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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1517**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2004 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Cooper, Simpson, G., Conway, Sullivan and Wallace)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to the occupational safety and health of fire  
2 department employees; and adding a new chapter to Title 49 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to set standards for  
5 addressing the occupational safety and health of substantially career  
6 fire department employees, and to specify performance measures  
7 applicable to response time objectives for certain major services. The  
8 legislature acknowledges the efforts of the national fire protection  
9 association to develop standard 1710 for the organization and  
10 deployment of substantially career fire departments. For these  
11 reasons, this chapter contains performance measures, comparable to that  
12 standard, relating to the organization and deployment of fire  
13 suppression operations, emergency medical operations, and special  
14 operations by substantially career fire departments. This chapter does  
15 not, and is not intended to, in any way modify or limit the authority  
16 of the department of labor and industries to adopt rules under chapter  
17 49.17 RCW applying to fire departments or otherwise addressing the  
18 occupational safety and health of fire fighters.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3        (1) "Advanced life support" means functional provision of advanced  
4 airway management, including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring,  
5 manual defibrillation, establishment and maintenance of intravenous  
6 access, and drug therapy.

7        (2) "Aircraft rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting  
8 actions taken to rescue persons and to control or extinguish fire  
9 involving or adjacent to aircraft on the ground.

10       (3) "Fire department" means a fire protection district, or a  
11 county, city, or other municipal fire department responsible for fire  
12 fighting actions, emergency medical services, and other special  
13 operations in a specified geographic area. The district or the  
14 department must be a substantially career fire department, and not a  
15 substantially volunteer fire department.

16       (4) "Fire suppression" means the activities involved in controlling  
17 and extinguishing fires.

18       (5) "First responder" means provision of initial assessment and  
19 basic first-aid intervention, including cardiac pulmonary resuscitation  
20 and automatic external defibrillator capability.

21       (6) "Marine rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting  
22 actions taken to prevent, control, or extinguish fire involved in or  
23 adjacent to a marine vessel and the rescue actions for occupants using  
24 normal and emergency routes for egress.

25       (7) "Response time" means the time beginning when units are en  
26 route to the emergency incident and ending when units arrive at the  
27 scene.

28       (8) "Special operations" means those emergency incidents to which  
29 the fire department responds that require specific and advanced  
30 training and specialized tools and equipment.

31       (9) "Turnout time" means the time beginning when units acknowledge  
32 notification of the emergency to the beginning point of response time.

33       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.** (1) Every fire department shall maintain a  
34 written statement or policy that establishes the following:

- 35        (a) The existence of a fire department;
- 36        (b) Services that the fire department is required to provide;
- 37        (c) The basic organizational structure of the fire department;

- 1 (d) The expected number of fire department employees; and
- 2 (e) Functions that fire department employees are expected to
- 3 perform.

4 (2) Every fire department shall include service delivery objectives  
5 in the written statement or policy required under subsection (1) of  
6 this section. These objectives shall include specific response time  
7 objectives for the following major service components, if appropriate:

- 8 (a) Fire suppression;
- 9 (b) Emergency management services;
- 10 (c) Special operations;
- 11 (d) Aircraft rescue and fire fighting;
- 12 (e) Marine rescue and fire fighting; and
- 13 (f) Wild land fire fighting.

14 (3) Every fire department shall establish the following time  
15 objectives:

- 16 (a) One minute for turnout time;
- 17 (b) Four minutes or less for the arrival of the first arriving  
18 engine company at a fire suppression incident, or eight minutes or less  
19 for the deployment of a full first alarm assignment at a fire  
20 suppression incident;
- 21 (c) Four minutes or less for the arrival of a unit with first  
22 responder or higher level capability at an emergency medical incident;  
23 and
- 24 (d) Eight minutes or less for the arrival of an advanced life  
25 support unit at an emergency medical incident, where this service is  
26 provided by the fire department.

27 (4) Every fire department shall also establish a performance  
28 objective of not less than ninety percent for the achievement of each  
29 response time objective specified in subsection (3) of this section.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Every fire department shall evaluate its  
31 level of service and deployment delivery and response time objectives  
32 on an annual basis. The evaluations shall be based on data relating to  
33 level of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time  
34 objective in each geographic area within the jurisdiction of the fire  
35 department.

36 (2) Beginning in 2005, every fire department shall issue an annual

1 written report which shall be based on the annual evaluations required  
2 by subsection (1) of this section.

3 (a) The annual report shall define the geographic areas and  
4 circumstances in which the requirements of this standard are not being  
5 met.

6 (b) The annual report shall explain the predictable consequences of  
7 these deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve  
8 compliance.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute  
10 a new chapter in Title 49 RCW.

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