

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to emergency medical services; amending s.  
 3           401.272, F.S.; providing for paramedics and emergency  
 4           medical technicians to perform certain activities in the  
 5           emergency departments of licensed hospitals under certain  
 6           conditions and requiring verification and documentation of  
 7           their qualifications to do so; providing an effective  
 8           date.

9  
 10   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11  
 12           Section 1.   Section 401.272, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 13   to read:

14           401.272   Emergency medical services community health  
 15   care.--

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

22           (2)   Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
 23   contrary:

24           (a)   Paramedics or emergency medical technicians may  
 25   perform health promotion and wellness activities and blood  
 26   pressure screenings in a nonemergency environment, within the  
 27   scope of their training, and under the direction of a medical  
 28   director. As used in this paragraph, the term "health promotion

29 and wellness" means the provision of public health programs  
30 pertaining to the prevention of illness and injury.

31 (b) Paramedics may administer immunizations in a  
32 nonemergency environment, within the scope of their training,  
33 and under the direction of a medical director. There must be a  
34 written agreement between the paramedic's medical director and  
35 the county health department located in each county in which the  
36 paramedic administers immunizations. This agreement must  
37 establish the protocols, policies, and procedures under which  
38 the paramedic must operate.

39 (c) Paramedics or emergency medical technicians may  
40 perform, in the emergency department of a licensed hospital,  
41 activities permitted within the definition of basic life  
42 support, regardless of whether the patient is experiencing a  
43 medical emergency. There must be a written agreement between the  
44 paramedic's or the emergency medical technician's medical  
45 director and the hospital in which the paramedic or emergency  
46 medical technician performs services. This agreement must  
47 establish the protocols, policies, and procedures under which  
48 the paramedic or emergency medical technician must operate.

49 (d) Paramedics or emergency medical technicians may  
50 perform, in the emergency department of a licensed hospital,  
51 activities permitted within the definition of advanced life  
52 support, regardless of whether the patient is experiencing a  
53 medical emergency. There must be a written agreement between the  
54 paramedic's or the emergency medical technician's medical  
55 director and the hospital in which the paramedic or emergency  
56 medical technician performs services. This agreement must

57 establish the protocols, policies, and procedures under which  
58 the paramedic must operate.

59 (3) Each medical director under whose direction a  
60 paramedic administers immunizations, or under whose direction a  
61 paramedic or emergency medical technician performs activities in  
62 the emergency department of a licensed hospital, must verify and  
63 document that the paramedic or emergency medical technician has  
64 received sufficient training and experience to perform such  
65 activities ~~administer immunizations~~. The verification must be  
66 documented on forms developed by the department, and the  
67 completed forms must be maintained at the service location of  
68 the licensee and made available to the department upon request.

69 (4) The department may adopt and enforce all rules  
70 necessary to enforce the provisions relating to:

71 (a) A paramedic's administration of immunizations and the  
72 performance of health promotion and wellness activities and  
73 blood pressure screenings by a paramedic or emergency medical  
74 technician in a nonemergency environment.

75 (b) A paramedic's or emergency medical technician's  
76 activities in the emergency department of a licensed hospital.

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