

By the Committee on Health Care and Senator Klein

28-808-98

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to emergency medical services;  
3           creating s. 401.272, F.S., providing for  
4           paramedics and emergency medical technicians to  
5           provide health promotion and wellness  
6           activities and blood pressure screenings;  
7           providing for paramedics to administer  
8           immunizations and requiring the verification  
9           and documentation of their qualifications to do  
10          so; providing conditions to the provision of  
11          such community health care; providing for  
12          rulemaking; providing an effective date.

14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16           Section 1. Section 401.272, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           401.272 Emergency medical services community health  
19 care.--

20           (1) The purpose of this section is to encourage more  
21 effective utilization of the skills of emergency medical  
22 technicians and paramedics by enabling them to perform, in  
23 partnership with local county health departments, specific  
24 additional health care tasks that are consistent with the  
25 public health and welfare.

26           (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
27 contrary:

28           (a) Paramedics or emergency medical technicians may  
29 perform health promotion and wellness activities and blood  
30 pressure screenings in a nonemergency environment, within the  
31 scope of their training, and under the direction of a medical

1 director. As used in this paragraph, the term "health  
2 promotion and wellness" means the provision of public health  
3 programs pertaining to the prevention of illness and injury.

4 (b) Paramedics may administer immunizations in a  
5 nonemergency environment, within the scope of their training,  
6 and under the direction of a medical director. There must be a  
7 written agreement between the paramedic's medical director and  
8 the county health department located in each county in which  
9 the paramedic administers immunizations. This agreement must  
10 establish the protocols, policies, and procedures under which  
11 the paramedic must operate.

12 (3) Each medical director under whose direction a  
13 paramedic administers immunizations must verify and document  
14 that the paramedic has received sufficient training and  
15 experience to administer immunizations. The verification must  
16 be documented on forms developed by the department, and the  
17 completed forms must be maintained at the service location of  
18 the licensee and made available to the department upon  
19 request.

20 (4) The department may adopt and enforce all rules  
21 necessary to enforce the provisions relating to a paramedic's  
22 administration of immunizations and the performance of health  
23 promotion and wellness activities and blood pressure  
24 screenings by a paramedic or emergency medical technician in a  
25 nonemergency environment.

26 Section 2. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section  
27 401.411, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28 401.411 Disciplinary action; penalties.--

29 (1) The department may deny, suspend, or revoke a  
30 license, certificate, or permit or may reprimand or fine any  
31

1 licensee, certificateholder, or other person operating under  
2 this part for any of the following grounds:

3 (g) Unprofessional conduct, including, but not limited  
4 to, any departure from or failure to conform to the minimal  
5 prevailing standards of acceptable practice as an emergency  
6 medical technician or paramedic, including undertaking  
7 activities that the emergency medical technician or paramedic  
8 is not qualified by training or experience to perform.

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
10 law.

11  
12 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
13 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
14 Senate Bill 290

15 The committee substitute revises the circumstances under which  
16 an emergency medical technician or paramedic may perform  
17 certain activities in a nonemergency environment under the  
18 direction of an emergency medical service's medical director.  
19 The committee substitute allows an emergency medical  
20 technician or paramedic to perform blood pressure screenings  
21 and health promotion and wellness activities in a nonemergency  
22 environment under the direction of a medical director and  
23 allows a paramedic to administer immunizations pursuant to  
24 protocol. The committee substitute defines health promotion  
25 and wellness and gives the Department of Health rulemaking  
26 authority. The committee substitute no longer imposes  
27 liability on the medical director for any acts performed by a  
28 paramedic or emergency medical technician in rendering  
29 nonemergency care.  
30  
31