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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1187

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Ryu, Thai, Obras, Macri, Paul, Callan, Pollet, Fey, and Kloba)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting patients involved in motor vehicle  
2 accidents from delayed ambulance bills; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 18.73 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 48.02 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.73  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) An ambulance service may not sell or assign medical debt  
8 related to ambulance services following a motor vehicle accident to  
9 any person licensed under chapter 19.16 RCW until at least 120 days  
10 after the initial billing statement for that medical debt has been  
11 transmitted to the patient or other responsible party.

12 (2) For purposes of this section, a motor vehicle accident  
13 includes incidents where a pedestrian or bicyclist is struck or  
14 otherwise injured by a motor vehicle.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) If the commissioner has cause to believe that any ambulance  
18 service has engaged in a pattern of unresolved violations of section  
19 1 of this act, the commissioner may submit information to the  
20 department of health for action. Prior to submitting information to

1 the department of health or the appropriate disciplining authority,  
2 the commissioner may provide the ambulance service with an  
3 opportunity to cure the alleged violations or explain why the actions  
4 in question did not violate section 1 of this act.

5 (2) If any ambulance service has engaged in a pattern of  
6 unresolved violations of section 1 of this act, the department of  
7 health may levy a fine or cost recovery upon the ambulance service in  
8 an amount not to exceed the applicable statutory amount per violation  
9 and take other action as permitted under the authority of the  
10 department. Upon completion of its review of any potential violation  
11 submitted by the commissioner or initiated directly by an enrollee,  
12 the department of health shall notify the commissioner of the results  
13 of the review, including whether the violation was substantiated and  
14 any enforcement action taken as a result of a finding of a  
15 substantiated violation.

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