

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - 01/24/2012

EMS & TRAUMA CARE STEERING COMMITTEE
For Questions: Call 1-360-236-2800 or (360)236-2831

Introduction

This *Legislative Update* will be updated weekly and emailed to the members of the EMS and Trauma Care Steering Committee and its sub-committees every week during the 2012 Legislative Session beginning January 13, 2012. This update is being provided for information purposes only and is provided at the request of the EMS and Trauma Care Steering Committee. This update is not intended to convey support or opposition on any issue. If you have any questions, please contact Sandra Dlugosz at (360) 236-2831.

For additional information regarding the 2012 Legislative Session and Washington Legislative bills being introduced, please go to: www.leg.wa.gov.

Important 2012 Session Cut-off Dates

- 1/9 First Day of Session.
- 1/31 House Policy Committee deadline.
- 2/3 Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
- 2/7 Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.
- 2/14 Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).
- 2/21 House Policy Committee deadline.
- 2/23 House Appropriations Committee Deadline.
- 2/24 Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
- 2/27 Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committee and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
- 3/2 Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, matters necessary to implement budgets, amendments, differences, and business related to the interim or closing the session).
- 3/8 Sine Die -- Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

- The Governor has five (5) days, excluding Sundays, to take action on any bill passed by the Legislature, provided adjournment does not occur within those five (5) days.

2012 REGULAR SESSION

EMS & Trauma System Bills

HB 2524 (Companion Bill SB 6290) – Military inactive status for military spouses or registered domestic partners – Rep Orwall, et al

This request bill by the Department of Veterans Affairs allows the spouse or registered domestic partner of a service member to place a license regulated by the Department of Health or Department of Licensing on inactive status when the service member is deployed or stationed outside of the state. (This includes EMS personnel.) The bill also adds members of the U.S. public health service commissioned corps to these statutes.

Licensees have six months after the service member is discharged from service to renew their license, or sooner if requested. The licensee must pay the renewal fee. The Secretary of the Department of Health may adopt any rules necessary to implement the bill.

STATUS: **Jan 17** First reading, referred to Health Care & Wellness. Referred to Business & Financial Services.
 Jan 24 Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Business & Financial Services at 1:30 PM.
 Jan 26 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Business & Financial Services at 8:00 AM.

SB 6290 (Companion Bill 2524) - Concerning military spouses or registered domestic partners occupational licensing status during deployment or placement outside Washington state – Sen Kilmer, et al
See HB 2524 for description.

STATUS: **Jan 17** First reading, referred to Government Operations, Tribal Relations and Elections.
 Jan 26 Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee for Government Operations, Tribal Relations and Elections at 10:00 AM.

HB 2625 (Companion Bill 6363) – Assessing the mobilization of all risk resources during an emergency – Rep Hurst, et al

The statute allowing mobilization of these resources is focused on fire suppression activities only. This bill broadens the focus for mobilization to “all risk events”. All risk events incorporate not only fire-related events but also incidents such as major earthquakes and other events that may require substantial resources to protect the health and safety of citizens.

STATUS: **Jan 19** First reading, referred to Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

SB 6363 - Assessing the mobilization of all risk resources during an emergency – Sen Swecker, Pridemore
(See HB 2625 for description.)

STATUS: **Jan 19** First reading, referred to Government Operations, Tribal Relations and Elections.

SB 6186 – Concerning limitations on taxing authority of counties for emergency medical services – Sen Swecker

This bill will require countywide EMS levies to get permission from all political jurisdictions in the county to place an EMS levy on the ballot.

STATUS: **Jan 13** First reading, referred to Government Operations, Tribal Relations and Elections.

Jan 26 Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee for Government Operations, Tribal Relations and Elections at 10:00 AM.

HB 2462 – Regarding immunity for health care providers following end-of-life planning declarations – Rep Moeller, et al

This bill relates to immunity for health care providers who follow end-of life planning declarations that are included in a Physician Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form. The proposed language identifies those health care providers who are extended immunity while complying with the patient’s wishes. Absent negligence, a provider acting within the scope of his or her license and in good faith will not be legally liable or subject to professional sanction for following the directives on the POLST form. The definition of “provider” for purposes of the act encompasses not only health care providers, but also various facilities that provide care.

STATUS: **Jan 16** First reading, referred to Judiciary.

Jan 23 Public hearing in the House Committee for Judiciary at 1:30 PM.

HB 2141 – Concerning Fee for Emergency Medical Services Providers – Rep Cody
[Introduced in 2011 2nd Special Session and reintroduced in current session]

This bill requires DOH to establish fees to cover costs of certification and re-certification of EMS personnel and EMS agencies. It removes the exemption from licensing fees for municipal corporations that provide EMS services.

STATUS: **Jan 9** By resolution, reintroduced and retained in present status.

(No Change)

HB 2188 (Companion Bill: SB 6021) – Regulating air rescue or evacuation services – Rep Ryu

This bill describes a subscription service as being able to solicit member subscriptions, charge fees for a subscription, and requirements to operate the independent subscription services. It includes the following:

- Stipulates that an independent subscription service is not considered an insurer, health carrier, health care services contractor, or a health maintenance organization.
- Defines what activities constitute providing rescue, evacuation, emergency transport, and crisis management, and consulting services related to an emergency.
- Requires that the subscription service must satisfy, or contract with a service provider that satisfies, the licensing requirements of the jurisdiction in which the services are provided.
- Provides that a subscription service is not required to own the means of transportation that will be used to provide the contracted services.

Jan 11 Public hearing in the Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care at 8:00 AM.

SB 6051– Concerning the donation and redistribution of unused prescription drugs – Sen Keiser, et al

Directs DSHS (with DOH) to establish a prescription drug recycling program that allows participating facilities (nursing homes) to share unused non-controlled prescription drugs and accept donations of unused non-controlled prescriptions drugs from drug manufacturers and healthcare practitioners. Participation is voluntary. DSHS will establish and maintain a registry of participating facilities.

- Drugs may only be donated, accepted or dispensed under the program if unopened, sealed and tamper-evident unit dose packaging or unopened single –unit dose packaging, Donated drugs cannot be adulterated, misbranded or have been in the possession of a patient or member of the public.
- The bill offers civil and criminal liability protections to any person or entity that exercised reasonable care in donating, accepting, distributing, or dispensing prescription drugs.

STATUS: **Jan 9** First reading, referred to Health & Long-Term Care.
 Jan 11 Public hearing in the Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care at 8:00 AM.

BILLS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Introduced in 2nd special session in 2011

ESSB 5969 – Expedited Licensing for Military Spouses – Sen Kilmer

Each professional authority responsible for licensing, certifying, registering or issuing a permit to perform a professional service in this state is required to establish procedures to expedite the issuance of a license, certificate, or permit to a person who:

- is certified or licensed in another state to perform professional services in that state;
- whose spouse is the subject of a military transfer to Washington; and
- who left employment in the other state to accompany the person's spouse to Washington.

The procedure must include a process for issuing the person a license; certificate; registration; or permit, if, in the opinion of the regulating authority, the requirements for licensure; certification; registration; or obtaining a permit in the other state are substantially equivalent to that required in Washington.