



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Final Analysis

Jeff Grim

Sub. H.B. 187

131st General Assembly
(As Passed by the General Assembly)

Reps. Ginter, LaTourette, Blessing, Schaffer, Vitale, Lepore-Hagan, Ruhl, Becker, Hambley, Huffman, Barnes, Bishoff, Brown, Anielski, Boyce, Brenner, Cera, Craig, Grossman, Hackett, T. Johnson, Leland, Rezabek, Rogers, Romanchuk, Sheehy, Stinziano, Thompson

Sens. Cafaro, Eklund, Faber, Hite, Hughes, LaRose, Thomas

Effective date: August 31, 2016

ACT SUMMARY

- Authorizes certain emergency medical service personnel to provide, in the course of an emergency response, 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.
- With regard to the provision of emergency medical services to a dog or cat, provides qualified immunity from criminal prosecution (in addition to civil immunity under continuing law) and professional disciplinary action to the following:
 - Emergency medical service personnel; and
 - Medical directors or members of cooperating physician advisory boards of emergency medical service organizations.
- Provides qualified immunity from civil damages, criminal prosecution, and professional disciplinary action related to the provision of emergency medical services to a dog or cat to emergency medical service organizations and veterinarians.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Authority to provide emergency aid to an injured dog or cat

The act authorizes emergency medical service personnel, in the course of an emergency response, 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 act 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; and

(8) Administering naloxone hydrochloride (blocks or reverses the effects of opioid medication). Use of naloxone hydrochloride must be authorized by the medical director or cooperating physician advisory board of an emergency medical service organization. Further, it must be administered either in accordance with a written protocol established and provided by a veterinarian or pursuant to a consultation with a veterinarian (see below).

Under the act, the services listed above may be provided only by a first responder, emergency medical technician-basic (EMT-basic), emergency medical technician-intermediate (EMT-I), or emergency medical technician-paramedic (paramedic). 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.¹

¹ R.C. 4765.52(B).

Practice of veterinary medicine

The act 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.² It specifies that a first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic who provides those services in accordance with the act is not subject to the laws governing the practice of veterinary medicine.³

Qualified immunity

The act provides immunity from criminal prosecution and professional disciplinary action to a first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, paramedic, and a medical director or member of a cooperating physician advisory board of an emergency medical service organization for conduct related to the provision of emergency medical services to a cat or dog in accordance with the act. The immunity applies unless the conduct constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.⁴ The immunity is in addition to continuing law, which establishes immunity from damages in a civil action related to the performance of authorized emergency medical services, except for willful or wanton misconduct.⁵

The act also provides immunity from civil damages, criminal prosecution, and professional disciplinary action to:

(1) Emergency medical service organizations for conduct related to the provision of emergency medical services under the act, unless the conduct constitutes willful or wanton misconduct; and

(2) Veterinarians who act in good faith in accordance with the act.⁶

Terminal distributor licenses

The act prohibits the State Board of Pharmacy from taking disciplinary action against an emergency medical service organization's terminal distributor of dangerous

² R.C. 4765.52(E)(1).

³ R.C. 4741.20.

⁴ R.C. 4765.52(C).

⁵ R.C. 4765.49(A), not in the act.

⁶ R.C. 4765.52(D)(1) and (E)(2).



drugs license for reasons arising from the provision of emergency medical services in accordance with the act, except in the case of willful or wanton misconduct.⁷

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-05-15
Reported, H. Health & Aging	11-19-15
Passed House (92-0)	12-09-15
Reported, S. Agriculture	05-17-16
Passed Senate (30-0)	05-18-16

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⁷ R.C. 4765.52(D)(2).

