

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5708

---

---

As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Health & Long-Term Care, February 28, 2005

**Title:** An act relating to the administration of epinephrine by emergency medical technicians.

**Brief Description:** Regarding the administration of epinephrine by emergency medical technicians.

**Sponsors:** Senators Finkbeiner, Thibaudeau, Keiser, McAuliffe and Kohl-Welles.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long-Term Care: 2/10/05, 2/28/05 [DPS].

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5708 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Keiser, Chair; Thibaudeau, Vice Chair; Benson, Brandland, Franklin, Johnson, Kastama, Kline, Parlette and Poulsen.

**Staff:** Stephanie Yurcisin (786-7438)

**Background:** Anaphylaxis is an allergic hypersensitivity reaction of the body to a foreign protein or drug. Anaphylaxis can be caused by drugs, insect stings, foods, and inhalants. In some cases it can result in convulsions, unconsciousness, and even death. Epinephrine is used to treat anaphylactic reactions.

In 1999, the Legislature passed legislation requiring emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to carry epinephrine and authorizing EMTs to administer it to patients of any age upon evidence of a prescription. EMTs were also authorized to administer epinephrine to minors upon the request of the patient or his or her parent or guardian, or at the request of an authorized individual. In 2001, the expiration date on the legislation was removed.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** This bill authorizes an emergency medical technician to administer epinephrine.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The substitute bill expands the EMT's authority to administer epinephrine. The original bill additionally authorized an EMT to administer epinephrine to an adult upon the patient's request or upon the request of someone who presents written authorization from the patient. The substitute bill removes the limitation on situations in which an EMT may administer epinephrine and, accordingly, removes the special protection from liability provision that was tied to administering epinephrine.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

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

**Testimony For:** Extensive studies have shown that it is safe, valuable, and lifesaving for EMTs to be able to carry and administer epinephrine. It would be even better if they could administer it without proof of prescription; the benefits would outweigh the costs. Allowing EMTs to administer epinephrine has been a lifesaver.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Who Testified:** PRO: Anna McCartney; Susie Tracy, Washington State Medical Association; Jana Robertson; Sherry Thomas.