
SENATE BILL 5602

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senator Riccelli

1 AN ACT Relating to improving cardiac and stroke outcomes through
2 data-driven continuous quality and system improvement; adding a new
3 chapter to Title 70 RCW; and recodifying RCW 70.168.150.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to implement the
6 recommendations of the emergency cardiac and stroke system assessment
7 directed by chapter 58, Laws of 2022 to support efforts to improve
8 emergency cardiac and stroke care in Washington and reduce death and
9 disability resulting from cardiac and stroke events. This includes
10 developing an inclusive system of optimal cardiac and stroke care
11 throughout the continuum of care delivery. Coordinated health care
12 delivery systems require ongoing levels of oversight, evidence-based
13 inputs, coordination, and evaluation of performance. Accordingly, the
14 legislature intends that the department has the responsibility for
15 oversight and coordination of the statewide cardiac and stroke system
16 of care.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
18 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
19 otherwise.

20 (1) "Department" means the department of health.

1 (2) "Emergency medical services providers" means ambulance
2 services and aid services licensed under chapter 18.73 RCW.

3 (3) "Hospital" means a hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW.

4 (4) "Registry" means the statewide cardiac and stroke registry
5 established in section 4 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department shall coordinate the
7 statewide cardiac and stroke system of care including developing care
8 system standards, stroke and cardiac center categorization, data
9 collection, and care system performance evaluation.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The department shall establish and
11 coordinate the statewide cardiac and stroke registry.

12 (2) The registry must include information related to systems of
13 care for heart attack, sudden cardiac arrest, and stroke, as
14 submitted by emergency medical services providers and hospitals, and
15 obtained through existing data sources, including cardiac and stroke
16 registries.

17 (a) The department shall define, in rule, specific data elements
18 to be reported to the registry and standards for data submission. In
19 selecting data to be reported, the department shall identify data
20 elements relevant to assessing the timeliness of the care delivered
21 to patients experiencing a heart attack, sudden cardiac arrest, or
22 stroke and evaluating performance on nationally recognized measures,
23 including care delivered by emergency medical services providers and
24 hospitals, as well as patient outcomes.

25 (b) The department shall establish a data validation process for
26 the registry and implement a plan for continuous data quality
27 improvement.

28 (c) The department shall minimize the creation of new reporting
29 requirements by using existing data sources, when possible, and
30 coordinating with state and national organizations involved in
31 cardiac and stroke quality improvement. The department is authorized
32 to enter into any necessary data-sharing agreements required for this
33 purpose.

34 (3) Beginning July 1, 2027:

35 (a) Hospitals shall submit data required pursuant to this section
36 on a quarterly basis to the department; and

1 (b) Emergency medical services providers shall submit data
2 required pursuant to this section to the department through the
3 Washington emergency medical services information system.

4 (4) The department shall provide technical assistance to
5 emergency medical services and trauma regions and hospitals,
6 including technical assistance in areas such as critical access
7 hospitals that are currently lacking in data submissions affiliated
8 with any existing registry, where applicable.

9 (5)(a) Beginning July 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the
10 department shall provide a summary report of the data collected
11 pursuant to this section and an analysis of the statewide progress
12 toward improving quality of care and patient outcomes. All data must
13 be reported in the aggregate form and shall be posted on the
14 department's website and submitted to the governor and the relevant
15 committees of the legislature.

16 (b) The 2028 report required by (a) of this subsection must
17 include an analysis of the data collected and recommendations
18 regarding whether on-site verification of hospitals' adherence to
19 cardiac and stroke standards of care is needed to improve all
20 citizens' access to safe, timely, evidence-based care for stroke,
21 acute coronary syndrome, and cardiac arrest.

22 (6) The department may adopt rules to implement the requirements
23 of this section, as necessary.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall:

25 (1) Establish and implement a plan for achieving continuous
26 quality improvement in the care provided under the statewide system
27 for cardiac and stroke response and treatment. The department must
28 develop and implement the systemwide plan using the registry and
29 other data sources available to the department;

30 (2) Establish a system performance oversight process using data
31 from the registry;

32 (3) Analyze data concerning cardiac and stroke response and
33 treatment and identify areas in need of improvement;

34 (4) Provide quarterly reports on cardiac and stroke system
35 performance and quality of care measures to the emergency cardiac and
36 stroke technical advisory committee of the emergency medical services
37 and trauma care steering committee created in RCW 70.168.020;

1 (5) Provide recommendations to the emergency medical services and
2 trauma care steering committee and the legislature for the
3 improvement of cardiac and stroke care and delivery in the state;

4 (6) Provide aggregate cardiac and stroke data feedback to
5 participating emergency medical services and trauma regions and
6 hospitals;

7 (7) Provide quality improvement assistance to emergency medical
8 services, hospitals, and emergency medical services and trauma
9 regions to improve performance on care and system coordination;

10 (8) Use data from the registry to further the development of
11 cardiac and stroke system standards and education; and

12 (9) Identify and disseminate interventions to improve cardiac and
13 stroke care in prehospital and hospital settings and in local and
14 regional systems of care.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Within funds appropriated for this
16 specific purpose, the department shall assist critical access and
17 rural hospitals in securing the necessary data platforms to meet the
18 department's data collection requirements and support prehospital
19 services, particularly in rural areas, in acquiring improved
20 equipment and additional personnel training for the treatment of
21 cardiac and stroke patients.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Within funds appropriated for this
23 specific purpose, the department shall conduct public education on
24 the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke and the lifesaving
25 benefits of calling 911 and seeking immediate treatment.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Data elements related to the
27 identification of individual patients', providers', and facilities'
28 care outcomes shall be confidential, are not subject to disclosure
29 under the public records act, chapter 42.56 RCW, and shall not be
30 subject to discovery by subpoena or admissible as evidence.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** RCW 70.168.150 is recodified as a section
32 in chapter 70.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 10 of this
33 act).

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act
2 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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