
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1258

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives McCabe, Orwall, Johnson, Cody, Dent, Kirby, Griffey, Van Werven, Caldier, Dye, Gregerson, Wylie, Jinkins, Haler, McBride, and Muri)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to persons with a disability present at the scene
2 of an accident; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; adding a
3 new section to chapter 38.52 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
6 Travis alert act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
10 specific purpose, the department, in collaboration with the
11 department of social and health services, the state fire marshal's
12 office, the superintendent of public instruction, and the Washington
13 state council of firefighters, must review existing local training
14 programs and training programs being used in other states and design
15 a statewide training program that will familiarize fire department
16 and emergency medical service personnel with the techniques,
17 procedures, and protocols for best handling situations in which
18 persons with disabilities are present at the scene of an emergency in
19 order to maximize the safety of persons with disabilities, minimize
20 the likelihood of injury to persons with disabilities, and promote

1 the safety of all persons present. The program must include a
2 checklist of disabilities, symptoms of such disabilities, and things
3 to do and not to do relevant to a particular disability so fire
4 department and emergency medical services personnel can easily and
5 quickly determine the specific scenario into which they are entering.
6 The department must make the training program available on the
7 department's web site for use by all fire departments and emergency
8 medical service agencies in the state. The department must include on
9 its web site a list of public and private nonprofit disability-
10 related agencies and organizations and the contact information of
11 each agency and organization. Fire departments and emergency medical
12 service agencies must ensure their employees are adequately trained
13 in and familiarized with techniques, procedures, and protocols for
14 best handling situations in which persons with particular
15 disabilities are present at the scene of an emergency.

16 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
17 specific purpose, the criminal justice training commission, in
18 consultation with the Washington state patrol and other stakeholders,
19 must examine existing training programs and curricula related to law
20 enforcement officers responding to an emergency where a person with a
21 disability may be present, to ensure that those programs and
22 curricula are consistent with best practices.

23 (3) For purposes of this section:

24 (a) Both "accident" and "emergency" mean an unforeseen
25 combination of circumstances or a resulting situation that results in
26 a need for assistance or relief and calls for immediate action; and

27 (b) "Persons with disabilities" means individuals who have been
28 diagnosed medically to have a physical, mental, emotional,
29 intellectual, behavioral, developmental, or sensory disability.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
33 specific purpose, the director, through the state enhanced 911
34 coordinator, and in collaboration with the department of health, the
35 department of social and health services, the Washington state
36 patrol, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, the
37 Washington council of police and sheriffs, the state fire marshal's
38 office, a representative of a first responder organization with
39 experience in addressing the needs of a person with a disability, and

1 other individuals and entities at the discretion of the director,
2 must assess, and report back to the appropriate committees of the
3 legislature by December 1, 2018, regarding:

4 (a) The resources, capabilities, techniques, protocols, and
5 procedures available or required in order to include as part of the
6 enhanced 911 emergency service the ability to allow an immediate
7 display on the screen indicating that a person with a disability may
8 be present at the scene of an emergency, the caller's identification,
9 location, phone number, address, and if made available, additional
10 information on the person with a disability that would assist the
11 first responder in the emergency response;

12 (b) How best to acquire, implement, and safeguard a secure web
13 site and the information in the system provided by a person with a
14 disability, or a parent, guardian, or caretaker of a person with a
15 disability in order to make such information directly available to
16 first responders at the scene of an emergency or on the way to the
17 scene of an emergency;

18 (c) What information provided by a person must remain
19 confidential under state or federal law, or otherwise should remain
20 confidential without written permission to release it for purposes of
21 this act or the information is otherwise releasable or available
22 under other provisions of law; and

23 (d) The need to provide various agencies and employees that are
24 first responders and emergency personnel immunity from civil
25 liability for acts or omissions in the performance of their duties,
26 and what standard should apply, such as if the act or omission is the
27 result of simple negligence, gross negligence, or willful misconduct.

28 (2) For purposes of this section:

29 (a) Both "accident" and "emergency" mean an unforeseen
30 combination of circumstances or a resulting situation that results in
31 a need for assistance or relief and calls for immediate action; and

32 (b) "Person with a disability" means an individual who has been
33 diagnosed medically to have a physical, mental, emotional,
34 intellectual, behavioral, developmental, or sensory disability.

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