

# **Authorizing Pharmacists to Accept Prescriptions from ARNPs Licensed in Other States**

## **Proposed Legislation**

### **Background**

The 2010 Legislature passed SB 6627 that authorized Washington pharmacists to accept prescriptions from ARNPs who are licensed to prescribe in other states and Canadian provinces that border Washington.

Shortly after the law was signed, a legal analysis identified a technical error. Only the pharmacy act was amended and for pharmacists to accept all prescriptions a section of the state's controlled substances act also needed to be amended. This resulted from an inadvertent problem when the bill was drafted.

For Washington pharmacists to fill prescriptions for controlled substance prescribed by out of state ARNPs, RCW 69.50.101 must be amended

### **Effect of Proposed Legislation**

**The proposed legislation would authorize Washington pharmacists to accept and fill all prescriptions from ARNPs licensed in any state and in Canadian provinces that border Washington.**

The issue of having prescriptions from ARNPs licensed in other states filled by pharmacists is an access to care issue. This is primarily true for residents of Clark and Spokane counties who may cross into Oregon or Idaho to seek health care. Most people need prescriptions filled locally so they have easy access to refills and consultation with their pharmacists. In addition, according to the Census Bureau, an estimated 12% of Washington's population is over age 65. Many of these people are retired, have chronic health problems, and travel to other states where they may receive health care from ARNPs. The ability to have prescriptions written by them filled in Washington State assures continuity of care, and prevents exacerbations of health problems and costly hospitalizations.

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