
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1187

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Ryu, Thai, Obras, Macri, Paul, Callan, Pollet, Fey, and Kloba)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting patients involved in motor vehicle
2 accidents from delayed ambulance bills; adding a new section to
3 chapter 18.73 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.02 RCW; and
4 providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.73
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) An ambulance service may not sell or assign medical debt
9 related to ambulance services following a motor vehicle accident to
10 any person licensed under chapter 19.16 RCW until at least 120 days
11 after the initial billing statement for that medical debt has been
12 transmitted to the patient or other responsible party.

13 (2) For purposes of this section, a motor vehicle accident
14 includes incidents where a pedestrian or bicyclist is struck or
15 otherwise injured by a motor vehicle.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) If the commissioner has cause to believe that any ambulance
19 service has engaged in a pattern of unresolved violations of section
20 1 of this act, the commissioner may submit information to the

1 department of health for action. Prior to submitting information to
2 the department of health or the appropriate disciplining authority,
3 the commissioner may provide the ambulance service with an
4 opportunity to cure the alleged violations or explain why the actions
5 in question did not violate section 1 of this act.

6 (2) If any ambulance service has engaged in a pattern of
7 unresolved violations of section 1 of this act, the department of
8 health may levy a fine or cost recovery upon the ambulance service in
9 an amount not to exceed the applicable statutory amount per violation
10 and take other action as permitted under the authority of the
11 department. Upon completion of its review of any potential violation
12 submitted by the commissioner or initiated directly by an enrollee,
13 the department of health shall notify the commissioner of the results
14 of the review, including whether the violation was substantiated and
15 any enforcement action taken as a result of a finding of a
16 substantiated violation.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act takes effect January
18 1, 2026.

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