
SENATE BILL 5198

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Schoesler, Dozier, Honeyford, King, Short, and Warnick

Read first time 01/13/21. Referred to Committee on Housing & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to personnel restrictions on ambulances in rural
2 areas; and amending RCW 18.73.150.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.73.150 and 2017 c 70 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1)(a) Any ambulance operated as such shall operate with
7 sufficient personnel for adequate patient care, at least one of whom
8 shall be an emergency medical technician under standards promulgated
9 by the secretary. The emergency medical technician shall have
10 responsibility for its operation and for the care of patients both
11 before they are placed aboard the vehicle and during transit. If
12 there are two or more emergency medical technicians operating the
13 ambulance, a nondriving medical technician shall be in command of the
14 vehicle. The emergency medical technician in command of the vehicle
15 shall be in the patient compartment and in attendance to the patient.

16 (b) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the
17 driver of the ambulance shall have at least a certificate of advance
18 first aid qualification recognized by the secretary pursuant to RCW
19 18.73.120 unless there are at least two certified emergency medical
20 technicians in attendance of the patient, in which case the driver
21 shall not be required to have such certificate.

1 (2) With approval from the department, an ambulance service
2 established by volunteer or municipal corporations, or by an
3 association made up entirely of two or more municipalities, in a
4 rural area with insufficient personnel may use a driver without any
5 medical or first aid training so long as the driver is at least
6 eighteen years old, successfully passes a background check issued or
7 approved by the department, possesses a valid driver's license with
8 no restrictions, is accompanied by a nondriving emergency medical
9 technician while operating the ambulance during a response or
10 transport of a patient, and only provides medical care to patients to
11 the level that they are trained.

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