

By the Committee on Health Regulation; and Senator Jones

588-02380-09

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to emergency medical services;  
3           amending s. 401.2701, F.S.; revising requirements for  
4           the field internship experience in paramedic programs;  
5           authorizing the Department of Health to adopt rules;  
6           amending s. 401.281, F.S.; revising the documented  
7           requirements for a driver of an emergency vehicle;  
8           providing an effective date.

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

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12           Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
13   401.2701, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14           401.2701 Emergency medical services training programs.—

15           (1) Any private or public institution in Florida desiring  
16   to conduct an approved program for the education of emergency  
17   medical technicians and paramedics shall:

18           (b) Receive a scheduled site visit from the department to  
19   the applicant's institution. Such site visit shall be conducted  
20   within 30 days after notification to the institution that the  
21   application was accepted. During the site visit, the department  
22   must determine the applicant's compliance with the following  
23   criteria:

24           1. Emergency medical technician programs must be a minimum  
25   of 110 hours, with at least 20 hours of supervised clinical  
26   supervision, including 10 hours in a hospital emergency  
27   department.

28           2. Paramedic programs must be available only to Florida-  
29   certified emergency medical technicians or an emergency medical

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30 technician applicant who will obtain Florida certification prior  
31 to completion of phase one of the paramedic program. Paramedic  
32 programs must be a minimum of 700 hours of didactic and skills  
33 practice components, with the skills laboratory student-to-  
34 instructor ratio not exceeding six to one. Paramedic programs  
35 must provide a field internship experience aboard an advanced  
36 life support permitted ambulance. However, a portion of the  
37 field internship experience may be satisfied aboard an advanced  
38 life support permitted vehicle other than an ambulance as  
39 determined by rule of the department.

40 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 401.281, Florida  
41 Statutes, is amended to read:

42 401.281 Drivers.—

43 (1) Each licensee is responsible for assuring that its  
44 vehicles are driven only by trained, experienced, and otherwise  
45 qualified personnel. The licensee must, at a minimum, document  
46 that each of its drivers:

47 (a) Is at least 18 years of age;

48 (b) Certifies under oath that he or she is not addicted to  
49 alcohol or any controlled substance;

50 (c) Certifies under oath that he or she is free from any  
51 physical or mental defect or disease that might impair his or  
52 her ability to drive an ambulance;

53 (d) Upon initial designation as a driver, has not, within  
54 the past 3 years, been convicted of ~~reckless driving or~~ driving  
55 under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances and has  
56 not had a driver's license suspended under the point system  
57 provided for in chapter 322;

58 (e) Possesses a valid driver's license issued under chapter

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59 322, is trained in the safe operation of emergency vehicles, and  
60 has completed an emergency vehicle operator's course or the  
61 reasonable equivalent as approved by the department; however,  
62 this paragraph applies only to a driver of a land vehicle;

63 (f) Possesses a valid American Red Cross or National Safety  
64 Council standard first aid course card or its equivalent; and

65 (g) Possesses a valid American Red Cross or American Heart  
66 Association cardiopulmonary resuscitation card.

67 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.