

fund shall remain available for expenditure as authorized by appropriation. At the time the commission makes each allocation of cost to said grade crossing protective fund, it shall certify that such cost shall be payable out of said fund. Upon completion of the installation of any such signal or other protective device, the railroad shall present its claim for reimbursement for the cost of installation from said fund of the amount allocated thereto by the commission. The annual cost of maintenance shall be presented and paid in a like manner. The commission is hereby authorized to recover administrative costs from said fund in an amount not to exceed three percent of the direct appropriation provided for any biennium, and in the event administrative costs exceed three percent of the appropriation, the excess shall be chargeable to regulatory fees paid by railroads pursuant to RCW 81.24.010.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. There is added to chapter 134, Laws of 1969 and chapter 81.53 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Whenever federal funds are available and are used to pay a portion of the cost of installing a grade crossing protective device at a railroad crossing of any state highway, city or town street, or county road at the then prevailing federal aid matching rate, the state or local authority having jurisdiction of such highway, street, or road shall pay the remaining cost of such installation. The railroad whose road is crossed by the highway, street, or road shall thereafter pay the entire cost of maintaining the device: PROVIDED, That if such device is installed at the direction of the commission pursuant to RCW 81.53.271 and results in a reduction in the amount of the appropriation to the grade crossing protective fund pursuant to section 2 of this 1975 amendatory act, then the cost of maintaining the device shall be apportioned by the commission:

(1) twenty-five percent to the grade crossing protective fund, created by RCW 81.53.281, and

(2) seventy-five percent to the railroad.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This 1975 amendatory act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1975.

Passed the Senate May 27, 1975.

Passed the House May 24, 1975.

Approved by the Governor June 4, 1975.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State June 4, 1975.

CHAPTER 190

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2913]

PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANTS—

MEDICAL PRACTICE INVESTIGATOR

AN ACT Relating to physician's assistants; amending section 1, chapter 30, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 18.71A.010; amending section 4, chapter 30, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 18.71A.040; and adding a new section.

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

Section 1. Section 1, chapter 30, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 18.71A.010 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) "Physician's assistant" means:

(a) A person who is enrolled in, or who has satisfactorily completed, a board approved training program designed to prepare persons to practice medicine to a limited extent; or

(b) A person who is a university medical graduate of a foreign medical school or college.

(2) "Board" means the board of medical examiners(;;).

(3) "Practice medicine" shall have the meaning defined in RCW 18.71.010.

Sec. 2. Section 4, chapter 30, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 18.71A.040 are each amended to read as follows:

No physician practicing in this state shall utilize the services of a physician's assistant without the approval of the board.

Any physician licensed in this state may apply to the board for permission to use the services of a physician's assistant. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars, shall detail the manner and extent to which the physician's assistant would be used and supervised, shall detail the education, training, and experience of the physician's assistant and shall provide such other information in such form as the board may require.

The board may approve or reject such applications. In addition, the board may modify the proposed utilization of the physician's assistant, and approve the application as modified. No such approval shall extend for more than one year, but approval once granted may be renewed annually upon payment of a fee of ten dollars. Whenever it appears to the board that a physician's assistant is being utilized in a manner inconsistent with the approval granted, the board may withdraw such approval. In the event a hearing is requested upon the rejection of an application, or upon the withdrawal of an approval, a hearing shall be conducted in accordance with RCW 18.71.140.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. There shall be appointed by the director of the department of motor vehicles an agent whose title shall be "medical practice investigator", who shall have the duty and shall be authorized to enter the clinic, office, or premises where a physician's assistant is employed for the purpose of inspecting the registration and utilization of any physician's assistant employed therein. Said investigator may serve and execute any notice or process issued under the authority of this chapter and shall perform any other duty prescribed by the director or the board, including assisting other agencies in enforcing the provisions of the law regulating the practice of medicine: PROVIDED, That funds must be included in the department's 1975-77 operational budget for this program.

Passed the Senate May 27, 1975.

Passed the House May 23, 1975.

Approved by the Governor June 4, 1975.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State June 4, 1975.