

By Senator Fasano

11-02734-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to emergency medical services; amending s.  
3 401.272, F.S.; authorizing an emergency medical technician  
4 or paramedic to perform basic life support services and  
5 authorizing a paramedic to perform advanced life support  
6 services in the emergency department of a licensed  
7 hospital, regardless of whether a medical emergency  
8 exists; requiring a written agreement between the  
9 emergency medical technician's or paramedic's medical  
10 director and the hospital where such services are  
11 performed; requiring the agreement to establish the  
12 protocols, policies, and procedures under which the  
13 emergency medical technician or paramedic operates;  
14 requiring a medical director to verify and document that  
15 an emergency medical technician or paramedic performing  
16 services in an emergency department of a licensed hospital  
17 has received sufficient training and experience to perform  
18 such services; authorizing the Department of Health to  
19 adopt and enforce rules to implement provisions relating  
20 to services performed by an emergency medical technician  
21 or paramedic in the emergency department of a licensed  
22 hospital; providing an effective date.

23  
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

25  
26 Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
27 401.272, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (5) is  
28 added to that section, to read:

29 401.272 Emergency medical services community health care.--

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30 (1) The purpose of this section is to encourage more  
31 effective use ~~utilization~~ of the skills of emergency medical  
32 technicians and paramedics by enabling them to perform, in  
33 partnership with local county health departments and licensed  
34 hospitals, specific additional health care tasks that are  
35 consistent with the public health and welfare.

36 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
37 contrary:

38 (a) Paramedics or emergency medical technicians may perform  
39 health promotion and wellness activities and blood pressure  
40 screenings in a nonemergency environment, within the scope of  
41 their training, and under the direction of a medical director. As  
42 used in this paragraph, the term "health promotion and wellness"  
43 means the provision of public health programs pertaining to the  
44 prevention of illness and injury.

45 (b) Paramedics may administer immunizations in a  
46 nonemergency environment, within the scope of their training, and  
47 under the direction of a medical director. There must be a  
48 written agreement between the paramedic's medical director and  
49 the county health department located in each county in which the  
50 paramedic administers immunizations. This agreement must  
51 establish the protocols, policies, and procedures under which the  
52 paramedic must operate.

53 (c) An emergency medical technician or paramedic may  
54 perform, in the emergency department of a licensed hospital,  
55 basic life support services, regardless of whether a patient is  
56 experiencing a medical emergency. A written agreement must exist  
57 between the emergency medical technician's or paramedic's medical  
58 director and the licensed hospital where such services are

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59 performed. The agreement must establish the protocols, policies,  
60 and procedures under which the emergency medical technician or  
61 paramedic is required to operate.

62 (d) A paramedic may perform, in the emergency department of  
63 a licensed hospital, advanced life support services, regardless  
64 of whether a patient is experiencing a medical emergency. A  
65 written agreement must exist between the paramedic's medical  
66 director and the hospital where such services are performed. The  
67 agreement must establish the protocols, policies, and procedures  
68 under which the paramedic is required to operate.

69 (3) Each medical director under whose direction a paramedic  
70 administers immunizations or under whose direction an emergency  
71 medical technician or paramedic performs services in the  
72 emergency department of a licensed hospital must verify and  
73 document that the emergency medical technician or paramedic has  
74 received sufficient training and experience to perform such  
75 services ~~administer immunizations~~. The verification must be  
76 documented on forms developed by the department, and the  
77 completed forms must be maintained at the service location of the  
78 licensee and made available to the department upon request.

79 (5) The department may adopt and enforce all rules  
80 necessary to enforce the provisions relating to an emergency  
81 medical technician's or paramedic's services in the emergency  
82 department of a licensed hospital.

83 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.