
HOUSE BILL 1276

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Bronoske and Lovick; by request of Department of Health

1 AN ACT Relating to providing for certain emergency medical
2 services personnel to work in diversion centers; and amending RCW
3 18.73.030 and 18.73.130.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.73.030 and 2015 c 93 s 5 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Advanced life support" means invasive emergency medical
10 services requiring advanced medical treatment skills as defined by
11 chapter 18.71 RCW.

12 (2) "Aid service" means an organization that operates one or more
13 aid vehicles.

14 (3) "Aid vehicle" means a vehicle used to carry aid equipment and
15 individuals trained in first aid or emergency medical procedure.

16 (4) "Ambulance" means a ground or air vehicle designed and used
17 to transport the ill and injured and to provide personnel,
18 facilities, and equipment to treat patients before and during
19 transportation.

20 (5) "Ambulance service" means an organization that operates one
21 or more ambulances.

1 (6) "Basic life support" means noninvasive emergency medical
2 services requiring basic medical treatment skills as defined in this
3 chapter (~~18.73~~ RCW).

4 (7) "Communications system" means a radio and landline network
5 which provides rapid public access, coordinated central dispatching
6 of services, and coordination of personnel, equipment, and facilities
7 in an emergency medical services and trauma care system.

8 (8) "Council" means the local or regional emergency medical
9 services and trauma care council as authorized under chapter 70.168
10 RCW.

11 (9) "Department" means the department of health.

12 (10) "Emergency medical service" means medical treatment and care
13 which may be rendered at the scene of any medical emergency or while
14 transporting any patient in an ambulance to an appropriate medical
15 facility, including ambulance transportation between medical
16 facilities.

17 (11) "Emergency medical services medical program director" means
18 a person who is an approved medical program director as defined by
19 RCW 18.71.205(4).

20 (12) "Emergency medical technician" means a person who is
21 authorized by the secretary to render emergency medical care pursuant
22 to RCW 18.73.081 or, under the responsible supervision and direction
23 of an approved medical program director, to participate in an
24 emergency services supervisory organization or a community assistance
25 referral and education services program established under RCW
26 35.21.930 if the participation does not exceed the participant's
27 training and certification.

28 (13) "Emergency services supervisory organization" means an
29 entity that is authorized by the secretary to use first responders to
30 provide medical evaluation or initial treatment, or both, to sick or
31 injured people, while in the course of duties with the organization
32 for on-site medical care prior to any necessary activation of
33 emergency medical services. Emergency services supervisory
34 organizations include law enforcement agencies, disaster management
35 organizations, search and rescue operations, diversion centers, and
36 businesses with organized industrial safety teams.

37 (14) "First responder" means a person who is authorized by the
38 secretary to render emergency medical care as defined by RCW
39 18.73.081.

1 (~~(14)~~) (15) "Patient care procedures" means written operating
2 guidelines adopted by the regional emergency medical services and
3 trauma care council, in consultation with the local emergency medical
4 services and trauma care councils, emergency communication centers,
5 and the emergency medical services medical program director, in
6 accordance with statewide minimum standards. The patient care
7 procedures shall identify the level of medical care personnel to be
8 dispatched to an emergency scene, procedures for triage of patients,
9 the level of trauma care facility to first receive the patient, and
10 the name and location of other trauma care facilities to receive the
11 patient should an interfacility transfer be necessary. Procedures on
12 interfacility transfer of patients shall be consistent with the
13 transfer procedures in chapter 70.170 RCW.

14 (~~(15)~~) (16) "Prehospital patient care protocols" means the
15 written procedure adopted by the emergency medical services medical
16 program director which direct the out-of-hospital emergency care of
17 the emergency patient which includes the trauma care patient. These
18 procedures shall be based upon the assessment of the patient's
19 medical needs and what treatment will be provided for emergency
20 conditions. The protocols shall meet or exceed statewide minimum
21 standards developed by the department in rule as authorized in
22 chapter 70.168 RCW.

23 (~~(16)~~) (17) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department
24 of health.

25 (~~(17)~~) (18) "Stretcher" means a cart designed to serve as a
26 litter for the transportation of a patient in a prone or supine
27 position as is commonly used in the ambulance industry, such as
28 wheeled stretchers, portable stretchers, stair chairs, solid
29 backboards, scoop stretchers, basket stretchers, or flexible
30 stretchers. The term does not include personal mobility aids that
31 recline at an angle or remain at a flat position, that are owned or
32 leased for a period of at least one week by the individual using the
33 equipment or the individual's guardian or representative, such as
34 wheelchairs, personal gurneys, or banana carts.

35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.73.130 and 2000 c 93 s 18 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 An ambulance service or aid service may not operate in the state
38 of Washington without holding a license for such operation, issued by
39 the secretary when such operation is consistent with the statewide

1 and regional emergency medical services and trauma care plans
2 established pursuant to chapter 70.168 RCW, indicating the general
3 area to be served and the number of vehicles to be used, with the
4 following exceptions:

5 (1) The United States government;

6 (2) Ambulance services providing service in other states when
7 bringing patients into this state;

8 (3) Owners of businesses in which ambulance or aid vehicles are
9 used exclusively on company property but occasionally in emergencies
10 may transport patients to hospitals not on company property; (~~and~~)

11 (4) Operators of vehicles pressed into service for transportation
12 of patients in emergencies when licensed ambulances are not available
13 or cannot meet overwhelming demand; and

14 (5) Emergency services supervisory organizations, as defined in
15 RCW 18.73.030(13). All entities that employ certified emergency
16 medical services personnel must ensure that such personnel work under
17 the medical oversight and protocols of a medical program director and
18 within their scope of practice, are able to meet certification
19 training requirements, and are provided with necessary medical
20 equipment to provide care at their level of certification.

21 The license shall be valid for a period of two years and shall be
22 renewed on request provided the holder has consistently complied with
23 the regulations of the department and the department of licensing and
24 provided also that the needs of the area served have been met
25 satisfactorily. The license shall not be transferable and may be
26 revoked if the service is found in violation of rules adopted by the
27 department.

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