

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5653

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As of February 2, 2005

**Title:** An act relating to specialized commercial vehicles used for patient transportation.

**Brief Description:** Describing specialized commercial vehicles used for patient transportation.

**Sponsors:** Senators Jacobsen, Swecker, Doumit and Haugen.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation:

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Staff:** Dalene Sprick (786-7321)

**Background:** Under current law, generally patients who must be carried on a stretcher or who may require medical attention en route must be transported via an ambulance or an aid car, except when a disaster creates a situation that cannot be served by licensed ambulances. However, stretcher is not currently defined.

**Summary of Bill:** The legislature finds that requiring all patients who need to travel in a prone or supine position but are medically stable, to be transported by an ambulance can be overly restrictive to individuals with disabilities.

"Stretcher" is defined as a cart designed to serve as a litter for the transportation of a patient in a prone or supine position as commonly used in the ambulance industry. However, it specifically excludes personal mobility aids that recline at an angle or remain at a flat position, such as wheelchairs, personal gurneys, or banana carts. Such personal mobility aids must be owned or leased for a period of at least one week by the individual using the equipment or the individual's guardian or representative.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested February 2, 2005.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.