
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1358

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by
Representatives Griffey and Cody)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to reimbursement for services provided pursuant
2 to community assistance referral and education services programs;
3 amending RCW 35.21.930; and adding a new section to chapter 74.09
4 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 The authority shall adopt standards for the reimbursement of
9 health care services provided to eligible clients by fire departments
10 pursuant to a community assistance referral and education services
11 program under RCW 35.21.930. The standards must allow payment for
12 covered health care services provided to individuals whose medical
13 needs do not require ambulance transport to an emergency department.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.21.930 and 2015 c 93 s 1 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 (1) Any fire department may develop a community assistance
17 referral and education services program to provide community outreach
18 and assistance to residents of its jurisdiction in order to improve
19 population health and advance injury and illness prevention within
20 its community. The program should identify members of the community

1 who use the 911 system or emergency department for low acuity
2 assistance calls (calls that are nonemergency or nonurgent) and
3 connect them to their primary care providers, other health care
4 professionals, low-cost medication programs, and other social
5 services. The program may partner with hospitals to reduce
6 readmissions. The program may also provide nonemergency contact
7 information in order to provide an alternative resource to the 911
8 system. The program may hire or contract with health care
9 professionals as needed to provide these services, including
10 emergency medical technicians certified under chapter 18.73 RCW and
11 advanced emergency medical technicians and paramedics certified under
12 chapter 18.71 RCW. The services provided by emergency medical
13 technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, and paramedics
14 must be under the responsible supervision and direction of an
15 approved medical program director. Nothing in this section authorizes
16 an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical
17 technician, or paramedic to perform medical procedures they are not
18 trained and certified to perform.

19 (2) (~~(A participating fire department may seek grant~~
20 ~~opportunities and private gifts)) In order to support its community
21 assistance referral and education services program, a participating
22 fire department may seek grant opportunities and private gifts, and,
23 by resolution or ordinance, establish and collect reasonable charges
24 for these services.~~

25 (3) In developing a community assistance referral and education
26 services program, a fire department may consult with the health
27 workforce council to identify health care professionals capable of
28 working in a nontraditional setting and providing assistance,
29 referral, and education services.

30 (4) Community assistance referral and education services programs
31 implemented under this section must, at least annually, measure any
32 reduction of repeated use of the 911 emergency system and any
33 reduction in avoidable emergency room trips attributable to
34 implementation of the program. Results of findings under this
35 subsection must be reportable to the legislature or other local
36 governments upon request. Findings should include estimated amounts
37 of medicaid dollars that would have been spent on emergency room
38 visits had the program not been in existence.

39 (5) For purposes of this section, "fire department" includes city
40 and town fire departments, fire protection districts organized under

1 Title 52 RCW, regional fire protection service authorities organized
2 under chapter 52.26 RCW, providers of emergency medical services
3 (~~that~~) eligible to levy a tax under RCW 84.52.069, and federally
4 recognized Indian tribes.

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