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**SENATE BILL 5211**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Palumbo, Rolfes, Hunt, and Zeiger

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the use of live animals to  
2 practice invasive medical procedures in paramedic training programs;  
3 amending RCW 16.52.180; creating a new section; and making an  
4 appropriation.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds one or more  
7 paramedic training courses in Washington simulate the stress  
8 experienced by paramedics performing invasive medical procedures on  
9 patients in the field by using live pigs to practice creating  
10 emergency airways. Alternatively, human-based medical training  
11 methods, such as simulators, replicate human anatomy and allow for  
12 repetitive practice and data collection. The legislature also finds  
13 that medical simulators may be an equally effective training method  
14 to using live tissue models given advances in simulator technology.  
15 One Canadian armed forces study of medical technicians found no  
16 difference in performance between medics trained on simulators versus  
17 live tissue models. The legislature intends to encourage the use of  
18 inanimate human-based training methods and prohibit the use of live  
19 animals to practice invasive medical procedures in paramedic training  
20 programs.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 16.52.180 and 1994 c 261 s 12 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) No part of this chapter shall be deemed to interfere with any  
4 of the laws of this state known as the "game laws," nor be deemed to  
5 interfere with the right to destroy any venomous reptile or any known  
6 as dangerous to life, limb or property, or to interfere with the  
7 right to kill animals to be used for food or with any properly  
8 conducted scientific experiments or investigations, which experiments  
9 or investigations shall be performed only under the authority of the  
10 faculty of some regularly incorporated college or university of the  
11 state of Washington or a research facility registered with the United  
12 States department of agriculture and regulated by 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2131  
13 et seq.

14       (2)(a) By July 1, 2022, all paramedic training programs in the  
15 state of Washington training individuals in the medical treatment of  
16 persons may:

17       (i) Only use human-based training methods; and

18       (ii) Not use pigs or other live animals.

19       (b) For the purposes of this subsection:

20       (i) "Human-based training methods" means the use of systems and  
21 devices, including simulators, partial task trainers, or human  
22 cadavers, but not animals.

23       (ii) "Partial task trainers" means training aids that allow  
24 individuals to learn or practice specific medical procedures.

25       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.** The sum of two hundred thousand dollars,  
26 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the  
27 fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, from the general fund to the  
28 Michael K. Copass paramedic training program at Harborview medical  
29 center to develop and produce simulator models for the use of  
30 paramedic trainees and practicing paramedics in their initial and  
31 ongoing training.

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