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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1588**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Bronoske and Reed)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to ambulance personnel requirements; amending RCW  
2 18.73.150; and providing an effective date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.73.150 and 2021 c 17 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) (a) The driver of an ambulance providing advanced life support  
2 must be an emergency medical technician.

3       (b) With approval from the department, an ambulance service  
4 established by volunteer or municipal corporations, or by an  
5 association made up entirely of two or more municipalities, in a  
6 rural area with insufficient personnel may use a driver without any  
7 medical or first aid training for an ambulance that is not providing  
8 advanced life support so long as the driver is at least ~~((eighteen))~~  
9 18 years old, successfully passes a background check issued or  
10 approved by the department, possesses a valid driver's license with  
11 no restrictions, is accompanied by a nondriving emergency medical  
12 technician while operating the ambulance during a response or  
13 transport of a patient, and only provides medical care to patients to  
14 the level that they are trained.

15       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this act takes effect July 1,  
16 2024.

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