
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2287

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By House Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives McCabe, Appleton, Johnson, Wylie, Dye, Walsh, Dent, Wilson, Kagi, Caldier, Haler, Kochmar, and Senn)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing notice to first responders that a
2 person with a disability may be present at the scene of an emergency;
3 adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 38.52 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
7 Travis alert act.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) The department of health, in collaboration with the
11 department of social and health services, the Washington state
12 patrol, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, and
13 the superintendent of public instruction, shall design a training
14 program that will familiarize first responders and 911 personnel with
15 the techniques for best handling situations in which persons with
16 disabilities are present at the scene of an emergency in order to
17 maximize the safety of persons with disabilities, minimize the
18 likelihood of injury to persons with disabilities, and promote the
19 safety of all persons present. The program must include a checklist
20 of disabilities, symptoms of such disabilities, and things to do and

1 not do relevant to a particular disability so first responders and
2 emergency personnel can easily and quickly determine the specific
3 scenario into which they are entering. The department shall make the
4 training program available to all first responder agencies in the
5 state.

6 (2) For purposes of this section, "persons with disabilities"
7 means individuals who have been diagnosed with a physical, mental,
8 emotional, intellectual, behavioral, developmental, or sensory
9 disability.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) The director, through the state enhanced 911 coordinator, and
13 in collaboration with the department of health, the department of
14 social and health services, the Washington state patrol, the
15 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, and other
16 individuals and entities at the discretion of the director, shall
17 assess:

18 (a) The resources, capabilities, and procedures available or
19 required in order to include as part of the enhanced 911 emergency
20 service the ability to allow an immediate display on the screen
21 indicating that a person with a disability may be present at the
22 scene of an emergency, the caller's identification, location, phone
23 number, address, and license plate number if made available, that is
24 linked to the caller, emergency contact information for others who
25 will know about the person with a disability such as siblings,
26 grandparents, friends, or neighbors, if made available, information
27 regarding alternative residences and vehicles a person with a
28 disability frequently or regularly lives or commutes in, if made
29 available, detailed information regarding the disability of the
30 person including a picture and physical description of a person, if
31 made available, and the name, address, and phone number of the
32 diagnosing physician, if made available;

33 (b) How best to acquire, implement, and safeguard the information
34 in the system provided by a person with a disability, or a parent,
35 guardian, or caretaker of a person with a disability, such as
36 requiring a person who chooses to use the system to submit proof of
37 the diagnosis of the disability by a licensed health care physician
38 along with the information listed in (a) of this subsection, and

1 allowing or requiring the person to update the information in the
2 system on a periodic basis in order to keep the information current;

3 (c) What information provided by a person should remain
4 confidential and how to best ensure such information remains
5 confidential, unless the person providing the information gives
6 written permission to release it for purposes of this act or the
7 information is otherwise releasable or available under other
8 provisions of law; and

9 (d) The need to provide various agencies and employees, which are
10 first responders and emergency personnel, immunity from civil
11 liability for acts or omissions in the performance of their duties,
12 and what standard should apply, such as if the act or omission is the
13 result of simple negligence, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

14 (2) For purposes of this section, "person with a disability"
15 means an individual who has been diagnosed with a physical, mental,
16 emotional, intellectual, behavioral, developmental, or sensory
17 disability.

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