

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5211

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Health & Long Term Care, February 22, 2019

**Title:** An act relating to prohibiting the use of live animals to practice invasive medical procedures in paramedic training programs.

**Brief Description:** Prohibiting the use of live animals to practice invasive medical procedures in paramedic training programs.

**Sponsors:** Senators Palumbo, Rolfes, Hunt and Zeiger.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long Term Care: 2/22/19 [DP-WM, DNP, w/oRec].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires all paramedic training programs to use only human-based training methods by July 1, 2022.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Cleveland, Chair; Randall, Vice Chair; Dhingra, Frockt, Keiser and Rivers.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Becker and Van De Wege.

**Minority Report:** That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators O'Ban, Ranking Member; Bailey and Conway.

**Staff:** Greg Attanasio (786-7410)

**Background:** Paramedics provide pre-hospital medical services including patient assessment, advanced cardiac life support with manual defibrillation, placement of multi lumen airways, administration of certain drugs, and other trauma related medical services. To receive paramedic certification from the Department of Health (DOH), an applicant must

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successfully complete a DOH approved paramedic training course, pass a DOH approved examination, and provide proof of association with an emergency medical services organization.

**Summary of Bill:** By July 1, 2022, all paramedic training programs training individuals in the medical treatment of humans must only use human-based training methods and may not use pigs or other live animals. Human-based training includes the use of simulators or human cadavers.

The sum of \$200,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, from the general fund to the Michael K. Copass Paramedic Training Program at Harborview Medical Center to develop and produce simulator models for paramedic trainees and practicing paramedics in their initial and ongoing training.

**Appropriation:** The bill contains an appropriation totaling \$200,000 from the general fund.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 20, 2019.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Technology now allows for the replication of human anatomy to eliminate the need to live animals for training. The University of Washington is currently working on a simulator model to phase out the use of live animals.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Richard Hall, Washington Alliance for Humane Legislation; Ian Goodhew, UW Medicine/Harborview.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.