

HB 863

2012

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to emergency medical services training
3 programs in Pinellas County; providing that a majority
4 of the field internship experience provided for
5 paramedic students by a paramedic program located in
6 Pinellas County may be done aboard an advanced life
7 support permitted vehicle other than an ambulance if
8 certain other requirements are met; providing an
9 effective date.

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11 WHEREAS, the emergency medical services (EMS) in Pinellas
12 County operate as a public utility model and is the only public
13 utility model system in this state, and

14 WHEREAS, in Pinellas County, fire departments serve as
15 first responders and arrive on the scene as the initial
16 responder more than 90 percent of the time, and

17 WHEREAS, due to the low number of ambulances available in
18 Pinellas County, the ambulance contractor transports patients
19 and rarely arrives first on the scene, and

20 WHEREAS, if paramedic training programs allowed students to
21 ride with the advanced life support vehicles of the fire
22 departments no more than 20 percent of the time, as directed by
23 rule 64J-1.020, Florida Administrative Code, paramedic students
24 in Pinellas County would never finish the required field
25 internships and obtain the required team leads within a
26 reasonable time, and

27 WHEREAS, this 20 percent limitation would severely impact
28 enrollment in paramedic training programs in Pinellas County and

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29 | lengthen the time it would take for paramedic students to
30 | complete the training programs, which would make the paramedic
31 | training programs in Pinellas County noncompetitive with other
32 | EMS educational programs in the state, NOW, THEREFORE,

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34 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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36 | Section 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or
37 | rule, a majority of the field internship experience provided for
38 | paramedic students by a paramedic training program located in
39 | Pinellas County may be done aboard an advanced life support
40 | permitted vehicle other than an ambulance, if such field
41 | internship experience is provided under the supervision of a
42 | paramedic preceptor who is approved by the paramedic training
43 | program and is provided in accordance with other requirements
44 | established by rule of the Department of Health.

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 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.