
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1341

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By House Civil Rights & Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Bronoske, Walen, and Berry)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to the professional rescue doctrine; and adding a
2 new section to chapter 4.24 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 4.24 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The common law doctrine known as the professional rescue
7 doctrine that precludes a professional rescuer from recovering
8 damages for injuries arising from the normal, inherent, and
9 foreseeable risks of his or her profession is abolished.

10 (2) In addition to any other right of action or recovery
11 otherwise available under law, whenever any professional rescuer, who
12 previously would have been precluded by the professional rescue
13 doctrine from recovering damages, suffers any injury, disease, or
14 death while in the lawful discharge of his or her official duties and
15 that injury, disease, or death is directly or indirectly the result
16 of the neglect, willful omission, or willful or wanton conduct of any
17 person or entity, other than that employee, the employee, or in the
18 case of death, a representative of that employee's estate, may seek
19 recovery and damages from the person or entity whose neglect, willful
20 omission, or willful or wanton conduct resulted in that injury,
21 disease, or death.

1 (3) For purposes of this section, "professional rescuer" includes
2 law enforcement officers, firefighters, employees performing wildfire
3 suppression, and emergency medical services personnel.

4 (4) Nothing in this section creates a cause of action that is
5 otherwise barred by any other statutory provision.

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