



S.B. 304

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Carey, Clancy, Amstutz

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the State Board of Emergency Medical Services to establish a process whereby emergency medical services personnel may obtain a certificate to practice without having to pass an examination.
- Permits the holder of a certificate issued without examination to provide emergency medical services only as a volunteer for a substantially volunteer emergency medical service organization.
- Requires an ambulance operated by an emergency medical service organization using only volunteers to be staffed, while transporting a patient during an emergency run, by at least one first responder and at least one emergency medical technician.
- Requires an ambulance operated by an emergency medical service organization using one or more paid personnel to be staffed at all times during an emergency run by at least two emergency medical technicians.
- Permits an ambulance to be driven by any person who is at least age 18.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background: certification of emergency medical service personnel

The State Board of Emergency Medical Services regulates the practice of emergency medical service personnel. The Board issues certificates to practice in the following categories: first responders, emergency medical technicians-basic (EMTs-basic), emergency medical technicians-intermediate (EMTs-I), and paramedics.

A person seeking to practice in any of the four categories of emergency medical service personnel must complete an appropriate training program accredited by the Board. After completing the training program, the person must apply to the Board for the appropriate certificate to practice. To receive the certificate, the person must pass the Board-required examination.

Under current Board rules,¹ the certification examination for emergency medical service personnel consists of written and practical portions established by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and the Board. The rules specify that a passing score on the examination is to be determined by the National Registry.

Certification without examination for volunteers

(R.C. 4765.01, 4765.29, and 4765.30)

In addition to the Board's existing process for issuing certificates to practice by examination, the bill requires the Board to establish a process whereby certificates are issued without examination. A certificate issued without examination authorizes the holder to practice only as a volunteer and only for a substantially volunteer emergency medical service organization. An organization is substantially volunteer if it uses only volunteer emergency medical services personnel for 50% or more of the time during any seven-day period in which the organization makes emergency medical services available to the public.

Administrative process

(R.C. 4765.28 and 4765.30)

When applying for a certificate to practice, the applicant is required by the bill to specify whether the application is being submitted for a certificate by examination or a certificate without examination. When a certificate is issued without examination, the Board must include on the certificate a statement specifying that the certificate has been issued without examination. The statement must be included on each renewed or replaced certificate to practice that is issued to the holder.

¹ *Ohio Administrative Code 4765-8-05.*

Enforcement

(R.C. 4765.50 and 4765.99)

The bill prohibits a person who holds a certificate to practice issued without examination from providing emergency medical services other than as a volunteer for a substantially volunteer emergency medical service organization. A person who violates the prohibition is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense. On each subsequent offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

Standards for training and continuing education programs

(R.C. 4765.11)

Existing law requires the Board to issue certificates of accreditation for emergency medical services training programs and certificates of approval for continuing education programs. The Board must adopt rules establishing standards for the certificates.

The bill prohibits the Board from adopting rules that establish, as a condition of receiving a certificate of accreditation or certificate of approval, a requirement that a training program or continuing education program administer all or part of the examinations offered by a national examination entity, including the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

Ambulance staffing

(R.C. 4765.48(B))

Current law establishes ambulance staffing requirements according to whether the emergency medical service organization operating the ambulance uses any volunteers during an emergency run. If no volunteers are used, the ambulance must be staffed by two EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, or paramedics. If volunteers are used by the organization, the same staffing requirements apply when a patient is being transported. At all other times, the organization using volunteers must staff the ambulance with at least one EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic.

The bill replaces the existing ambulance staffing requirements with the following requirements:

(1) If the emergency run occurs during a period in which the organization is using one or more emergency medical services personnel who are paid to staff the ambulance, the ambulance must be staffed throughout the emergency run by at least two EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, or paramedics.

(2) If the emergency run occurs during a period in which the organization is using only volunteers to staff the ambulance, the ambulance must be staffed, at any time a patient is being transported, by at least one first responder and at least one EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic.

The following chart provides examples of the differences between the existing ambulance staffing requirements and the bill's staffing requirements:

Ambulance Staffing Requirements During an Emergency Run		
Type of personnel used	While going to the patient	While transporting the patient
Only paid personnel	Existing law: Two EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, or paramedics. The bill: Same.	Existing law: Two EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, or paramedics. The bill: Same.
Combination of paid and volunteer personnel	Existing law: One EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic. The bill: Two EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, or paramedics.	Existing law: Two EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, or paramedics. The bill: Same.
Only volunteer personnel	Existing law: One EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic. The bill: No staffing requirements specified.	Existing law: Two EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, or paramedics. The bill: One first responder and one EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic.

Minimum age for ambulance drivers

(R.C. 4765.48(A) and (C))

Existing law provides that an ambulance may be driven by any person and expressly states that the person is not required to be certified as an EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic.

The bill provides that an ambulance may be driven by any person who is at least 18 years old. In addition to the existing specification that the driver is not required to be an EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic, the bill specifies that the driver is not required to be certified as a first responder.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-27-06

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