
SENATE BILL 6880

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senator Keiser

Read first time 03/01/10. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to emergency medical technicians and paramedics;
2 amending RCW 18.71.010, 18.73.030, 18.73.081, 43.70.110, and 43.70.250;
3 reenacting and amending RCW 18.71.205; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.71.010 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 302 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The following terms used in this chapter shall have the meanings
8 set forth in this section unless the context clearly indicates
9 otherwise:

10 (1) "Commission" means the Washington state medical quality
11 assurance commission.

12 (2) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

13 (3) "Resident physician" means an individual who has graduated from
14 a school of medicine which meets the requirements set forth in RCW
15 18.71.055 and is serving a period of postgraduate clinical medical
16 training sponsored by a college or university in this state or by a
17 hospital accredited by this state. For purposes of this chapter, the
18 term shall include individuals designated as intern or medical fellow.

1 (4) "Emergency medical care" or "emergency medical service" has the
2 same meaning as in chapter 18.73 RCW.

3 (5) "Compensation" has the same meaning as in RCW 18.73.030.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.71.205 and 1996 c 191 s 55 and 1996 c 178 s 6 are
5 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The secretary of the department of health, in conjunction with
7 the advice and assistance of the emergency medical services licensing
8 and certification advisory committee as prescribed in RCW 18.73.050,
9 and the commission, shall prescribe:

10 (a) Practice parameters, training standards for, and levels of,
11 physician trained emergency medical service intermediate life support
12 technicians and paramedics;

13 (b) Minimum standards and performance requirements for the
14 certification and recertification of physician's trained emergency
15 medical service intermediate life support technicians and paramedics;
16 ~~((and))~~

17 (c) Procedures for certification, recertification, and
18 decertification of physician's trained emergency medical service
19 intermediate life support technicians and paramedics; and

20 (d) Appropriate fees under RCW 43.70.110 for those physician's
21 trained emergency medical service intermediate life support technicians
22 and paramedics who receive compensation.

23 (2) Initial certification shall be for a period established by the
24 secretary pursuant to RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

25 (3) Recertification shall be granted upon proof of continuing
26 satisfactory performance and education, and shall be for a period
27 established by the secretary pursuant to RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

28 (4) As used in chapters 18.71 and 18.73 RCW, "approved medical
29 program director" means a person who:

30 (a) Is licensed to practice medicine and surgery pursuant to
31 chapter 18.71 RCW or osteopathic medicine and surgery pursuant to
32 chapter 18.57 RCW; and

33 (b) Is qualified and knowledgeable in the administration and
34 management of emergency care and services; and

35 (c) Is so certified by the department of health for a county, group
36 of counties, or cities with populations over four hundred thousand in

1 coordination with the recommendations of the local medical community
2 and local emergency medical services and trauma care council.

3 (5) The Uniform Disciplinary Act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs
4 uncertified practice, the issuance and denial of certificates, and the
5 disciplining of certificate holders under this section. The secretary
6 shall be the disciplining authority under this section. Disciplinary
7 action shall be initiated against a person credentialed under this
8 chapter in a manner consistent with the responsibilities and duties of
9 the medical program director under whom such person is responsible.

10 (6) Such activities of physician's trained emergency medical
11 service intermediate life support technicians and paramedics shall be
12 limited to actions taken under the express written or oral order of
13 medical program directors and shall not be construed at any time to
14 include free standing or nondirected actions, for actions not
15 presenting an emergency or life-threatening condition.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.73.030 and 2005 c 193 s 2 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (6) "Emergency medical technician" means a person who is authorized
31 by the secretary to render emergency medical care pursuant to RCW
32 18.73.081.

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

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

1 (9) "Emergency medical service" means medical treatment and care
2 which may be rendered at the scene of any medical emergency or while
3 transporting any patient in an ambulance to an appropriate medical
4 facility, including ambulance transportation between medical
5 facilities.

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

10 (11) "Prehospital patient care protocols" means the written
11 procedure adopted by the emergency medical services medical program
12 director which direct the out-of-hospital emergency care of the
13 emergency patient which includes the trauma care patient. These
14 procedures shall be based upon the assessment of the patient's medical
15 needs and what treatment will be provided for emergency conditions.
16 The protocols shall meet or exceed statewide minimum standards
17 developed by the department in rule as authorized in chapter 70.168
18 RCW.

19 (12) "Patient care procedures" means written operating guidelines
20 adopted by the regional emergency medical services and trauma care
21 council, in consultation with the local emergency medical services and
22 trauma care councils, emergency communication centers, and the
23 emergency medical services medical program director, in accordance with
24 statewide minimum standards. The patient care procedures shall
25 identify the level of medical care personnel to be dispatched to an
26 emergency scene, procedures for triage of patients, the level of trauma
27 care facility to first receive the patient, and the name and location
28 of other trauma care facilities to receive the patient should an
29 interfacility transfer be necessary. Procedures on interfacility
30 transfer of patients shall be consistent with the transfer procedures
31 in chapter 70.170 RCW.

32 (13) "Emergency medical services medical program director" means a
33 person who is an approved medical program director as defined by RCW
34 18.71.205(4).

35 (14) "Council" means the local or regional emergency medical
36 services and trauma care council as authorized under chapter 70.168
37 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 banana carts.

18 (19) "Compensation" means regular payment for providing emergency
19 medical care in the course of employment, but does not include nominal
20 payments, reimbursement for expenses, or payments made to volunteer
21 part-time and volunteer on-call personnel of fire departments, fire
22 districts, ambulance districts, aid or ambulance services, or any
23 emergency response organization.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.73.081 and 1993 c 254 s 1 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 In addition to other duties prescribed by law, the secretary shall:

27 (1) Prescribe minimum requirements for:

28 (a) Ambulance, air ambulance, and aid vehicles and equipment;

29 (b) Ambulance and aid services; and

30 (c) Minimum emergency communication equipment;

31 (2) Adopt procedures for services that fail to perform in
32 accordance with minimum requirements;

33 (3) Prescribe minimum standards for first responder and emergency
34 medical technician training including:

35 (a) Adoption of curriculum and period of certification;

36 (b) Procedures for certification, recertification, decertification,
37 or modification of certificates;

1 (c) Adoption of requirements for ongoing training and evaluation,
2 as approved by the county medical program director, to include
3 appropriate evaluation for individual knowledge and skills. The first
4 responder, emergency medical technician, or emergency medical services
5 provider agency may elect a program of continuing education and a
6 written and practical examination instead of meeting the ongoing
7 training and evaluation requirements;

8 (d) Procedures for reciprocity with other states or national
9 certifying agencies;

10 (e) Review and approval or disapproval of training programs;
11 ((and))

12 (f) Adoption of standards for numbers and qualifications of
13 instructional personnel required for first responder and emergency
14 medical technician training programs; and

15 (g) Adoption of appropriate fees under RCW 43.70.110 for those
16 first responders and emergency medical technicians who receive
17 compensation;

18 (4) Prescribe minimum requirements for liability insurance to be
19 carried by licensed services except that this requirement shall not
20 apply to public bodies; and

21 (5) Certify emergency medical program directors.

22 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.70.110 and 2009 c 403 s 5 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the
25 secretary shall charge fees to the licensee for obtaining a license.
26 Physicians regulated pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW who reside and
27 practice in Washington and obtain or renew a retired active license are
28 exempt from such fees. After June 30, 1995, municipal corporations
29 providing emergency medical care and transportation services pursuant
30 to chapter 18.73 RCW shall be exempt from such fees, provided that such
31 other emergency services shall only be charged for their pro rata share
32 of the cost of licensure and inspection, if appropriate. The secretary
33 may waive the fees when, in the discretion of the secretary, the fees
34 would not be in the best interest of public health and safety, or when
35 the fees would be to the financial disadvantage of the state.

36 (2) Certifications for physician's trained emergency medical
37 service intermediate life support technicians and paramedics certified

1 under chapter 18.71 RCW and for first responders and emergency medical
2 technicians certified under chapter 18.73 RCW shall be determined
3 according to the pro rata share of the cost of certification to the
4 department, except that the following are exempt from fees under this
5 section:

6 (a) Certifications for first responders and emergency medical
7 technicians certified under chapter 18.73 RCW who do not receive
8 compensation as defined in RCW 18.73.030;

9 (b) Certifications for physician's trained emergency medical
10 service intermediate life support technicians and paramedics certified
11 under chapter 18.71 RCW who do not receive compensation as defined in
12 RCW 18.73.030; and

13 (c) Licenses for aid or ambulance services and vehicles under
14 chapter 18.73 RCW.

15 (3) Except as provided in subsection (~~(3)~~) (4) of this section,
16 fees charged shall be based on, but shall not exceed, the cost to the
17 department for the licensure of the activity or class of activities and
18 may include costs of necessary inspection.

19 (~~(3)~~) (4) License fees shall include amounts in addition to the
20 cost of licensure activities in the following circumstances:

21 (a) For registered nurses and licensed practical nurses licensed
22 under chapter 18.79 RCW, support of a central nursing resource center
23 as provided in RCW 18.79.202, until June 30, 2013;

24 (b) For all health care providers licensed under RCW 18.130.040,
25 the cost of regulatory activities for retired volunteer medical worker
26 licensees as provided in RCW 18.130.360; and

27 (c) For physicians licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, physician
28 assistants licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, osteopathic physicians
29 licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, osteopathic physicians' assistants
30 licensed under chapter 18.57A RCW, naturopaths licensed under chapter
31 18.36A RCW, podiatrists licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW, chiropractors
32 licensed under chapter 18.25 RCW, psychologists licensed under chapter
33 18.83 RCW, registered nurses licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW,
34 optometrists licensed under chapter 18.53 RCW, mental health counselors
35 licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW, massage therapists licensed under
36 chapter 18.108 RCW, clinical social workers licensed under chapter
37 18.225 RCW, and acupuncturists licensed under chapter 18.06 RCW, the

1 license fees shall include up to an additional twenty-five dollars to
2 be transferred by the department to the University of Washington for
3 the purposes of RCW 43.70.112.

4 ~~((4))~~ (5) Department of health advisory committees may review
5 fees established by the secretary for licenses and comment upon the
6 appropriateness of the level of such fees.

7 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.70.250 and 2006 c 72 s 4 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 It shall be the policy of the state of Washington that the cost of
10 each professional, occupational, or business licensing program be fully
11 borne by the members of that profession, occupation, or business,
12 except as otherwise provided under RCW 43.70.110. The secretary shall
13 from time to time establish the amount of all application fees, license
14 fees, registration fees, examination fees, permit fees, renewal fees,
15 and any other fee associated with licensing or regulation of
16 professions, occupations, or businesses administered by the department.
17 In fixing said fees, the secretary shall set the fees for each program
18 at a sufficient level to defray the costs of administering that program
19 and the cost of regulating licensed volunteer medical workers in
20 accordance with RCW 18.130.360, except as provided in RCW 18.79.202
21 until June 30, 2013. All such fees shall be fixed by rule adopted by
22 the secretary in accordance with the provisions of the administrative
23 procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act takes effect July 1, 2010.

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