

SB 5145 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Public Safety

ADOPTED 04/03/2013

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) Any fire department may develop a community assistance referral  
6 and education services program to provide community outreach and  
7 assistance to residents of its district in order to advance injury and  
8 illness prevention within its community. The program should identify  
9 members of the community who use the 911 system for low acuity  
10 assistance calls (calls that are nonemergency or nonurgent) and connect  
11 them to their primary care providers, other health care professionals,  
12 low-cost medication programs, and other social services. The program  
13 may also provide a fire department-based, nonemergency contact in order  
14 to provide an alternative resource to the 911 system. The program may  
15 hire health care professionals as needed.

16 (2) A participating fire department may seek grant opportunities  
17 and private gifts in order to support its community assistance referral  
18 and education services program.

19 (3) In developing a community assistance referral and education  
20 services program, a fire department may consult with the health care  
21 personnel shortage task force to identify health care professionals  
22 capable of working in a nontraditional setting and providing  
23 assistance, referral, and education services.

24 (4) Community assistance referral and education services programs  
25 implemented under this section must, at least annually, measure any  
26 reduction of repeated use of the 911 emergency system and any reduction  
27 in avoidable emergency room trips attributable to implementation of the  
28 program. Results of findings under this subsection must be reportable  
29 to the legislature or other local governments upon request. Findings

1 should include estimated amounts of medicaid dollars that would have  
2 been spent on emergency room visits had the program not been in  
3 existence.

4 (5) For purposes of this section, "fire department" includes city  
5 and town fire departments, fire protection districts organized under  
6 Title 52 RCW, and regional fire authorities organized under chapter  
7 52.26 RCW."

8 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Specifies that low acuity assistance calls are calls such  
as those that are nonemergency or nonurgent.

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