



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

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### Sub. H.B. 187

131st General Assembly  
(As Reported by H. Health and Aging)

**Reps.** Ginter, LaTourette, Blessing, Schaffer, Vitale, Lepore-Hagan, Ruhl, Becker, Hambley, Huffman, Barnes, Bishoff, Brown

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Authorizes a first responder, emergency medical technician-basic, emergency medical technician-intermediate, or emergency medical technician-paramedic to provide certain emergency medical services to an injured dog or cat.
- Authorizes a veterinarian to establish and provide a written protocol to, or consult with, emergency medical service personnel to enable the provision of emergency medical services to a dog or cat.
- Provides qualified immunity to emergency medical service personnel, medical directors, members of cooperating physician advisory boards, emergency medical services organizations, and veterinarians related to the provision of emergency medical services to a dog or cat.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Authority to provide emergency aid to an injured dog or cat

The bill authorizes a first responder, emergency medical technician-basic (EMT-basic), emergency medical technician-intermediate (EMT-I), or emergency medical technician-paramedic (paramedic), in the course of an emergency medical response, fire response, or response to aid law enforcement, to provide certain emergency medical services to an injured dog or cat before the animal is transferred to a veterinarian for further treatment. The services authorized by the bill are:

- (1) Opening and manually maintaining an airway;
- (2) Giving mouth to snout or mouth to barrier ventilation;

- (3) Administering oxygen;
- (4) Managing ventilation by mask;
- (5) Controlling hemorrhage with direct pressure;
- (6) Immobilizing fractures;
- (7) Bandaging;

(8) Administering naloxone hydrochloride, if administering the drug has been authorized by the medical director or cooperating physician advisory board of an emergency medical service organization and the drug is administered either in accordance with a written protocol established and provided by a veterinarian or pursuant to a consultation with a veterinarian.

The services may be provided only to the extent that the first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic is authorized by existing law to perform the corresponding form of the services when providing emergency medical services to a human patient.<sup>1</sup>

Current law does not appear to address the provision of emergency medical services or trauma care to an animal by emergency medical service personnel.

## **Practice of veterinary medicine**

The bill authorizes a veterinarian to establish and provide a written protocol to, or consult with, a first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic to enable provision of the emergency medical services specified above.<sup>2</sup> The bill specifies that a first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic who provides those services in accordance with the bill is not subject to the laws governing the practice of veterinary medicine.<sup>3</sup>

## **Qualified immunity**

The bill provides immunity from civil damages, criminal prosecution, and professional disciplinary action to a first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, paramedic, medical director, member of a cooperating physician advisory board, and emergency medical services organization for conduct related to the provision of emergency medical services in accordance with the bill, so long as the conduct does not constitute

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4765.52.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4765.52(E)(1).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4741.20.

willful or wanton misconduct.<sup>4</sup> This is in addition to current law, which provides a first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, paramedic, medical director, and member of cooperating physician advisory board immunity from damages in a civil action related to the performance of authorized emergency medical services on a human, except for willful or wanton misconduct.<sup>5</sup>

The bill also provides immunity from civil damages, criminal prosecution, and professional disciplinary action to veterinarians who act in good faith in accordance with the bill.<sup>6</sup>

### **Terminal distributor licenses**

The bill prohibits the State Board of Pharmacy from taking disciplinary action against an emergency medical services organization's terminal distributor of dangerous drugs license for reasons arising from the provision of emergency medical services in accordance with the bill, except in the case of willful or wanton misconduct.<sup>7</sup>

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## **HISTORY**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Introduced	05-05-15
Reported, H. Health & Aging	11-19-15

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<sup>4</sup> R.C. 4765.52(C) and (D)(1).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 4765.49(A), not in the bill.

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 4765.52(E)(2).

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 4765.52(D)(2).

