
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5900

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senate Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Van De Wege, Keiser, Conway, Hasegawa, Lovick, Randall, and Saldaña)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a provisional certification for
2 emergency medical services providers under chapters 18.71 and 18.73
3 RCW; amending RCW 18.73.081 and 18.71.205; and adding a new section
4 to chapter 18.71 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 18.71
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Emergency medical services providers who are currently
9 licensed or certified in another state or who hold a current
10 certification from a national certifying agency approved by the
11 department are eligible for a Washington provisional emergency
12 services provider certification.

13 (2) To be eligible for a Washington provisional emergency
14 services provider certification, the applicant shall:

15 (a) Be currently licensed or certified in another state and be in
16 good standing with the emergency medical services board of that state
17 or hold a current emergency medical services provider certification
18 from a national certifying agency approved by the department;

19 (b) Be employed or have a valid employment offer from a
20 Washington emergency medical services agency; and

1 (c) Be approved for a provisional status from the county medical
2 program director in which the applicant is or will be employed.

3 (3) If the employer or host agency has:

4 (a) Fewer than 25 employees holding a current emergency medical
5 technician or paramedic certification or license, up to 20 percent of
6 those employees, rounded to the next whole number, may practice under
7 a provisional certification; or

8 (b) Twenty-five or more employees holding a current emergency
9 medical technician or paramedic certification or license, up to 10
10 percent of those employees, rounded to the next whole number, may
11 practice under a provisional certification.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.73.081 and 1993 c 254 s 1 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 In addition to other duties prescribed by law, the secretary
15 shall:

16 (1) Prescribe minimum requirements for:

17 (a) Ambulance, air ambulance, and aid vehicles and equipment;

18 (b) Ambulance and aid services; and

19 (c) Minimum emergency communication equipment;

20 (2) Adopt procedures for services that fail to perform in
21 accordance with minimum requirements;

22 (3) Prescribe minimum standards for first responder and emergency
23 medical technician training including:

24 (a) Adoption of curriculum and period of certification;

25 (b) Procedures for provisional certification, certification,
26 recertification, decertification, or modification of certificates;

27 (c) Adoption of requirements for ongoing training and evaluation,
28 as approved by the county medical program director, to include
29 appropriate evaluation for individual knowledge and skills. The first
30 responder, emergency medical technician, or emergency medical
31 services provider agency may elect a program of continuing education
32 and a written and practical examination instead of meeting the
33 ongoing training and evaluation requirements;

34 (d) Procedures for reciprocity with other states or national
35 certifying agencies;

36 (e) Review and approval or disapproval of training programs; and

37 (f) Adoption of standards for numbers and qualifications of
38 instructional personnel required for first responder and emergency
39 medical technician training programs;

1 (4) Prescribe minimum requirements for liability insurance to be
2 carried by licensed services except that this requirement shall not
3 apply to public bodies; and

4 (5) Certify emergency medical program directors.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.71.205 and 2015 c 93 s 3 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The secretary of the department of health shall prescribe:

8 (a) Practice parameters, training standards for, and levels of,
9 physician's trained advanced emergency medical technicians and
10 paramedics;

11 (b) Minimum standards and performance requirements for the
12 certification and recertification of physician's trained advanced
13 emergency medical technicians and paramedics; and

14 (c) Procedures for provisional certification, certification,
15 recertification, and decertification of physician's trained advanced
16 emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

17 (2) Initial certification shall be for a period established by
18 the secretary pursuant to RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

19 (3) Recertification shall be granted upon proof of continuing
20 satisfactory performance and education, and shall be for a period
21 established by the secretary pursuant to RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

22 (4) As used in this chapter and chapter 18.73 RCW, "approved
23 medical program director" means a person who:

24 (a) Is licensed to practice medicine and surgery pursuant to this
25 chapter or osteopathic medicine and surgery pursuant to chapter 18.57
26 RCW; and

27 (b) Is qualified and knowledgeable in the administration and
28 management of emergency care and services; and

29 (c) Is so certified by the department of health for a county,
30 group of counties, or cities with populations over four hundred
31 thousand in coordination with the recommendations of the local
32 medical community and local emergency medical services and trauma
33 care council.

34 (5) The uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs
35 uncertified practice, the issuance and denial of certificates, and
36 the disciplining of certificate holders under this section. The
37 secretary shall be the disciplining authority under this section.
38 Disciplinary action shall be initiated against a person credentialed
39 under this chapter in a manner consistent with the responsibilities

1 and duties of the medical program director under whom such person is
2 responsible.

3 (6) Such activities of physician's trained advanced emergency
4 medical technicians and paramedics shall be limited to actions taken
5 under the express written or oral order of medical program directors
6 and shall not be construed at any time to include freestanding or
7 nondirected actions, for actions not presenting an emergency or life-
8 threatening condition, except nonemergency activities performed
9 pursuant to subsection (7) of this section.

10 (7) Nothing in this section prohibits a physician's trained
11 advanced emergency medical technician or paramedic, acting under the
12 responsible supervision and direction of an approved medical program
13 director, from participating in a community assistance referral and
14 education services program established under RCW 35.21.930 if such
15 participation does not exceed the participant's training and
16 certification.

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