
HOUSE BILL 2838

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representative Riccelli

1 AN ACT Relating to improving cardiac and stroke outcomes through
2 data-driven continuous quality and system improvement; adding a new
3 chapter to Title 70 RCW; and recodifying RCW 70.168.150.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to support efforts
6 to improve emergency cardiac and stroke care in Washington and reduce
7 death and disability resulting from cardiac and stroke events. This
8 includes developing an inclusive system of optimal cardiac and stroke
9 care throughout the continuum. Inclusive systems require oversight of
10 project concept, evidence-based aspects, coordination, and evaluation
11 of performance. Accordingly, the legislature intends that the
12 department of health has the responsibility for oversight and
13 coordination of the statewide cardiac and stroke system of care.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of health shall coordinate
15 the statewide cardiac and stroke system of care including developing
16 care system standards, stroke and cardiac center categorization, data
17 collection, and care system performance evaluation.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of health shall:

1 (1) Establish and coordinate a statewide cardiac and stroke
2 database for heart attack, sudden cardiac arrest, and stroke systems
3 of care utilizing existing databases and platforms and coordinate
4 with state and national organizations involved in cardiac and stroke
5 quality improvement to avoid duplication and redundant data entry;

6 (2) Establish in rule specific data elements and secure data
7 transport methods for data collection and submission;

8 (3) Identify and include data elements necessary to evaluate
9 performance on nationally recognized measures;

10 (4) Compile information and statistics on cardiac and stroke care
11 using data from existing cardiac and stroke registries;

12 (5) Require all hospitals to collect and submit approved measures
13 data quarterly to the department of health;

14 (6) Require all licensed prehospital emergency medical services
15 agencies to report data on cardiac and stroke patients to the
16 Washington emergency medical services information system; and

17 (7) Adopt rules to implement the requirements of this chapter.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of health shall establish
19 and implement a plan for achieving continuous quality improvement in
20 the care provided under the statewide system for cardiac and stroke
21 response and treatment. The department of health must develop and
22 implement this systemwide performance improvement plan using the
23 statewide cardiac and stroke database established in section 3 of
24 this act and other data sources available to the department of
25 health. The department of health shall:

26 (1) Establish a data validation process for the database and
27 implement a plan for continuous data quality improvement;

28 (2) Establish a system performance oversight process using data
29 from the database and implement a plan for continuous data quality
30 improvement;

31 (3) Analyze data concerning cardiac and stroke response and
32 treatment and identify areas in need of improvement;

33 (4) Provide quarterly reports on cardiac and stroke system
34 performance and quality of care measures to the emergency cardiac and
35 stroke technical advisory committee;

36 (5) Provide recommendations to the emergency medical services and
37 trauma steering committee and the legislature for the improvement of
38 cardiac and stroke care and delivery in the state;

1 (6) Provide technical assistance to emergency medical services
2 and trauma regions and hospitals, including technical assistance in
3 areas such as critical access hospitals that are currently lacking in
4 data submissions affiliated with any existing registry, where
5 applicable;

6 (7) Provide aggregate cardiac and stroke data feedback to
7 participating emergency medical services and trauma regions and
8 hospitals;

9 (8) Provide quality improvement assistance to emergency medical
10 services, hospitals, and emergency medical services and trauma
11 regions to improve performance on care and system coordination;

12 (9) Use the data to further the development of cardiac and stroke
13 system standards and education; and

14 (10) Identify and disseminate interventions to improve cardiac
15 and stroke care in prehospital and hospital settings and in local and
16 regional systems of care.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Within appropriated funds, the department
18 of health shall assist critical access and rural hospitals in
19 securing the necessary data platforms to meet the department's data
20 collection requirements and support prehospital services,
21 particularly in rural areas, in acquiring improved equipment and
22 additional personnel training for the treatment of cardiac and stroke
23 patients.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The department of health shall, within
25 appropriated funds, conduct public education on the signs and
26 symptoms of heart attack and stroke and the lifesaving benefits of
27 calling 911 and seeking immediate treatment.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** No later than September 1, 2022, the
29 department of health shall create a report analyzing the data
30 collected and make recommendations regarding whether on-site
31 verification of hospitals adherence to cardiac and stroke standards
32 of care is needed to improve all citizens' access to safe, timely,
33 evidence-based care for stroke, acute coronary syndrome, and cardiac
34 arrest.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Beginning June 1, 2021, and annually
36 thereafter, the department of health shall provide a summary report

1 of the data collected pursuant to section 3 of this act and an
2 analysis of the statewide progress toward improving quality of care
3 and patient outcomes. All data must be reported in the aggregate form
4 and shall be posted on the department of health's web site and
5 presented to the governor, the president of the senate, and the
6 speaker of the house of representatives.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Data elements related to the
8 identification of individual patients', providers', and facilities'
9 care outcomes shall be confidential, are not subject to disclosure
10 under the public records act, chapter 42.56 RCW, and shall not be
11 subject to discovery by subpoena or admissible as evidence.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** RCW 70.168.150 is recodified as a new
13 section in the new chapter created in section 11 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act
15 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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