

AMBULANCE PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS HB1588

BACKGROUND

During the 2017 legislative session SB5751 was passed and signed into law. It allows departments to apply for an exemption to permit non-medically trained personnel to drive an ambulance in a rural area. The spirit of this bill was to alleviate some of the pressure on rural fire departments' staffing problems by not requiring members to be certified as EMTs. Unfortunately, some administrators have applied for and received exemptions to circumvent the collective bargaining process.

WSCFF POSITION

The legislature should not allow agencies with Advanced Life Support licenses to be able to apply or receive an exemption to RCW 18.73.150, Ambulance personnel requirements.

WSCFF EXPLANATION

Some fire departments in the state have applied for and received an exemption to allow non-medically trained drivers to operate a medic unit with a paramedic partner. We do not believe that this is the level of care that should be provided on an ALS unit.

CURRENT STATUS

HB 1588 has a hearing scheduled for February 8 at 1:30 p.m. in the House Healthcare and Wellness Committee.