

1 5127-S2 AMH FIN AMH-3150.1

2 **2SSB 5127** - H COMM AMD  
3 By Committee on Finance

4 ADOPTED AS AMENDED 4/11/97

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.168  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 The department shall establish by rule a grant program for  
10 designated trauma care services. The grants shall be made from the  
11 emergency medical services and trauma care system trust account and  
12 shall require regional matching funds. The trust account funds and  
13 regional match will be in a seventy-five to twenty-five percent ratio.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.168.040 and 1990 c 269 s 17 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 The emergency medical services and trauma care system trust account  
17 is hereby created in the state treasury. Moneys shall be transferred  
18 to the emergency medical services and trauma care system trust account  
19 from the public safety education account or other sources as  
20 appropriated, and as collected under RCW 46.63.110(6). Disbursements  
21 shall be made by the department subject to legislative appropriation.  
22 Expenditures may be made only for the purposes of the state trauma care  
23 system under this chapter, including emergency medical services, trauma  
24 care services, rehabilitative services, and the planning and  
25 development of related services under this chapter and for  
26 reimbursement by the department of social and health services for  
27 trauma care services provided by designated trauma centers.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.63.110 and 1993 c 501 s 11 are each amended to read  
29 as follows:

30 (1) A person found to have committed a traffic infraction shall be  
31 assessed a monetary penalty. No penalty may exceed two hundred and  
32 fifty dollars for each offense unless authorized by this chapter or  
33 title.

1 (2) The supreme court shall prescribe by rule a schedule of  
2 monetary penalties for designated traffic infractions. This rule shall  
3 also specify the conditions under which local courts may exercise  
4 discretion in assessing fines and penalties for traffic infractions.  
5 The legislature respectfully requests the supreme court to adjust this  
6 schedule every two years for inflation.

7 (3) There shall be a penalty of twenty-five dollars for failure to  
8 respond to a notice of traffic infraction except where the infraction  
9 relates to parking as defined by local law, ordinance, regulation, or  
10 resolution or failure to pay a monetary penalty imposed pursuant to  
11 this chapter. A local legislative body may set a monetary penalty not  
12 to exceed twenty-five dollars for failure to respond to a notice of  
13 traffic infraction relating to parking as defined by local law,  
14 ordinance, regulation, or resolution. The local court, whether a  
15 municipal, police, or district court, shall impose the monetary penalty  
16 set by the local legislative body.

17 (4) Monetary penalties provided for in chapter 46.70 RCW which are  
18 civil in nature and penalties which may be assessed for violations of  
19 chapter 46.44 RCW relating to size, weight, and load of motor vehicles  
20 are not subject to the limitation on the amount of monetary penalties  
21 which may be imposed pursuant to this chapter.

22 (5) Whenever a monetary penalty is imposed by a court under this  
23 chapter it is immediately payable. If the person is unable to pay at  
24 that time the court may, in its discretion, grant an extension of the  
25 period in which the penalty may be paid. If the penalty is not paid on  
26 or before the time established for payment the court shall notify the  
27 department of the failure to pay the penalty, and the department shall  
28 suspend the person's driver's license or driving privilege until the  
29 penalty has been paid and the penalty provided in subsection (3) of  
30 this section has been paid.

31 (6) In addition to any other penalties imposed under this section  
32 and not subject to the limitation of subsection (1) of this section, a  
33 person found to have committed a traffic infraction shall be assessed  
34 a fee of twenty dollars per infraction. Under no circumstances shall  
35 this fee be reduced or waived. Revenue from this fee shall be  
36 forwarded to the state treasurer for deposit in the emergency medical  
37 services and trauma care system trust account under RCW 70.168.040.  
38 The public safety and education assessment imposed under RCW 3.62.090  
39 does not apply to the fee imposed under this subsection.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    The legislature finds as follows:

2        Emergency medical services and trauma care are provided to all  
3 residents of the state regardless of a person's ability to pay.  
4 Historically, hospitals and health care providers have been able to  
5 recover some of their financial losses incurred in caring for an  
6 uninsured or underinsured person by charging persons able to pay more.  
7 In recent years, the health care industry has undergone substantial  
8 changes. With the advent of managed health care programs and the  
9 adoption of new cost control measures, some hospitals and health care  
10 providers assert that it is difficult to shift costs for uninsured and  
11 underinsured patients onto insured patients.

12        In 1990 the legislature established a coordinated trauma care  
13 system. Part of the 1990 legislation included funding for a study to  
14 determine the extent to which trauma care is uncompensated and  
15 undercompensated. This study focused exclusively on trauma care. The  
16 legislature finds that, as a prerequisite to determining the amount of  
17 state aid that may be necessary to assist health care providers and  
18 facilities, it is necessary to examine trauma care losses within the  
19 context of a health care provider or facility's total financial  
20 operations.

21        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    The committees on finance and health care of  
22 the house of representatives shall conduct a joint interim study on  
23 trauma care services funding.

24        (1) The study shall:

25        (a) Review how health care providers and facilities determine which  
26 patients are classified as trauma care patients;

27        (b) Examine actual trauma care services information for fiscal year  
28 1997 to determine how the four million six hundred thousand dollars  
29 appropriated from the state's general fund for trauma care was spent  
30 and whether the appropriation was sufficient to reimburse all eligible  
31 trauma care services for treating medically indigent persons who had a  
32 trauma index severity score of sixteen or higher;

33        (c) Determine if reimbursement at the medicaid rate covers, on  
34 average, the actual costs of trauma care services for treating a  
35 medically indigent person. If reimbursement at the medicaid rate does  
36 not cover actual costs, then the study shall determine by how much the  
37 reimbursement at the medicaid rate fails to cover actual costs;

1 (d) Review grants, contributions, and other income received by  
2 trauma center facilities that are not third-party reimbursements;

3 (e) Compare and contrast financial information for trauma care  
4 service providers to determine if the overall financial condition of  
5 such providers has worsened, improved, or held constant over the last  
6 five years; and

7 (f) Analyze any other information which assists the committees to  
8 better understand the amount of funding needed for trauma care  
9 services.

10 (2) The office of program research shall provide staff support for  
11 the study. The department of health, the department of social and  
12 health services, and the emergency medical services and trauma care  
13 steering committee shall provide information and technical support as  
14 needed.

15 (3) For the purposes of this section "trauma care services" means  
16 verified ambulance services, designated trauma services, and related  
17 services provided by a physician who is an active member of a trauma  
18 service team at a designated facility.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act take effect  
20 January 1, 1998."

21 Correct the title accordingly.

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