
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1452

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Timmons, Harris, Simmons, Rude, Doglio, Pollet, Bateman, and Leavitt)

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a state medical reserve corps;
2 adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** To protect the public peace, health, and
5 safety, and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the
6 state, it is hereby found and declared to be necessary to authorize
7 the creation of a state emergency medical reserve corps to serve at
8 the direction and control of the secretary in times of declared
9 emergency and in times where no declared emergency exists but the
10 protection of public health requires the state mobilization of
11 resources to protect the health of the public, and to provide a means
12 of compensating state emergency medical reserve corps members who may
13 suffer any injury, as defined in this chapter, or death; who suffer
14 economic harm including personal property damage or loss; or who
15 incur expenses for transportation, telephone or other methods of
16 communication, and the use of personal supplies as a result of
17 participation in state emergency medical reserve corps activities.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
19 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
20 otherwise.

- 1 (1) "Department" means the department of health.
- 2 (2) "Emergency declaration" means a proclamation of a state of
3 emergency issued by the governor under RCW 43.06.010.
- 4 (3) "Entity" means a person other than an individual.
- 5 (4) "Health practitioner" means an individual licensed under the
6 laws of this state to provide health or veterinary services.
- 7 (5) "Health practitioner member" means a member who is a health
8 practitioner.
- 9 (6) "Health services" means the provision of treatment, care,
10 advice, guidance, or other services or supplies related to the health
11 or death of individuals or human populations.
- 12 (7) "License" means authorization by a state to engage in
13 services that are unlawful without the authorization.
- 14 (8) "Member" means a person who has registered with the state
15 emergency medical reserve corps.
- 16 (9) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust,
17 estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government,
18 governmental subdivision or agency, or any other legal or commercial
19 entity.
- 20 (10) "Scope of practice" means the extent of the authorization to
21 provide health or veterinary services granted to a health
22 practitioner by a license issued to the practitioner in this state,
23 including any conditions imposed by the licensing authority.
- 24 (11) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.
- 25 (12) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of
26 Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any
27 territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the
28 United States.
- 29 (13) "State emergency medical reserve corps" means the group of
30 members registered with the department and established by this
31 chapter from which the secretary may deploy through an order.
- 32 (14) "Support member" means a member who does not hold a health
33 practitioner license or who holds a health practitioner license but
34 does not practice that profession during their service in the state
35 emergency medical reserve corps.
- 36 (15) "Support services" means services provided by a member in
37 support of the state emergency medical reserve corps, but does not
38 include health services.
- 39 (16) "Veterinary services" means the provision of treatment,
40 care, advice, guidance, or other services or supplies related to the

1 health or death of an animal or to animal populations, to the extent
2 necessary to respond to an emergency, including:

3 (a) Diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of an animal disease,
4 injury, or other physical or mental condition by the prescription,
5 administration, or dispensing of vaccine, medicine, surgery, or
6 therapy;

7 (b) Use of a procedure for reproductive management; and

8 (c) Monitoring and treatment of animal populations for diseases
9 that have spread or demonstrate the potential to spread to humans.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) There is hereby established within the
11 department a state emergency medical reserve corps, which shall serve
12 at the direction and control of the secretary. The secretary may
13 deploy the state emergency medical reserve corps by order as allowed
14 for by this chapter.

15 (2) The secretary may:

16 (a) Enter into contracts and enter into and distribute grants on
17 behalf of the department to carry out the purposes of this chapter;
18 and

19 (b) Promulgate rules to implement this chapter.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) This chapter applies to members
21 registered with the department who provide health, veterinary, or
22 support services while deployed with the state emergency medical
23 reserve corps pursuant to an order of the secretary.

24 (2) The provisions of this chapter are in addition to and do not
25 affect any program established by Title 38 RCW or chapter 70.15 RCW.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) A person must apply to the department
27 to register with the state emergency medical reserve corps.

28 (2) To qualify to register as a health practitioner member under
29 this chapter, a person must pass a background check and be licensed
30 and in good standing in this state.

31 (3) To qualify to register as a support member under this
32 chapter, a person must pass a background check. If the person holds a
33 professional license in this state other than a health practitioner
34 license, that license must be in good standing.

35 (4) The department may by rule establish additional required
36 qualifications for registration as a member.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The secretary may order the deployment
2 of the state emergency medical reserve corps under any of the
3 following circumstances:

4 (a) When the secretary determines that there exists a threat to
5 the public health including, but not limited to, outbreaks of
6 diseases, food poisoning, contaminated water supplies, and all other
7 matters injurious to the public health;

8 (b) While an emergency declaration is in effect; or

9 (c) For training or exercises, or both.

10 (2) An order of the secretary deploying the state emergency
11 medical reserve corps shall, at a minimum, include:

12 (a) The duration of the deployment, which the secretary may
13 extend;

14 (b) The geographical areas in which members may provide services;

15 (c) Which members may participate in the deployment;

16 (d) Whether the members will receive compensation for their
17 participation in the deployment and the amount of such compensation;
18 and

19 (e) The services the members may provide.

20 (3) The secretary may include in the order any other matters
21 necessary to effectively coordinate the provision of services or the
22 training or exercises during the deployment.

23 (4) An order issued pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this
24 section may take effect immediately, without prior notice or comment,
25 and is not a rule within the meaning of the administrative procedure
26 act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

27 (5) The secretary shall coordinate the deployment of the state
28 emergency medical reserve corps with local health jurisdictions to
29 ensure that local medical reserve corps members are not deployed away
30 from local crises or emergencies that are happening concurrently to a
31 state-declared emergency or threat.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A health practitioner member when serving
33 with the state emergency medical reserve corps shall adhere to the
34 scope of practice for the health practitioner's profession
35 established by applicable law and subject to any restrictions imposed
36 by the secretary.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Health practitioners are subject to
38 disciplinary action pursuant to the uniform disciplinary act, chapter

1 18.130 RCW, for conduct committed while deployed with the state
2 emergency medical reserve corps, but disciplining authorities shall
3 consider the circumstances in which the conduct took place, including
4 any exigent circumstances, and the practitioner's scope of practice,
5 education, training, experience, and specialized skill.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) This chapter does not limit rights,
7 privileges, or immunities provided to health practitioner members by
8 laws other than this chapter.

9 (2) The department may, as allowed by law or government-to-
10 government agreement, incorporate into the forces of emergency
11 management personnel of this state emergency medical reserve corps
12 members who are not officers or employees of this state, a political
13 subdivision of this state, or a municipality or other local
14 government within this state for the purpose of deployment to other
15 jurisdictions.

16 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, members shall
17 not be deemed or treated as employees of the state for the purpose of
18 the state civil service rules or for any other purpose solely by
19 virtue of their status as a member of the state emergency medical
20 reserve corps.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) A member who dies or is injured as
22 the result of providing services pursuant to this chapter is deemed
23 to be an employee of this state for the purpose of receiving benefits
24 for the death or injury under the workers' compensation law of this
25 state, Title 51 RCW, if:

26 (a) The member is not otherwise eligible for such benefits for
27 the injury or death under the law of this or another state; and

28 (b) The practitioner, or in the case of death the practitioner's
29 personal representative, elects coverage under the workers'
30 compensation law of this state, Title 51 RCW, by making a claim under
31 that law.

32 (2) The department in consultation with the department of labor
33 and industries may adopt rules, enter into agreements with other
34 states, or take other measures to facilitate the receipt of benefits
35 for injury or death under the workers' compensation law of this
36 state, Title 51 RCW, by members who reside in other states, and may
37 waive or modify requirements for filing, processing, and paying
38 claims that unreasonably burden the practitioners.

1 (3) For the purposes of this section, "injury" means a physical
2 or mental injury or disease for which an employee of this state who
3 is injured or contracts the disease in the course of the employee's
4 employment would be entitled to benefits under the workers'
5 compensation law of this state, Title 51 RCW.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** No act or omission, except those acts or
7 omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton
8 misconduct, by a member providing services reasonably within the
9 provisions of this chapter and an order of the secretary issued
10 pursuant to this chapter shall impose any liability for civil damages
11 resulting from such an act or omission upon:

- 12 (1) The member;
- 13 (2) The supervisor or supervisors of the member;
- 14 (3) Any facility or their officers or employees;
- 15 (4) The employer of the member;
- 16 (5) The owner of the property or vehicle where the act or
17 omission may have occurred;
- 18 (6) The state or any state or local governmental entity; or
- 19 (7) Any professional or trade association of the member.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** This act may be known and cited as the
21 state emergency medical reserve corps act.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** This act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
24 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
25 effect immediately.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Sections 1 through 13 of this act
27 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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