited by means of a credit or other valuable consideration as a commission, discount or gratuity in connection with the furnishing of medical, surgical or dental care, diagnosis or treatment or service, including x-ray examination and treatment, or for or in connection with the sale, rental, supplying or furnishing of clinical laboratory service or supplies, x-ray services or supplies, inhalation therapy service or equipment, ambulance service, hospital or medical supplies, physiotherapy or other therapeutic service or equipment, artificial limbs, teeth or eyes, orthopedic or surgical appliances or supplies, optical appliances, supplies or equipment, devices for aid of hearing, drugs, medication or medical supplies or any other goods, services or supplies prescribed for medical diagnosis, care or treatment, except payment, not to exceed thirty-three and one-third percent of any fee received for x-ray examination, diagnosis or treatment, to any hospital furnishing facilities for such examination, diagnosis or treatment.

License may be revoked or suspended.

Passed the Senate March 21, 1965.

Passed the House March 25, 1965.

Approved by the Governor April 2, 1965.