
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: S-1059.1/15

ATTY/TYPIST: AI:akl

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Providing first responders with contact information for subscribers of life alert services during an emergency.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing first responders with contact
2 information for subscribers of life alert services during an
3 emergency; adding a new section to chapter 70.54 RCW; and prescribing
4 penalties.

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

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

8 (1) When requested by first responders during an emergency,
9 employees of companies providing life alert services must provide to
10 first responders the name, address, and any other information
11 necessary for first responders to contact their subscribers.

12 (2) Information received by a first responder under subsection
13 (1) of this section is confidential and exempt from disclosure under
14 chapter 42.56 RCW. First responders shall safeguard the information
15 in the same manner as other confidential information obtained in the
16 course of performing their official duties.

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

1 provided in this section, the company or employee is entitled to
2 recover expenses and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in
3 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
6 this section. In addition, this act does not create a private right
7 of action nor does it create any civil liability on the part of the
8 state or any of its subdivisions, including first responders.

9 (5) For the purposes of this section:

10 (a) "Emergency" means a combination of circumstances that
11 requires the attention of first responders acting within the scope of
12 their official duties. An emergency includes circumstances that
13 render the life alert services system inoperable.

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

17 (c) "Life alert services" means a service provided for profit
18 that allows persons in need of emergency assistance to contact a call
19 center through a device that can be activated by breath, touch, or
20 other means.

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

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