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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 4849

03/11/2024 Authored by Backer, Huot, Zeleznikar, Skraba and Knudsen The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to health; providing for variances to basic life support ambulance staffing
1.3 requirements under certain emergency circumstances; amending Minnesota Statutes
1.4 2022, section 144E.101, by adding a subdivision; Minnesota Statutes 2023
1.5 Supplement, section 144E.101, subdivision 6.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 144E.101, subdivision 6, is
1.8 amended to read:

1.9 Subd. 6. Basic life support. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (f) subdivision 6a, a
1.10 basic life-support ambulance shall be staffed by at least two EMTs, one of whom must
1.11 accompany the patient and provide a level of care so as to ensure that:

- 1.12 (1) life-threatening situations and potentially serious injuries are recognized;
1.13 (2) patients are protected from additional hazards;
1.14 (3) basic treatment to reduce the seriousness of emergency situations is administered;
1.15 and
1.16 (4) patients are transported to an appropriate medical facility for treatment.

1.17 (b) A basic life-support service shall provide basic airway management.

1.18 (c) A basic life-support service shall provide automatic defibrillation.

1.19 (d) A basic life-support service shall administer opiate antagonists consistent with
1.20 protocols established by the service's medical director.

2.1 (e) A basic life-support service licensee's medical director may authorize ambulance
 2.2 service personnel to perform intravenous infusion and use equipment that is within the
 2.3 licensure level of the ambulance service. Ambulance service personnel must be properly
 2.4 trained. Documentation of authorization for use, guidelines for use, continuing education,
 2.5 and skill verification must be maintained in the licensee's files.

2.6 ~~(f) For emergency ambulance calls and interfacility transfers, an ambulance service may~~
 2.7 ~~staff its basic life-support ambulances with one EMT, who must accompany the patient,~~
 2.8 ~~and one registered emergency medical responder driver. For purposes of this paragraph,~~
 2.9 ~~"ambulance service" means either an ambulance service whose primary service area is~~
 2.10 ~~mainly located outside the metropolitan counties listed in section 473.121, subdivision 4,~~
 2.11 ~~and outside the cities of Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, Rochester, and St. Cloud; or an~~
 2.12 ~~ambulance service based in a community with a population of less than 2,500.~~

2.13 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 144E.101, is amended by adding a subdivision
 2.14 to read:

2.15 Subd. 6a. **Basic life support; alternative staffing.** (a) For purposes of this subdivision,
 2.16 "ambulance service" means either an ambulance service whose primary service area is
 2.17 mainly located outside the metropolitan counties listed in section 473.121, subdivision 4,
 2.18 and outside the cities of Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, Rochester, and St. Cloud; or an
 2.19 ambulance service based in a community with a population of less than 2,500.

2.20 (b) For emergency ambulance calls and interfacility transfers, an ambulance service may
 2.21 staff its basic life-support ambulances with one EMT, who must accompany the patient,
 2.22 and one registered emergency medical responder driver.

2.23 (c) Upon application from an ambulance service that includes evidence demonstrating
 2.24 hardship, the board may grant a variance from the regular basic life support staffing
 2.25 requirements in subdivision 6 or the alternative staff requirements in paragraph (b)
 2.26 authorizing a basic life-support ambulance to be temporarily staffed by one EMT, who must
 2.27 accompany the patient, and one fire department employee who has completed formal
 2.28 emergency vehicle operations training with the fire department. The temporary staffing
 2.29 variance applies to each subsequent emergency ambulance response after an initial emergency
 2.30 ambulance call until an ambulance with regular or alternative staffing is again available.
 2.31 The variance shall apply to basic life-support ambulances operated by the ambulance service
 2.32 until the ambulance service renews its license. When a variance expires, an ambulance
 2.33 service may apply for a new variance under this paragraph.