

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 5751

C 70 L 17
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning personnel requirements for municipal ambulance services.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Senator Schoesler).

Senate Committee on Health Care
House Committee on Health Care & Wellness

Background: Ambulances. Ambulances are required to operate with sufficient personnel to care for patients, including at least one emergency medical technician (EMT). EMTs have responsibility for the operation of the ambulance and for the care of the patient. EMTs are persons certified by the Department of Health (DOH) to render emergency medical care or, under the responsible supervision and direction of an approved medical program director, to participate in a community assistance referral and education services program.

The driver of the ambulance must have at least a certificate of first aid qualification, recognized by the Secretary of DOH, unless there are at least two EMTs in attendance of the patient, in which case the driver does not need a certificate.

Certificate of First Aid. DOH must recognize a current certificate of advanced first aid qualification by those who show proof of advanced Red Cross training or its equivalent. Red Cross courses teach participants how to respond to common emergencies, including burns, cuts, and head and neck injuries. They last from two to five hours and provide participants with a two-year certification.

Summary: With approval from DOH, an ambulance service established by a volunteer or municipal corporation, in a rural area, with insufficient personnel may use a driver without any medical or first aid training so long as the driver:

- is at least 18 years old;
- passes a background check;
- possesses a valid driver's license with no restrictions;
- is accompanied by a non-driving EMT; and
- only provides medical care to patients to the level that they are trained.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate 49 0

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

House 97 0

Effective: July 23, 2017