

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1722

As of March 25, 2025

Title: An act relating to state restrictions affecting 16 and 17 year old students participating in secondary career and technical education programs and other state-approved career pathways.

Brief Description: Reviewing state restrictions affecting students participating in secondary career and technical education programs and other state-approved career pathways.

Sponsors: Representatives Connors, Schmidt, Dufault and Barnard.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/8/25, 96-0.

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 3/13/25 [w/oRec-LC].
Labor & Commerce: 3/25/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Department of Health to create a process to allow students who are 16 years of age to begin emergency medical technician training under certain circumstances.
- Requires the state Fire Marshal's Office to assess certain policies, including age restrictions, for the purpose of increasing professional and volunteer opportunities in the fire service.
- Allows minors with a specified license or certification to work in occupations with high risk of exposure to bloodborne and other infectious diseases.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & COMMERCE

Staff: Marlon Llanes (786-7423)

Background: Emergency Medical Technician Training. The secretary of the Department

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

of Health (DOH) sets minimum standards for emergency medical technician (EMT) training. An EMT is an individual who is authorized by DOH to render emergency medical care. DOH requires that individuals be at least 17 years of age to enroll in EMT training. An individual must be at least 18 years of age to be certified as an EMT.

Fire Protection Service Training Programs. The state fire marshal oversees the regional fire protection service authority, a branch of the Washington State Patrol. The fire marshal's responsibilities include providing fire protection-related academic, vocational, and field training programs at community colleges, technical colleges, state colleges and universities, skill centers, and other educational programs. An individual must be at least 18 years of age to train as a firefighter.

Minors Working in Occupations with the Risk of Exposure to Bloodborne Illness or Infectious Disease. The Department of Labor and Industries prohibits minors from working in occupations where there is a risk of exposure to bodily fluids or transmission of infectious agents. This does not apply if the minor is a student in a bona fide health care career training or vocational education program, or if the minor is a state-certified lifeguard with first aid training.

Summary of Bill: Emergency Medical Technician Training. DOH must develop a process for allowing a student who is 16 years of age to begin an emergency medical services training course. The course must be administered by a state-approved skill center or other bona fide vocational educational program approved by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The program must require continuous training until the student graduates from high school or turns 18 years of age, whichever is earlier.

Fire Protection Service Training Programs. The fire marshal must assess the regional fire protection service authority's policies affecting students who are participating in fire services training offered at certain educational programs. The policies, including age restrictions for fire services training, examinations, and certification, must be assessed for the purposes of increasing professional and volunteer opportunities in the fire service.

The fire marshal must report to the Legislature by October 1, 2025, any changes made to policies and practices, and any recommendations on changes to state laws and rules for the purposes of improving professional and volunteer opportunities in the fire service.

Minors Working in Occupations with the Risk of Exposure to Bloodborne Illness or Infectious Disease. If a minor has a specified professional license or certification issued by DOH that requires competency in procedures for preventing transmission of bloodborne pathogens and infectious diseases, DOH may not prohibit the minor from participating in an occupation based on the risk of exposure to bodily fluids or transmission of infectious agents.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill will reduce barriers for students committed to having a career in emergency services. The bill is narrowly crafted to make sure that safety is still a priority. There is a national workforce shortage in health care. This would benefit students by jump starting their careers and the public by increasing the number of professionals in emergency services and health care.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative April Connors, Prime Sponsor; Rosalia Watson, Clover Park Technical College, Nursing Assistant Certified Programs; Paul Randall, Tri-Tech Skills Center; Angela Nemeth, Tri-Tech Skills Center; Nathen Allington, Tri-Tech Skills Center; Ethan Wodehouse, Tri-Tech Skills Center; Charlie Brown, Washington Skills Centers Directors; Jinho (Jacob) Lee; Walter Lumpkin; Krishna Pratheek Madamala; Katelyn Kean, Northwest Maritime.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.