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SENATE BILL 6621

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Palumbo and Rolfes

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the use of live animals to  
2 practice invasive medical procedures in human health care medical  
3 training programs; amending RCW 16.52.180; and creating a new  
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds one or more medical  
7 training courses in Washington simulate the stress experienced by  
8 paramedics performing invasive medical procedures on patients in the  
9 field by using live pigs to practice creating emergency airways.  
10 Alternatively, human-based medical training methods, such as  
11 simulators, replicate human anatomy and allow for repetitive practice  
12 and data collection. The legislature also finds that medical  
13 simulators may be an equally effective training method to using live  
14 tissue models given advances in simulator technology. One Canadian  
15 armed forces study of medical technicians found no difference in  
16 performance between medics trained on simulators versus live tissue  
17 models. The legislature intends to encourage the use of inanimate  
18 human-based training methods and prohibit the use of live animals to  
19 practice invasive medical procedures in human health care medical  
20 training programs.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 16.52.180 and 1994 c 261 s 12 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) No part of this chapter shall be deemed to interfere with any  
4 of the laws of this state known as the "game laws," nor be deemed to  
5 interfere with the right to destroy any venomous reptile or any known  
6 as dangerous to life, limb or property, or to interfere with the  
7 right to kill animals to be used for food or with any properly  
8 conducted scientific experiments or investigations, which experiments  
9 or investigations shall be performed only under the authority of the  
10 faculty of some regularly incorporated college or university of the  
11 state of Washington or a research facility registered with the United  
12 States department of agriculture and regulated by 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2131  
13 et seq.

14       (2)(a) By July 1, 2020, all educational programs in the state of  
15 Washington training individuals in the medical treatment of persons,  
16 including but not limited to paramedic training programs, may:

17       (i) Only use human-based training methods; and

18       (ii) Not use pigs or other live animals.

19       (b) For the purposes of this subsection:

20       (i) "Human-based training methods" means the use of systems and  
21 devices, including simulators, partial task trainers, or human  
22 cadavers, but not animals.

23       (ii) "Partial task trainers" means training aids that allow  
24 individuals to learn or practice specific medical procedures.

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