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HOUSE BILL 1878

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Jinkins, Manweller, Tharinger, and Appleton

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

1            AN ACT Relating to authorizing emergency medical technicians to  
2 administer glucagon in emergency situations; amending RCW 18.73.250;  
3 and creating a new section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.            **Sec. 1.**            (1) The legislature finds that  
6 hypoglycemia is a severe medical problem for people with diabetes.  
7 Maintaining control of blood sugar levels requires disciplined self-  
8 management, a challenge especially for young children, adolescents,  
9 and the elderly. Hypoglycemic episodes can have catastrophic  
10 outcomes, resulting in seizure, brain damage, and death. Rapid and  
11 appropriate administration of oral glucose can counteract a severe  
12 hypoglycemic episode, and may make the difference between life and  
13 death.

14            (2) The legislature finds that the administration of oral glucose  
15 is not indicated in certain situations, and the administration of  
16 glucagon is the preferred method of treatment. The legislature  
17 further finds that some situations may arise when glucagon must be  
18 administered by injection to save a person's life. It is paramount  
19 that emergency response personnel receive appropriate training on the  
20 use of emergency glucagon pens to treat severe hypoglycemia.

1           (3) The purpose of this act is to authorize emergency medical  
2 technicians to administer glucagon in emergency situations and to  
3 have glucagon emergency kits available in their emergency care  
4 supplies.

5           **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.73.250 and 2005 c 463 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7           (1) All of the state's ambulance and aid services shall:

8           (a) Make epinephrine available to their emergency medical  
9 technicians in their emergency care supplies; and

10           (b) Make glucagon emergency kits available to their emergency  
11 medical technicians in their emergency care supplies. ((The))

12           (2) Emergency medical technicians may administer epinephrine or  
13 glucagon.

14           ~~((+2))~~ (3) Nothing in this section authorizes the administration  
15 of epinephrine or glucagon by a first responder.

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