

**HB 2883 - H AMD 1189**

By Representative Cody

ADOPTED 03/10/2004

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that requiring all  
4 patients who need to travel in a prone or supine position but are  
5 medically stable, to be transported by ambulance can be overly  
6 restrictive to individuals with disabilities. These individuals  
7 frequently travel by means of reclining wheelchairs or devices commonly  
8 referred to as banana carts. Expanding travel options for these  
9 individuals will give them greater opportunities for mobility and  
10 reduce their costs of travel.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.73.030 and 2000 c 93 s 16 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 Unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, the  
14 following words and phrases as used in this chapter shall have the  
15 meanings indicated.

16 (1) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

17 (2) "Department" means the department of health.

18 (3) "Committee" means the emergency medical services licensing and  
19 certification advisory committee.

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

23 (5) "Aid vehicle" means a vehicle used to carry aid equipment and  
24 individuals trained in first aid or emergency medical procedure.

25 (6) "Emergency medical technician" means a person who is authorized  
26 by the secretary to render emergency medical care pursuant to RCW  
27 18.73.081.

28 (7) "Ambulance service" means an organization that operates one or  
29 more ambulances.

- 1 (8) "Aid service" means an organization that operates one or more  
2 aid vehicles.
- 3 (9) "Emergency medical service" means medical treatment and care  
4 which may be rendered at the scene of any medical emergency or while  
5 transporting any patient in an ambulance to an appropriate medical  
6 facility, including ambulance transportation between medical  
7 facilities.
- 8 (10) "Communications system" means a radio and landline network  
9 which provides rapid public access, coordinated central dispatching of  
10 services, and coordination of personnel, equipment, and facilities in  
11 an emergency medical services and trauma care system.
- 12 (11) "Prehospital patient care protocols" means the written  
13 procedure adopted by the emergency medical services medical program  
14 director which direct the out-of-hospital emergency care of the  
15 emergency patient which includes the trauma care patient. These  
16 procedures shall be based upon the assessment of the patient's medical  
17 needs and what treatment will be provided for emergency conditions.  
18 The protocols shall meet or exceed statewide minimum standards  
19 developed by the department in rule as authorized in chapter 70.168  
20 RCW.
- 21 (12) "Patient care procedures" means written operating guidelines  
22 adopted by the regional emergency medical services and trauma care  
23 council, in consultation with the local emergency medical services and  
24 trauma care councils, emergency communication centers, and the  
25 emergency medical services medical program director, in accordance with  
26 statewide minimum standards. The patient care procedures shall  
27 identify the level of medical care personnel to be dispatched to an  
28 emergency scene, procedures for triage of patients, the level of trauma  
29 care facility to first receive the patient, and the name and location  
30 of other trauma care facilities to receive the patient should an  
31 interfacility transfer be necessary. Procedures on interfacility  
32 transfer of patients shall be consistent with the transfer procedures  
33 in chapter 70.170 RCW.
- 34 (13) "Emergency medical services medical program director" means a  
35 person who is an approved medical program director as defined by RCW  
36 18.71.205(4).
- 37 (14) "Council" means the local or regional emergency medical  
38 services and trauma care council as authorized under chapter 70.168  
39 RCW.

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

4 (16) "Advanced life support" means invasive emergency medical  
5 services requiring advanced medical treatment skills as defined by  
6 chapter 18.71 RCW.

7 (17) "First responder" means a person who is authorized by the  
8 secretary to render emergency medical care as defined by RCW 18.73.081.

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

EFFECT: Eliminates the requirement that the Department of Health establish rules defining which patients may travel in vehicles other than ambulances. Defines a stretcher as a cart for transporting patients in a prone or supine position, but does not include certain personal mobility aids that are owned or leased by the individual being transported, such as reclining wheelchairs or banana carts. Adds legislative intent.

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