
HOUSE BILL 2287

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 3rd Special Session

By Representatives McCabe, Appleton, Johnson, Wylie, Dye, Walsh,
Dent, Wilson, Kagi, Caldier, Haler, Kochmar, and Senn

Read first time 06/30/15. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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 department
11 of social and health services, the Washington state patrol, the
12 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, and the
13 superintendent of public instruction, shall:

14 (a) Design and print a decal no larger than three inches by three
15 inches that includes the shape of a puzzle piece colored safety
16 orange on a dark background with no writing thereon that can be
17 placed on the outside or inside of an entrance to a building or on
18 the windshield or license plate of a vehicle to provide notice to
19 first responders, including firefighters, law enforcement,
20 paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and others providing

1 ambulance, medical, or other emergency services, that a person with a
2 disability may be present in the building or vehicle;

3 (b) Distribute information on the availability of decals to fire
4 departments, police departments, health care facilities, schools, and
5 other public places and how parents and others can obtain the decals.
6 This information must also be made available on the web sites of
7 public agencies such as the department of health, the department of
8 social and health services, fire departments, police departments,
9 schools, and other relevant agencies;

10 (c) Design a training program that will familiarize first
11 responders and 911 personnel for the identification and use of
12 information that a person with a disability may be present at the
13 scene of an emergency and the techniques for best handling such
14 situations in order to maximize the safety of persons with a
15 disability, minimize the likelihood of injury to persons with a
16 disability, and promote the safety of all persons present. The
17 program must include a checklist of disabilities, symptoms of such
18 disabilities, things to do and not do relevant to a particular
19 disability so first responders/emergency personnel can easily and
20 quickly determine the specific scenario they are entering into. The
21 department shall make the training program available to all first
22 responder agencies in the state; and

23 (d) Require a person who is the parent or guardian of a person
24 who is diagnosed as disabled to obtain new decals for a residence or
25 vehicle on a periodic basis such as every six months or twelve
26 months, on the disabled person's birthday, the annual license tab
27 renewal date, or the date property taxes are due to keep the
28 information as current as possible.

29 (2) For purposes of this section, "person with a disability"
30 means an individual who has been diagnosed with a physical, mental,
31 emotional, intellectual, behavioral, developmental, or sensory
32 disability.

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

35 (1) The director, through the state enhanced 911 coordinator, and
36 in collaboration with the department of health, the department of
37 social and health services, the Washington state patrol, the
38 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, and other
39 individuals and entities at the discretion of the director, shall

1 assess the resources, capabilities, and procedures available or
2 required in order to include as part of the enhanced 911 emergency
3 service the ability to allow an immediate display on the screen of
4 the orange symbol designed under section 1 of this act indicating
5 that a person with a disability may be present at the scene of an
6 emergency, the caller's identification, location, phone number,
7 address, and license plate number if made available, that is linked
8 to the caller, emergency contact information for others who will know
9 about the person with a disability such as siblings, grandparents,
10 friends, or neighbors, if made available, information regarding
11 alternative residences and vehicles a person with a disability
12 frequently or regularly lives or commutes in, if made available,
13 detailed information regarding the disability of the person including
14 a picture and physical description of a person, if made available,
15 and the name, address, and phone number of the diagnosing physician,
16 if made available.

17 (2) In order to use the system, a person who is the parent or
18 guardian of a disabled person must submit proof of the diagnosis of
19 the disability by a licensed health care physician along with the
20 information listed in subsection (1) of this section.

21 (3) The director shall consider allowing or requiring persons who
22 choose to provide the information listed in subsection (1) of this
23 section to review and update their information in the system on a
24 periodic basis to keep the information as current as possible.

25 (4) All information provided under subsection (1) of this section
26 must remain confidential unless the person providing the information
27 provides written permission to release the information for purposes
28 of this act or the information is otherwise releasable or available
29 under other provisions of law.

30 (5) First responders and emergency personnel and their employing
31 agencies are immune from civil liability and are not liable for
32 damages for any acts or omissions in the performance of their duties
33 unless the act or omission is the result of willful misconduct or
34 gross negligence.

35 (6) For purposes of this section, "person with a disability"
36 means an individual who has been diagnosed with a physical, mental,
37 emotional, intellectual, behavioral, developmental, or sensory
38 disability.

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