

**E2SHB 1358** - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 04/12/2017

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09  
4 RCW to read as follows:

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

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

13 (1) Any fire department may develop a community assistance  
14 referral and education services program to provide community outreach  
15 and assistance to residents of its jurisdiction in order to improve  
16 population health and advance injury and illness prevention within  
17 its community. The program should identify members of the community  
18 who use the 911 system or emergency department for low acuity  
19 assistance calls (calls that are nonemergency or nonurgent) and  
20 connect them to their primary care providers, other health care  
21 professionals, low-cost medication programs, and other social  
22 services. The program may partner with hospitals to reduce  
23 readmissions. The program may also provide nonemergency contact  
24 information in order to provide an alternative resource to the 911  
25 system. The program may hire or contract with health care  
26 professionals as needed to provide these services, including  
27 emergency medical technicians certified under chapter 18.73 RCW and  
28 advanced emergency medical technicians and paramedics certified under  
29 chapter 18.71 RCW. The services provided by emergency medical  
30 technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, and paramedics

1 must be under the responsible supervision and direction of an  
2 approved medical program director. Nothing in this section authorizes  
3 an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical  
4 technician, or paramedic to perform medical procedures they are not  
5 trained and certified to perform.

6 (2) ~~((A participating fire department may seek grant  
7 opportunities and private gifts))~~ In order to support its community  
8 assistance referral and education services program, a participating  
9 fire department may seek grant opportunities and private gifts, and,  
10 by resolution or ordinance, establish and collect reasonable charges  
11 for these services.

12 (3) In developing a community assistance referral and education  
13 services program, a fire department may consult with the health  
14 workforce council to identify health care professionals capable of  
15 working in a nontraditional setting and providing assistance,  
16 referral, and education services.

17 (4) Community assistance referral and education services programs  
18 implemented under this section must, at least annually, measure any  
19 reduction of repeated use of the 911 emergency system and any  
20 reduction in avoidable emergency room trips attributable to  
21 implementation of the program. Results of findings under this  
22 subsection must be reportable to the legislature or other local  
23 governments upon request. Findings should include estimated amounts  
24 of medicaid dollars that would have been spent on emergency room  
25 visits had the program not been in existence.

26 (5) For purposes of this section, "fire department" includes city  
27 and town fire departments, fire protection districts organized under  
28 Title 52 RCW, regional fire protection service authorities organized  
29 under chapter 52.26 RCW, providers of emergency medical services  
30 ~~((that))~~ eligible to levy a tax under RCW 84.52.069, and federally  
31 recognized Indian tribes.

32 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 43.70  
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 The department of health must review the professional  
35 certification and training of health professionals participating in a  
36 community assistance referral and education program, review the  
37 certification and training requirements in other states with similar  
38 programs, and coordinate with the health care authority to link the  
39 certification requirements with the covered health care services

1 recommended for payment in section 1 of this act. The department  
2 shall submit recommendations to the appropriate committees of the  
3 legislature for any changes and suggestions for implementation within  
4 six months of the development of the payment standards.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (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. 5.** 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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31 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "programs;" strike the  
32 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 35.21.930; adding a

1 new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; adding a new section to chapter  
2 43.70 RCW; and creating new sections."

EFFECT: (1) Requires the Department of Health (DOH) to review the certification and training of health professionals participating in a CARES program, to review the requirements of other states with similar programs, and coordinate with the HCA to link the certification requirements with the covered services recommended for payment.

(2) Requires DOH to submit recommendations to the Legislature within six months of the development of the payment standards.

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