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SENATE BILL 5591

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Liiias, Roach, Hasegawa, Fain, McCoy, Keiser, Pearson, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, and Conway

Read first time 01/26/15. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & State Security.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing emergency medical services to develop  
2 community assistance referral and education services programs; and  
3 amending RCW 35.21.930, 18.71.200, and 18.71.205.

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 provider of emergency medical services  
8 that levies a tax under RCW 84.52.069 may develop a community  
9 assistance referral and education services program to provide  
10 community outreach and assistance to residents of its district in  
11 order to advance injury and illness prevention within its community.  
12 The program should identify members of the community who use the 911  
13 system or emergency department for low acuity assistance calls (calls  
14 that are nonemergency or nonurgent) and connect them to their primary  
15 care 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 or use emergency medical technicians  
21 certified under Title 18 RCW to perform these services.

1 (2) A participating fire department or provider of emergency  
2 medical services that levies a tax under RCW 84.52.069 may seek grant  
3 opportunities and private gifts in order to support its community  
4 assistance referral and education services program.

5 (3) In developing a community assistance referral and education  
6 services program, a fire department or provider of emergency medical  
7 services that levies a tax under RCW 84.52.069 may consult with the  
8 health care personnel shortage task force to identify health care  
9 professionals capable of working in a nontraditional setting and  
10 providing assistance, referral, and education services.

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

20 (5) For purposes of this section, "fire department" includes city  
21 and town fire departments, fire protection districts organized under  
22 Title 52 RCW, and regional fire (~~(fire protection service)~~) protection  
23 service authorities organized under chapter 52.26 RCW.

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

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

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

31 (2) Is trained under the supervision of an approved medical  
32 program director according to training standards prescribed in rule  
33 to perform specific phases of advanced cardiac and trauma life  
34 support under written or oral authorization of an approved licensed  
35 physician; and

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

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

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

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

7       (b) Minimum standards and performance requirements for the  
8 certification and recertification of physician's trained advanced  
9 emergency medical (~~(service intermediate life support)~~) technicians  
10 and paramedics; and

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

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

16       (3) Recertification shall be granted upon proof of continuing  
17 satisfactory performance and education standards, as determined by  
18 the approved medical program director and approved by the secretary  
19 of the department of health, and shall be for a period established by  
20 the secretary pursuant to RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

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

23       (a) Is licensed to practice medicine and surgery pursuant to this  
24 chapter (~~(18.71 RCW)~~) or osteopathic medicine and surgery pursuant to  
25 chapter 18.57 RCW; and

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

28       (c) Is so certified by the department of health for a county,  
29 group of counties, or cities with populations over four hundred  
30 thousand in coordination with the recommendations of the local  
31 medical community and local emergency medical services and trauma  
32 care council.

33       (5) The uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs  
34 uncertified practice, the issuance and denial of certificates, and  
35 the disciplining of certificate holders under this section. The  
36 secretary shall be the disciplining authority under this section.  
37 Disciplinary action shall be initiated against a person credentialed  
38 under this chapter in a manner consistent with the responsibilities  
39 and duties of the medical program director under whom such person is  
40 responsible.

1           (6) Such activities of physician's trained advanced emergency  
2 medical ((~~service—intermediate—life—support~~)) technicians and  
3 paramedics shall be limited to actions taken under the express  
4 written or oral order of medical program directors and shall not be  
5 construed at any time to include freestanding or nondirected actions,  
6 for actions not presenting an emergency or life-threatening  
7 condition, unless those actions are taken in conjunction with a  
8 program established under RCW 35.21.930.

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