
SENATE BILL 5346

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Ranker, Mullet, Darneille, Lias, Conway, McAuliffe, Keiser, and Chase

Read first time 01/20/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing first responders with contact
2 information for subscribers of life alert services during an
3 emergency; adding a new section to chapter 70.54 RCW; and prescribing
4 penalties.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) When requested by first responders during an emergency,
9 employees of companies providing life alert services must provide to
10 first responders the name, address, and any other information
11 necessary for first responders to contact their subscribers.

12 (2) Information received by a first responder under subsection
13 (1) of this section is confidential and may be used only in
14 responding to the emergency that prompted the information request.
15 Any first responder receiving the information must destroy it at the
16 end of the emergency. A failure to destroy the information is a class
17 1 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120.

18 (3) It is not a violation of this section if a life alert
19 services company or an employee makes a good faith effort to comply
20 with this section. In addition, the company or employee is immune
21 from civil liability for a good faith effort to comply with this

1 section. Should a company or employee prevail upon the defense
2 provided in this section, the company or employee is entitled to
3 recover expenses and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in
4 establishing the defense.

5 (4) First responders and their employing jurisdictions are not
6 liable for failing to request the information in subsection (1) of
7 this section. In addition, this act does not create a private right
8 of action nor does it create any civil liability on the part of the
9 state or any of its subdivisions, including first responders.

10 (5) For the purposes of this section:

11 (a) "Emergency" means a combination of circumstances that
12 requires the attention of first responders acting within the scope of
13 their official duties. An emergency includes circumstances that
14 render the life alert services system inoperable.

15 (b) "First responder" means firefighters, law enforcement
16 officers, and emergency medical personnel, as licensed or
17 certificated by this state.

18 (c) "Life alert services" means a service provided for profit
19 that allows persons in need of emergency assistance to contact a call
20 center through a device that can be activated by breath, touch, or
21 other means.

22 (6) A violation of this section is a class 1 civil infraction
23 under RCW 7.80.120.

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