
SENATE BILL 5653

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Swecker, Doumit and Haugen

Read first time 02/01/2005. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to specialized commercial vehicles used for patient
2 transportation; amending RCW 18.73.030; and creating a new section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 (6) "Emergency medical technician" means a person who is authorized
9 by the secretary to render emergency medical care pursuant to RCW
10 18.73.081.

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

13 (8) "Aid service" means an organization that operates one or more
14 aid vehicles.

15 (9) "Emergency medical service" means medical treatment and care
16 which may be rendered at the scene of any medical emergency or while
17 transporting any patient in an ambulance to an appropriate medical
18 facility, including ambulance transportation between medical
19 facilities.

20 (10) "Communications system" means a radio and landline network
21 which provides rapid public access, coordinated central dispatching of
22 services, and coordination of personnel, equipment, and facilities in
23 an emergency medical services and trauma care system.

24 (11) "Prehospital patient care protocols" means the written
25 procedure adopted by the emergency medical services medical program
26 director which direct the out-of-hospital emergency care of the
27 emergency patient which includes the trauma care patient. These
28 procedures shall be based upon the assessment of the patient's medical
29 needs and what treatment will be provided for emergency conditions.
30 The protocols shall meet or exceed statewide minimum standards
31 developed by the department in rule as authorized in chapter 70.168
32 RCW.

33 (12) "Patient care procedures" means written operating guidelines
34 adopted by the regional emergency medical services and trauma care
35 council, in consultation with the local emergency medical services and
36 trauma care councils, emergency communication centers, and the
37 emergency medical services medical program director, in accordance with
38 statewide minimum standards. The patient care procedures shall

1 identify the level of medical care personnel to be dispatched to an
2 emergency scene, procedures for triage of patients, the level of trauma
3 care facility to first receive the patient, and the name and location
4 of other trauma care facilities to receive the patient should an
5 interfacility transfer be necessary. Procedures on interfacility
6 transfer of patients shall be consistent with the transfer procedures
7 in chapter 70.170 RCW.

8 (13) "Emergency medical services medical program director" means a
9 person who is an approved medical program director as defined by RCW
10 18.71.205(4).

11 (14) "Council" means the local or regional emergency medical
12 services and trauma care council as authorized under chapter 70.168
13 RCW.

14 (15) "Basic life support" means noninvasive emergency medical
15 services requiring basic medical treatment skills as defined in chapter
16 18.73 RCW.

17 (16) "Advanced life support" means invasive emergency medical
18 services requiring advanced medical treatment skills as defined by
19 chapter 18.71 RCW.

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

22 (18) "Stretcher" means a cart designed to serve as a litter for the
23 transportation of a patient in a prone or supine position as is
24 commonly used in the ambulance industry, such as wheeled stretchers,
25 portable stretchers, stair chairs, solid backboards, scoop stretchers,
26 basket stretchers, or flexible stretchers. The term does not include
27 personal mobility aids that recline at an angle or remain at a flat
28 position, that are owned or leased for a period of at least one week by
29 the individual using the equipment or the individual's guardian or
30 representative, such as wheelchairs, personal gurneys, or
31 banana carts.

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