

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 4140

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

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Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Temporarily waives certain basic life support services crewmember requirements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on December 6, 2021, with amendments.



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

17 “Basic life support” means a basic level of pre-hospital care
18 which includes patient stabilization, airway clearance,
19 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, hemorrhage control, initial wound
20 care and fracture stabilization, and other techniques and procedures
21 authorized by the 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
32 Emergency 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
39 Prehospital Professionals-Advanced certification or has successfully
40 completed the Emergency Nurse Pediatric Course to the standards
41 of the Emergency Nurses Association; possesses either PHTLS or
42 ITLS certification; has successfully completed at least a mobile
43 intensive care unit field internship consisting of at least 100 hours,
44 has successfully intubated at least five patients and has
45 demonstrated proficiency in pre-hospital advanced life support

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:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted December 6, 2021.

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

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

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

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

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

44 ¹(2) Until January 1, 2023, a mobile intensive care unit, when in
45 service, shall be staffed by a minimum of two persons, which two
46 persons may be two emergency medical technician-paramedics, two
47 mobile intensive care nurses, one emergency medical technician-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 (1) revise the requirements for certification, or to practice, as an
40 emergency medical technician, an emergency medical technician-
41 paramedic, a mobile intensive care nurse, or a specialty care
42 transport nurse in New Jersey;

43 (2) revise the scope of practice authorized for emergency
44 medical technicians, emergency medical technician-paramedics,
45 mobile intensive care nurses, or specialty care transport nurses in
46 New Jersey; or

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

4

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.