

---

SENATE BILL 5145

---

State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2013 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Conway, Eide, Kohl-Welles, Shin, and Schlicher

Read first time 01/21/13. Referred to Committee on Governmental Operations.

1            AN ACT Relating to community assistance referral and education  
2 services; and adding a new section to chapter 35.21 RCW.

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

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

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

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

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

6           (4) Community assistance referral and education services programs  
7 implemented under this section must, at least annually, measure any  
8 reduction of repeated use of the 911 emergency system and any reduction  
9 in avoidable emergency room trips attributable to implementation of the  
10 program. Results of findings under this subsection must be reportable  
11 to the legislature or other local governments upon request. Findings  
12 should include estimated amounts of medicaid dollars that would have  
13 been spent on emergency room visits had the program not been in  
14 existence.

15           (5) For purposes of this section, "fire department" includes city  
16 and town fire departments, fire protection districts organized under  
17 Title 52 RCW, and regional fire authorities organized under chapter  
18 52.26 RCW.

--- END ---