



Sub. H.B. 212

127th General Assembly

(As Reported by H. Infrastructure, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs)

Reps. Carmichael, Evans, Hite, Huffman, Flowers, Latta, Reinhard, Schlichter, Seitz, Stebelton, Aslanides, Combs, Fessler, Wachtmann

BILL SUMMARY

- Provides that, during each emergency run made by an ambulance that is operated by an emergency medical service organization that does not substantially utilize any volunteer emergency medical service providers, the ambulance must be staffed by at least two emergency medical technicians-basic (EMTs-basic), emergency medical technicians-intermediate (EMTs-I), or emergency medical technicians-paramedics (paramedics).
- Provides that, during each emergency run made by an ambulance that is operated by an emergency medical service organization that substantially utilizes volunteer emergency medical service providers, the ambulance must be staffed by at least one first responder and one EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic.
- Provides that if circumstances so require, an ambulance that is staffed by only one first responder and one EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic may be driven by the first responder.
- Prohibits an emergency medical service organization from permitting an individual who is younger than 18 years of age to drive an ambulance.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Ambulance services

Staffing of an ambulance during an emergency run

Existing law provides that, during each emergency run that is made by an ambulance that is equipped for emergency medical services and is operated by an

emergency medical service organization that does not utilize any volunteer emergency medical service providers, the ambulance must be staffed by at least two emergency medical technicians-basic (EMTs-basic), emergency medical technicians-intermediate (EMTs-I), or emergency medical technicians-paramedics (paramedics). When an ambulance is so staffed, it may be driven by a person who is not certified as an EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic. The bill makes this provision applicable also to an ambulance that is operated by an emergency medical service organization that does not *substantially* utilize volunteer providers. (R.C. 4765.43(B)(1).)

Similarly, existing law provides that whenever a patient is being transported in an ambulance that is equipped for emergency medical services and is operated by an emergency medical service organization that utilizes volunteer emergency medical service providers, the ambulance must be staffed by at least two EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, or paramedics. At all other times during an emergency run, the ambulance must be staffed by at least one EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic. When such an ambulance is so staffed, it may be driven by a person who is not certified as an EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic.

The bill requires instead that, during each emergency run, an ambulance operated by an emergency medical service organization that *substantially* utilizes volunteer emergency medical service providers must be staffed by at least one first responder and one EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic. When an ambulance is so staffed, it may be driven by a person who is not certified as a first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic. The bill also provides that if circumstances so require, an ambulance that is staffed by only one first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic may be driven by the first responder who is staffing the ambulance with the EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic. (R.C. 4765.43(B)(2).)

For purposes of the bill, an emergency medical service organization substantially utilizes volunteer emergency medical service providers if the organization uses only volunteer first responders, volunteer EMTs-basic, volunteer EMTs-I, or volunteer paramedics, or a combination of such volunteers, for 50% or more of the time during any seven-day period in which the organization makes emergency medical services available to the public (R.C. 4765.43(C)).

Ambulance drivers

The bill prohibits an emergency medical service organization from permitting an individual who is younger than 18 years of age to drive an ambulance (R.C. 4765.431).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-08-07
Reported, H. Infrastructure, Homeland Security & Veterans Affairs	06-07-07

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