

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 861

Emergency Medical Services Training

SPONSOR(S): Hooper

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS:

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	State & Community Colleges & Workforce Policy Committee		Beagle	White
2)	Health Care Regulation Policy Committee			
3)	Education Policy Council			
4)				
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Florida law establishes requirements for emergency medical services training programs, including curriculum, program duration, and internship requirements. Such programs include emergency medical technician (EMT) and paramedic training programs. Among other things, paramedic training programs must provide a field internship experience aboard an advanced life support permitted ambulance.

House Bill 861 authorizes the required field internship for paramedic programs to be provided aboard any advanced life support permitted "vehicle." Currently, this internship is limited to experience aboard an advanced life support permitted "ambulance."

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2009.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Definitions:

- "Advanced life support" means treatment of life-threatening medical emergencies using advanced techniques such as endotracheal intubation, the administration of drugs or intravenous fluids, telemetry, cardiac monitoring, and cardiac defibrillation.
- "Basic life support" means treatment of medical emergencies using such techniques as patient assessment, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, splinting, obstetrical assistance, bandaging, administration of oxygen, application of medical antishock trousers, administration of injections using an autoinjector of epinephrine to a person suffering an anaphylactic reaction, and other approved techniques.
- "Emergency medical technician" means a person who is certified by the Department of Health (DOH) to perform basic life support.
- "Paramedic" means a person who is certified by the DOH to perform basic and advanced life support.
- "Ambulance" or "emergency medical services vehicle" means any privately or publicly owned land or water vehicle that is designed for land or water transportation of sick or injured persons requiring medical attention during transport.¹

Emergency Medical Services Training Programs

Emergency medical services training programs may be provided at both public and private institutions. Institutions that offer such programs must meet specified statutory requirements. Such programs include EMT and paramedic training programs.²

EMT training programs must be a minimum of 110 hours, with at least 20 hours of supervised clinical supervision, including 10 hours in a hospital emergency department.³ Generally, paramedic programs are only available to Florida certified EMTs. Paramedic programs must be a minimum of 700 hours of didactic and skills practice components. Paramedic programs must provide a field internship

¹ Section 401.23, F.S.

² Section 401.2701, F.S.

³ Section 401.2701(1)(b)1., F.S.

experience aboard an advanced life support permitted ambulance.⁴ The internship ensures that the trainee gains experience with sick or injured persons during transport.

Effect of Proposed Changes

House Bill 861 amends s. 401.2701(1)(b)2., F.S., so that the required field internship for paramedic programs may be provided aboard any advanced life support permitted "vehicle." Currently, this internship is limited to experience aboard an advanced life support permitted "ambulance."

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amending s. 401.2701(1)(b)2., F.S.; authorizing paramedic trainee internships to be provided on certain vehicles.

Section 2.: Providing an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state revenues.

2. Expenditures:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state expenditures.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local revenues.

2. Expenditures:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill does not appear to have a direct economic impact on the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

The bill does not reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate.

The bill does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

⁴ Section 401.2701(1)(b)2., F.S.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES