
Health Care & Wellness Committee

SSB 5900

Brief Description: Creating a provisional certification for emergency medical services providers under chapters 18.71 and 18.73 RCW.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Van De Wege, Keiser, Conway, Hasegawa, Lovick, Randall and Saldaña).

<p>Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates a provisional emergency services provider certification. |
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Hearing Date: 2/21/22

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

There are several types of emergency services providers licensed by the Department of Health, including emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, and paramedics. Applicants for certification as emergency services providers must meet minimum education and training requirements and be recommended for certification by the physician medical program director of the county in which the applicant will be working. Applicants must also be associated with a licensed aid or ambulance service, a law enforcement agency, a business with an organized industrial safety team, or senior emergency medical services instructors or coordinators teaching at emergency service training programs who are unable to be associated with another approved entity.

Summary of Bill:

A provisional emergency services provider certification is created to be issued by the

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Department of Health (DOH). To be eligible for a provisional emergency services provider certification, an applicant must:

- be currently licensed or certified in another state and be in good standing with the emergency medical services (EMS) board of that state or hold a current EMS provider certification from a national certifying agency approved by the DOH;
- be employed or have a valid employment offer from a Washington EMS agency; and
- be approved for provisional status from the medical program director of the county in which the applicant is or will be employed.

The number of persons holding a provisional emergency services provider certification an employer or host agency may employ is limited as follows:

- If the employer or host agency has fewer than 25 employees holding an emergency medical technician or paramedic credential, up to 20 percent of those employees, rounded up to the next whole number, may participate under a provisional emergency services provider certification.
- If the employer or host agency has 25 or more employees holding an emergency medical technician or paramedic credential, up to 10 percent of those employees, rounded up to the next whole number, may participate under a provisional emergency services provider certification.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.