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Sponsored by:

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District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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SYNOPSIS

Temporarily waives certain basic life support services crewmember requirements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Health Committee on January 3, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/10/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning basic life support services.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
4 of New Jersey:

5

6 1. a. As used in this section:

7 ¹“ACLS certification” means valid certification in Advanced
8 Cardiac Life Support as issued by the American Heart Association.

9 “Advanced life support” means an advanced level of pre-hospital,
10 inter-hospital, and emergency service care which includes basic life
11 support functions, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation,
12 telemetered electrocardiography, administration of anti-arrhythmic
13 agents, intravenous therapy, administration of specific medications,
14 drugs and solutions, use of adjunctive ventilation devices, trauma care
15 and other techniques and procedures authorized in writing by the
16 Commissioner of Health.¹

17 “Basic life support” means a basic level of pre-hospital care which
18 includes patient stabilization, airway clearance, cardiopulmonary
19 resuscitation, hemorrhage control, initial wound care and fracture
20 stabilization, and other techniques and procedures authorized by the
21 Commissioner of Health.

22 ¹“Emergency medical technician-paramedic” means a person
23 trained in advanced life support services and certified by the
24 Commissioner of Health to render advanced life support services as
25 part of a mobile intensive care unit.¹

26 “First responder” means a police officer, firefighter, or other
27 person who has been trained to provide emergency medical first
28 response services in a program recognized by the Commissioner of
29 Health.

30 ¹“ITLS certification” means valid certification in International
31 Trauma Life Support as issued by the American College of Emergency
32 Physicians.

33 “Mobile intensive care nurse” means a registered nurse who: has
34 completed at least one year of full-time nursing care performing
35 advanced clinical skills in the critical care unit or emergency
36 department of an acute care hospital; possesses Emergency Medical
37 Technician-Basic, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and ACLS
38 certifications; possesses PALS or Pediatric Education for Prehospital
39 Professionals-Advanced certification or has successfully completed the
40 Emergency Nurse Pediatric Course to the standards of the Emergency
41 Nurses Association; possesses either PHTLS or ITLS certification; has
42 successfully completed at least a mobile intensive care unit field
43 internship consisting of at least 100 hours, has successfully intubated
44 at least five patients and has demonstrated proficiency in pre-hospital

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted January 3, 2022.

1 advanced life support treatment to the satisfaction of the nurse's
2 mobile intensive care program's medical director; is physically capable
3 of performing the duties of a mobile intensive care nurse; and is
4 endorsed by the medical director of a mobile intensive care program.

5 "Mobile intensive care unit" means a specialized emergency
6 medical service vehicle operated for the provision of advanced life
7 support services under the direction of an authorized hospital.

8 "PALS certification" means valid certification in Pediatric
9 Advanced Life Support as issued by the American Heart Association.

10 "PHTLS certification" means valid certification in Pre-Hospital
11 Trauma Life Support as issued by the National Association of EMTs.

12 "Specialty care transport nurse" means a registered nurse who has:
13 completed at least one year of full time nursing care performing
14 advanced clinical skills in an acute care hospital's critical care unit or
15 emergency department and possesses valid certification as either a
16 critical care registered nurse or a certified emergency nurse; holds
17 certifications in CPR and ACLS; holds certification in PALS or has
18 successfully completed the Emergency Nurse Pediatric Course to the
19 standards of the Emergency Nurses Association; has additional
20 training in endotracheal intubation and has been deemed competent by
21 the medical director; and has documented completion of competencies
22 for advanced life support equipment, including, but not limited to,
23 cardiac monitor/defibrillator, external pacemaker, IV pump, ventilator,
24 intra-aortic balloon pump, specialized respirators, and incubators.

25 "Specialty care transport unit" means a specialized transport
26 medical service vehicle that is validly licensed by the department and
27 operated in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the
28 department.¹

29 b. ¹(1)¹ Until January 1, 2023, ¹[each] ¹a¹ basic life support
30 services vehicle ¹other than a basic life support services vehicle
31 described in subsection d. of this section¹ , when in service, shall be
32 staffed by a minimum of two emergency medical technicians or by a
33 minimum of one emergency medical technician and one first
34 responder. Any individual staffing a basic life support vehicle ¹as
35 provided in this paragraph¹ shall be authorized to render care within
36 that individual's scope of practice. In the case of a vehicle staffed by
37 ¹[a]¹ one emergency medical technician and one first responder, the
38 emergency medical technician shall be present in the patient
39 compartment of the vehicle at all times when a patient is present in the
40 vehicle.

41 ¹(2) Until January 1, 2023, a mobile intensive care unit, when in
42 service, shall be staffed by a minimum of two persons, which two
43 persons may be two emergency medical technician-paramedics, two
44 mobile intensive care nurses, one emergency medical technician-
45 paramedic and one mobile intensive care nurse, or one emergency
46 medical technician and one emergency medical technician-paramedic
47 or mobile intensive care nurse. Any individual staffing a mobile

1 intensive care unit as provided in this paragraph shall be authorized to
2 render care within that individual's scope of practice. In the case of a
3 mobile intensive care unit staffed by one emergency medical
4 technician and one emergency medical technician-paramedic or
5 mobile intensive care nurse, the emergency medical technician-
6 paramedic or mobile intensive care nurse shall provide primary patient
7 care.

8 (3) Until January 1, 2023, a specialty care transport unit, when in
9 service, shall be staffed by a minimum of one specialty care transport
10 nurse and one emergency medical technician. Any individual staffing
11 a specialty care transport unit as provided in this paragraph shall be
12 authorized to render care within that individual's scope of practice.
13 The specialty care transport nurse shall provide primary patient care.¹

14 c. Each individual staffing a basic life support vehicle¹, a mobile
15 intensive care unit, or a specialty care transport unit¹ pursuant to
16 ¹subsection b. of¹ this section shall be at least 18 years of age. In
17 addition, a first responder staffing a basic life support vehicle
18 ¹pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection b. of this section¹ shall:

19 (1) be certified to administer cardio-pulmonary resuscitation;

20 (2) be able to operate a basic life support vehicle; and

21 (3) ¹[possess a certification from the National Safety Council,
22 National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, American Red
23 Cross, Emergency Care and Safety Institute, the American Health and
24 Safety Institute, or an equivalent certification] have completed a
25 training program that has been approved by the basic life support
26 agency medical director and that includes, at a minimum: safe vehicle
27 operations; patient lifting and moving; safe use of patient restraints;
28 basic first aid; and documentation¹.

29 ¹d. The provisions of subsection b. of this section shall not apply
30 to a basic life support vehicle dispatched in response to a 9-1-1
31 emergency call, which vehicles, when in service, shall be staffed by a
32 minimum of two emergency medical technicians.

33 e. Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

34 (1) revise the requirements for certification, or to practice, as an
35 emergency medical technician, an emergency medical technician-
36 paramedic, a mobile intensive care nurse, or a specialty care transport
37 nurse in New Jersey;

38 (2) revise the scope of practice authorized for emergency medical
39 technicians, emergency medical technician-paramedics, mobile
40 intensive care nurses, or specialty care transport nurses in New Jersey;
41 or

42 (3) revise the standards or requirements for equipment for basic
43 life support vehicles, mobile intensive care units, or specialty care
44 transport units.¹

45

46 2. This act shall take effect immediately.