
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6554

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications (originally sponsored by Senator Ranker)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing life alert services; adding a new
2 section to chapter 70.54 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Employees of companies providing life alert services must
7 provide the location and any known medical conditions of their
8 customers when requested by first responders during an emergency.

9 (2) Information received by a first responder under subsection (1)
10 of this section is confidential and may only be used in responding to
11 the emergency that prompted the information request. Any first
12 responder receiving the information must destroy it at the end of the
13 emergency and give written notification of such destruction to the life
14 alert services company. A failure to destroy the information is a
15 class 1 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120.

16 (3) It is not a violation of this section if a life alert services
17 company or an employee makes a good faith effort to comply with this
18 section. In addition, the company or employee is immune from civil
19 liability for a good faith effort to comply with this section. Should

1 a company or employee prevail upon the defense provided in this
2 section, the company or employee is entitled to recover expenses and
3 reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in establishing the defense.

4 (4) First responders and their employing jurisdictions are not
5 liable for failing to request the information in subsection (1) of this
6 section. In addition, this act does not create a private right of
7 action.

8 (5) For the purposes of this section:

9 (a) "Emergency" means an unforeseen combination of circumstances
10 that requires the attention of first responders acting within the scope
11 of their official duties. An emergency includes the outage of life
12 alert services for more than twenty-four continuous hours.

13 (b) "First responder" means career firefighters, law enforcement
14 officers, and emergency medical personnel as licensed or certificated
15 by this state.

16 (c) "Life alert services" means a service provided for profit that
17 allows persons in need of emergency assistance to contact a call center
18 through the activation of a wearable device, such as a pendant or
19 bracelet.

20 (6) A violation of this section is a class 1 civil infraction under
21 RCW 7.80.120.

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