

SENATE, No. 4140

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Temporarily waives certain basic life support services crewmember requirements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning basic life support services.

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

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6 1. a. As used in this section:

7 "Basic life support" means a basic level of pre-hospital care
8 which includes patient stabilization, airway clearance,
9 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, hemorrhage control, initial wound
10 care and fracture stabilization, and other techniques and procedures
11 authorized by the Commissioner of Health.

12 "First responder" means a police officer, firefighter, or other
13 person who has been trained to provide emergency medical first
14 response services in a program recognized by the Commissioner of
15 Health.

16 b. Until January 1, 2023, each basic life support services
17 vehicle, when in service, shall be staffed by a minimum of two
18 emergency medical technicians or by a minimum of one emergency
19 medical technician and one first responder. Any individual staffing
20 a basic life support vehicle shall be authorized to render care within
21 that individual's scope of practice. In the case of a vehicle staffed
22 by a one emergency medical technician and one first responder, the
23 emergency medical technician shall be present in the patient
24 compartment of the vehicle at all times when a patient is present in
25 the vehicle.

26 c. Each individual staffing a basic life support vehicle pursuant
27 to this section shall be at least 18 years of age. In addition, a first
28 responder staffing a basic life support vehicle shall:

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

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

31 (3) possess a certification from the National Safety Council,
32 National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, American
33 Red Cross, Emergency Care and Safety Institute, the American
34 Health and Safety Institute, or an equivalent certification.

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36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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39 STATEMENT

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41 This bill provides that, until January 1, 2023, each basic life
42 support services (BLS) vehicle, when in service, is to be staffed by
43 a minimum of two emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or by a
44 minimum of one EMT and one first responder. The bill defines
45 "first responder" to mean a police officer, firefighter, or other
46 person who has been trained to provide emergency medical first
47 response services in a program recognized by the Commissioner of
48 Health.

1 Any individual staffing a BLS vehicle will be authorized to
2 render care within that individual's scope of practice. In the case of
3 a vehicle staffed by a one EMT and one first responder, the EMT
4 will be required to be present in the patient compartment of the
5 vehicle at all times when a patient is present in the vehicle.

6 Each person staffing a BLS vehicle is to be at least 18 years of
7 age. In addition, a first responder staffing a BLS vehicle will be
8 required to:

9 (1) be certified to administer cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
10 (CPR);

11 (2) be able to operate a BLS vehicle; and

12 (3) possess a certification from the National Safety Council,
13 National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, American
14 Red Cross, Emergency Care and Safety Institute, the American
15 Health and Safety Institute, or an equivalent certification.

16 This bill effectively extends a BLS vehicle crewmember waiver
17 authorized by the Commissioner of Health in response to the
18 COVID-19 pandemic. Department of Health regulations ordinarily
19 require that a BLS vehicle be staffed by at least two EMTs.