



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 128

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Carey and Peterson, Balderson, Combs, Kozlowski, Slaby, Hollington, Maag, Antonio, Boose, Grossman, Derickson, Amstutz

BILL SUMMARY

- Revises the requirements for staffing ambulances based upon whether the ambulance is traveling to the emergency scene or from the emergency scene and carrying a patient, and whether the emergency medical service that operates the ambulance substantially utilizes volunteers.
- Revises the priorities for distributing grants for emergency medical services.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Ambulance staffing and driver requirements

Changes made by the bill

The bill modifies the staffing and driver requirements that apply to an emergency medical service (EMS) organization that provides medical transport to a patient. The bill also provides that the method for determining whether an EMS organization is considered to be "substantially utilizing volunteers" is based on hours of employment, rather than as a percentage of employment, as provided in current law.

The bill provides that an emergency run consists of at least one and possibly two components: first, the period during which the ambulance is traveling to the scene of the emergency, and, if applicable, a second component that consists of the period during which the ambulance is transporting a patient from the emergency scene.¹ The bill establishes a distinction between ambulance staffing for these two components and permits an ambulance that is traveling to an accident scene to have less staff than is

¹ R.C. 4765.43(A)(1).

required under current law. The bill also establishes a minimum age and training requirement for an ambulance driver; current law imposes no such requirements.

For the purposes of the chart detailing the ambulance staffing provisions of the bill, "EMS organization that substantially utilizes volunteers" means such an organization whose paid individuals, taken as a whole, are scheduled for a total of not more than 168 hours in any week.²

Proposed ambulance staffing and ambulance driver requirements of the bill		
	EMS organization that does not substantially use volunteers	EMS organization that substantially uses volunteers
Ambulance staffing: To an emergency scene	At least one Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-basic, EMT-intermediate, or paramedic; this person may serve as the driver ³	
Ambulance staffing: From an emergency scene and transporting a patient	At least two EMTs-basic, EMTs-intermediate, or paramedics; one of these persons may serve as the driver ⁴	(1) At least two EMTs-basic, EMTs-intermediate, or paramedics, or (2) at least one first responder and one EMT-basic, EMT-intermediate, or paramedic. For both items (1) and (2), one of these two persons may serve as the driver.
Special driver circumstances: From an emergency scene and transporting a patient	None	If the ambulance is being staffed by at least one first responder and one EMT-basic, EMT-intermediate, or paramedic, the first responder must serve as the driver ⁵
Driver qualifications	Must be at least 18 years of age and hold a first responder, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-basic, EMT-intermediate, paramedic, or fire training certificate ⁶	

² R.C. 4765.43(A)(2).

³ R.C. 4765.43(C).

⁴ R.C. 4765.43(D)(1).

⁵ R.C. 4765.43(D)(2).

⁶ R.C. 4765.43(B)(1) to (2).

Current ambulance staffing and driver requirements

For the purposes of the chart below, which details the ambulance staffing provisions of current law, an EMS organization "substantially utilizes volunteer emergency medical service providers" if, on any given day, for six months prior to that day, the organization's daily average number of hours during which the organization used only volunteer first responders, volunteer EMT-basic, volunteer EMT-intermediate, or volunteer paramedics, was 50% or more of the daily average number of hours that the EMS organization made emergency medical services available to the public.⁷

Existing ambulance staffing and ambulance driver requirements		
	EMS organization that does not substantially use volunteers	EMS organization that substantially uses volunteers
Ambulance staffing	At least two of any combination of EMT-basic, EMT-intermediate, or paramedics ⁸	At least one first responder and one EMT-basic, EMT-intermediate, or paramedic ⁹
Driver qualifications	Not required to be an EMT-basic, EMT-intermediate, or paramedic ¹⁰	Not required to be a first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-intermediate, or paramedic ¹¹
Special driver circumstances	None	If the ambulance is staffed by only one first responder and one EMT-basic, EMT-intermediate, or paramedic, it may be driven by the first responder ¹²

Board of Emergency Medical Services grants

Relative to the priorities the Board of Emergency Medical Services must utilize for distributing grants, the bill moves an existing priority up two places from fourth

⁷ R.C. 4765.43(C).

⁸ R.C. 4765.43(B)(1).

⁹ R.C. 4765.43(B)(2).

¹⁰ R.C. 4765.43(B)(1).

¹¹ R.C. 4765.43(B)(2).

¹² R.C. 4765.43(B)(2).

(last) priority and adds two additional priorities. The new second priority for grants is for those entities that research, test, and evaluate medical procedures "and systems," not just medical procedures, related to adult and pediatric trauma care.¹³

The new fifth priority for grants is for those entities that conduct research on, test, or evaluate one or more of the following:

- (A) Procedures governing the performance of emergency medical services in this state;
- (B) The training of emergency medical service personnel;
- (C) The staffing of emergency medical service organizations.¹⁴

The new sixth priority is temporary. For grants distributed not later than the award year ending June 30, 2017, sixth priority must be given to entities that operate paramedic training programs and are seeking national accreditation of the programs.¹⁵ To be eligible for a grant distributed under the sixth priority, an applicant must meet all of the following conditions:

- (A) Hold a certificate of accreditation issued by the Board to operate a paramedic training program;
- (B) Be seeking initial national accreditation of the program from an accrediting organization approved by the Board;
- (C) Apply for the national accreditation on or after February 25, 2010.¹⁶

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-01-11

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¹³ R.C. 4765.07(A)(2).

¹⁴ R.C. 4765.07(A)(5).

¹⁵ R.C. 4765.07(A)(6).

¹⁶ R.C. 4765.07(B)(1) to (3).