
ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1358

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Griffey and Cody)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/17.

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; adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW;
4 and creating new sections.

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.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The joint legislative audit and review
6 committee shall conduct a cost-effectiveness review, in consultation
7 with the health care authority, of the standards for reimbursement
8 established in section 1 of this act. The review must evaluate the
9 amount paid on behalf of eligible clients under chapter 74.09 RCW by
10 the health care authority to fire departments for health care
11 services that did not require an ambulance transport and the amount
12 that would have been paid had the services been provided in a
13 different care setting.

14 (2) The cost-effectiveness review must consider the savings
15 realized by medical assistance programs under chapter 74.09 RCW as a
16 result of fire departments providing health care services and make
17 any recommendations for improving the cost-effectiveness of the
18 standards for reimbursement and reducing the potential for excessive
19 billing or billing for unnecessary services. If the review finds that
20 the standards of reimbursement have not resulted in savings to the
21 state's medical assistance programs, the joint legislative audit and
22 review committee shall recommend the repeal of section 1 of this act.

23 (3) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall submit
24 the cost-effectiveness review, including its findings and
25 recommendations, to the fiscal committees and health policy
26 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2021.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of
28 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
29 provided by June 30, 2017, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
30 act is null and void.

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