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H.B. 600
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Blair and O'Brien

Margaret E. Marcy, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Authorizes a person who has a valid commercial driver's license to drive an ambulance during the state of emergency due to COVID-19 (current law requires the driver to meet more detailed requirements).
- Requires an EMT, an advanced EMT, or a paramedic to accompany the driver described above for the entire emergency run.
- Declares an emergency.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Ambulance drivers

During the period of the Governor's executive order declaring a state of emergency due to COVID-19,¹ the bill authorizes a person who currently holds a valid commercial driver's license (CDL) to drive an ambulance for an emergency medical service organization.² However, an emergency medical technician (EMT), an advanced EMT, or a paramedic also must be present for both traveling to the scene of the emergency and for transporting the patient away from the scene of the emergency (the entirety of the emergency run).³

Current law specifies that the driver of an ambulance must be at least 18, hold a valid driver's license, and meet at least one of the following criteria:

¹ Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020.

² Section 1(B).

³ Section 1(A) and (C).

1. Hold a valid certificate to practice as a medical first responder, EMT, advanced EMT, or paramedic;
2. Hold a valid fire training certificate to provide services as a firefighter;
3. Be employed and in good standing as a sworn sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer, marshal, deputy marshal, or highway patrol trooper in this state; or
4. Have successfully completed either the emergency vehicle operations course approved by the national highway traffic safety administration or an equivalent course approved by the state board of emergency medical services.⁴

Current law also specifies that an ambulance may be staffed by one person on the way to an emergency, but must be staffed by at least two people if transporting a person away from the emergency (one person drives while the other person attends to the patient). The law is structured to ensure that either an emergency EMT, an advanced EMT, or a paramedic is in the ambulance and able to attend to the patient while transporting the patient away from the emergency.⁵

Emergency

The bill declares an emergency because “immediate action is crucial to protecting the public health” during the outbreak of COVID-19. As such, if enacted, the bill goes into effect immediately.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-06-20

H0600-I-133/ar

⁴ R.C. 4765.43(B), not in the bill.

⁵ R.C. 4765.43(C) and (D), not in the bill.