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HOUSE BILL 1358

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Griffey and Cody

Read first time 01/18/17. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to reimbursement for services provided pursuant  
2 to community assistance referral and education services programs;  
3 amending RCW 35.21.930; and adding a new section to chapter 74.09  
4 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 The authority shall adopt standards for the reimbursement of  
9 health care services provided to eligible clients by fire departments  
10 pursuant to a community assistance referral and education services  
11 program under RCW 35.21.930. The standards must allow payment for  
12 covered health care services provided to individuals whose medical  
13 needs do not require ambulance transport to an emergency department.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.21.930 and 2015 c 93 s 1 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 (1) Any fire department may develop a community assistance  
17 referral and education services program to provide community outreach  
18 and assistance to residents of its jurisdiction in order to improve  
19 population health and advance injury and illness prevention within  
20 its community. The program should identify members of the community

1 who use the 911 system or emergency department for low acuity  
2 assistance calls (calls that are nonemergency or nonurgent) and  
3 connect them to their primary care providers, other health care  
4 professionals, low-cost medication programs, and other social  
5 services. The program may partner with hospitals to reduce  
6 readmissions. The program may also provide nonemergency contact  
7 information in order to provide an alternative resource to the 911  
8 system. The program may hire or contract with health care  
9 professionals as needed to provide these services, including  
10 emergency medical technicians certified under chapter 18.73 RCW and  
11 advanced emergency medical technicians and paramedics certified under  
12 chapter 18.71 RCW. The services provided by emergency medical  
13 technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, and paramedics  
14 must be under the responsible supervision and direction of an  
15 approved medical program director. Nothing in this section authorizes  
16 an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical  
17 technician, or paramedic to perform medical procedures they are not  
18 trained and certified to perform.

19 (2) (~~(A participating fire department may seek grant~~  
20 ~~opportunities and private gifts)) In order to support its community  
21 assistance referral and education services program, a participating  
22 fire department may seek grant opportunities and private gifts, and,  
23 by resolution or ordinance, establish and collect reasonable charges  
24 for these services.~~

25 (3) In developing a community assistance referral and education  
26 services program, a fire department may consult with the health  
27 workforce council to identify health care professionals capable of  
28 working in a nontraditional setting and providing assistance,  
29 referral, and education services.

30 (4) Community assistance referral and education services programs  
31 implemented under this section must, at least annually, measure any  
32 reduction of repeated use of the 911 emergency system and any  
33 reduction in avoidable emergency room trips attributable to  
34 implementation of the program. Results of findings under this  
35 subsection must be reportable to the legislature or other local  
36 governments upon request. Findings should include estimated amounts  
37 of medicaid dollars that would have been spent on emergency room  
38 visits had the program not been in existence.

39 (5) For purposes of this section, "fire department" includes city  
40 and town fire departments, fire protection districts organized under

1 Title 52 RCW, regional fire protection service authorities organized  
2 under chapter 52.26 RCW, providers of emergency medical services that  
3 levy a tax under RCW 84.52.069, and federally recognized Indian  
4 tribes.

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