

---

HOUSE BILL 2044

---

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Schmick, Cody, and Griffey

Read first time 02/09/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to emergency medical services; amending RCW  
2 35.21.930, 18.71.200, 18.71.205, and 18.71.210; and adding a new  
3 section to chapter 18.73 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 35.21.930 and 2013 c 247 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Any fire department or state-licensed provider of emergency  
8 medical services may develop a community assistance referral and  
9 education services program to provide community outreach and  
10 assistance to residents of its district in order to advance injury  
11 and illness prevention within its community. The program should  
12 identify members of the community who use the 911 system or emergency  
13 department for low acuity assistance calls (calls that are  
14 nonemergency or nonurgent) and connect them to their primary care  
15 providers, other health care professionals, low-cost medication  
16 programs, and other social services. The program may partner with  
17 hospitals to reduce readmissions. The program may also provide a fire  
18 department-based, nonemergency contact in order to provide an  
19 alternative resource to the 911 system. The program may hire health  
20 care professionals as needed to provide these services, including  
21 advanced emergency medical technicians and paramedics certified under

1 chapter 18.71 RCW. The services provided by advanced emergency  
2 medical technicians or paramedics must be under the responsible  
3 supervision and direction of an approved medical program director.  
4 Nothing in this section authorizes an advanced emergency medical  
5 technician or paramedic to perform medical procedures they are not  
6 trained and certified to perform.

7 (2) A participating fire department or state-licensed provider of  
8 emergency medical services may seek grant opportunities and private  
9 gifts in order to support its community assistance referral and  
10 education services program.

11 (3) In developing a community assistance referral and education  
12 services program, a fire department or state-licensed provider of  
13 emergency medical services may consult with the health care personnel  
14 shortage task force to identify health care professionals capable of  
15 working in a nontraditional setting and providing assistance,  
16 referral, and education services.

17 (4) Community assistance referral and education services programs  
18 implemented under this section must, at least annually, measure any  
19 reduction of repeated use of the 911 emergency system and any  
20 reduction in avoidable emergency room trips attributable to  
21 implementation of the program. Results of findings under this  
22 subsection must be reportable to the legislature or other local  
23 governments upon request. Findings should include estimated amounts  
24 of medicaid dollars that would have been spent on emergency room  
25 visits had the program not been in existence.

26 (5) For purposes of this section, "fire department" includes city  
27 and town fire departments, fire protection districts organized under  
28 Title 52 RCW, and regional fire (~~(fire protection service)~~) protection  
29 service authorities organized under chapter 52.26 RCW.

30 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.71.200 and 1995 c 65 s 2 are each amended to read  
31 as follows:

32 As used in this chapter, a "physician's trained advanced  
33 emergency medical (~~(service intermediate life support)~~) technician  
34 and paramedic" means a person who:

35 (1) Has successfully completed an emergency medical technician  
36 course as described in chapter 18.73 RCW;

37 (2) Is trained under the supervision of an approved medical  
38 program director according to training standards prescribed in rule  
39 to perform specific phases of advanced cardiac and trauma life

1 support under written or oral authorization of an approved licensed  
2 physician; and

3 (3) Has been examined and certified as a physician's trained  
4 advanced emergency medical (~~(service intermediate life support)~~)  
5 technician and paramedic, by level, by the University of Washington's  
6 school of medicine or the department of health.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.71.205 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 s 24 are each  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (1) The secretary of the department of health shall prescribe:

10 (a) Practice parameters, training standards for, and levels of,  
11 physician's trained advanced emergency medical (~~(service intermediate~~  
12 ~~life support)~~) technicians and paramedics;

13 (b) Minimum standards and performance requirements for the  
14 certification and recertification of physician's trained advanced  
15 emergency medical (~~(service intermediate life support)~~) technicians  
16 and paramedics; and

17 (c) Procedures for certification, recertification, and  
18 decertification of physician's trained advanced emergency medical  
19 (~~(service intermediate life support)~~) technicians and paramedics.

20 (2) Initial certification shall be for a period established by  
21 the secretary pursuant to RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

22 (3) Recertification shall be granted upon proof of continuing  
23 satisfactory performance and education standards, as determined by  
24 the approved medical program director and approved by the secretary,  
25 and shall be for a period established by the secretary pursuant to  
26 RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

27 (4) As used in (~~chapters 18.71~~) this chapter and chapter 18.73  
28 RCW, "approved medical program director" means a person who:

29 (a) Is licensed to practice medicine and surgery pursuant to this  
30 chapter (~~(18.71 RCW)~~) or osteopathic medicine and surgery pursuant to  
31 chapter 18.57 RCW; and

32 (b) Is qualified and knowledgeable in the administration and  
33 management of emergency care and services; and

34 (c) Is so certified by the department of health for a county,  
35 group of counties, or cities with populations over four hundred  
36 thousand in coordination with the recommendations of the local  
37 medical community and local emergency medical services and trauma  
38 care council.

1 (5) The Uniform Disciplinary Act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs  
2 uncertified practice, the issuance and denial of certificates, and  
3 the disciplining of certificate holders under this section. The  
4 secretary shall be the disciplining authority under this section.  
5 Disciplinary action shall be initiated against a person credentialed  
6 under this chapter in a manner consistent with the responsibilities  
7 and duties of the medical program director under whom such person is  
8 responsible.

9 (6) Such activities of physician's trained advanced emergency  
10 medical (~~((service—intermediate—life—support))~~) technicians and  
11 paramedics shall be limited to actions taken under the express  
12 written or oral order of medical program directors and shall not be  
13 construed at any time to include freestanding or nondirected actions,  
14 for actions not presenting an emergency or life-threatening  
15 condition, except nonemergency activities performed pursuant to  
16 subsection (7) of this section.

17 (7) Nothing in this section prohibits a physician's trained  
18 advanced emergency medical technician or paramedic, acting under the  
19 responsible supervision and direction of an approved medical program  
20 director or delegate, from participating in a community assistance  
21 referral and education services program established under RCW  
22 35.21.930 if such participation does not exceed the participant's  
23 training and certification.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.71.210 and 1997 c 275 s 1 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 No act or omission of any physician's trained advanced emergency  
27 medical (~~((service—intermediate—life—support))~~) technician and  
28 paramedic, as defined in RCW 18.71.200, or any emergency medical  
29 technician or first responder, as defined in RCW 18.73.030, done or  
30 omitted in good faith while rendering emergency medical service under  
31 the responsible supervision and control of a licensed physician or an  
32 approved medical program director or delegate(s) to a person who has  
33 suffered illness or bodily injury shall impose any liability upon:

34 (1) The physician's trained advanced emergency medical (~~((service~~  
35 ~~intermediate—life—support))~~) technician and paramedic, emergency  
36 medical technician, or first responder;

37 (2) The medical program director;

38 (3) The supervising physician(s);

1 (4) Any hospital, the officers, members of the staff, nurses, or  
2 other employees of a hospital;

3 (5) Any training agency or training physician(s);

4 (6) Any licensed ambulance service; or

5 (7) Any federal, state, county, city, or other local governmental  
6 unit or employees of such a governmental unit.

7 This section shall apply to an act or omission committed or  
8 omitted in the performance of the actual emergency medical procedures  
9 and not in the commission or omission of an act which is not within  
10 the field of medical expertise of the physician's trained advanced  
11 emergency medical (~~service intermediate life support~~) technician  
12 and paramedic, emergency medical technician, or first responder, as  
13 the case may be.

14 This section also applies to advanced emergency medical  
15 technicians, paramedics, and medical program directors participating  
16 in a community assistance referral and education services program  
17 established under RCW 35.21.930.

18 This section shall apply also, as to the entities and personnel  
19 described in subsections (1) through (7) of this section, to any act  
20 or omission committed or omitted in good faith by such entities or  
21 personnel in rendering services at the request of an approved medical  
22 program director in the training of emergency medical service  
23 personnel for certification or recertification pursuant to this  
24 chapter.

25 This section shall not apply to any act or omission which  
26 constitutes either gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

27 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 18.73  
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 An ambulance service may transport patients to a facility other  
30 than a hospital, such as an urgent care clinic, mental health  
31 facility, or chemical dependency program, as authorized in regional  
32 emergency medical services and trauma care plans under RCW  
33 70.168.100.

--- END ---