

SENATE, No. 4235

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 2, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Permits volunteer paramedics to operate within mobile intensive care units.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning emergency medical services and amending and
2 supplementing P.L.1984, c.146.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1984, c.146 (C.26:2K-7) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. As used in this act:

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

18 b. "Board of Medical Examiners" means the State Board of
19 Medical Examiners;

20 c. "Board of Nursing" means the New Jersey Board of Nursing;

21 d. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the State
22 Department of Health;

23 e. "Department" means the State Department of Health;

24 f. "Emergency service" means a program in a hospital staffed
25 24 hours a day by a licensed physician trained in emergency
26 medicine;

27 g. "Inter-hospital care" means those emergency medical
28 services rendered by mobile intensive care units to emergency
29 patients before and during transportation between emergency
30 treatment facilities, and upon arrival within those facilities;

31 h. "Mobile intensive care paramedic" means a person trained
32 in advanced life support services and certified by the commissioner
33 to render advanced life support services as part of a mobile
34 intensive care unit;

35 i. "Mobile intensive care unit" means a specialized emergency
36 medical service vehicle staffed by mobile intensive care paramedics
37 or registered professional nurses trained in advanced life support
38 nursing and operated for the provision of advanced life support
39 services under the direction of an authorized hospital;

40 j. "Pre-hospital care" means those emergency medical services
41 rendered by mobile intensive care units to emergency patients
42 before and during transportation to emergency treatment facilities,
43 and upon arrival within those facilities.

44 k. "Volunteer paramedic unit" means an operational subunit
45 within a mobile intensive care unit that is exclusively staffed by at

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.

1 least two volunteer paramedics with access to any vehicle,
2 including a personal vehicle.

3 (cf: P.L.1984, c.146, s.1)

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5 2. Section 4 of P.L.1984, c.146 (C.26:2K-10) is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 4. A mobile intensive care paramedic may perform advanced
8 life support services, provided **【they maintain】** that the paramedic
9 is following a standing order or the paramedic maintains direct
10 voice communication with and **【are】** is taking orders from a
11 licensed physician or physician directed registered professional
12 nurse, both of whom are affiliated with a mobile intensive care
13 hospital which is approved by the commissioner to provide
14 advanced life support services. A telemetered electrocardiogram
15 shall be monitored when deemed appropriate by the licensed
16 physician or when required by written rules and regulations
17 established by the mobile intensive care hospital and approved by
18 the commissioner.

19 (cf: P.L.1984, c.146, s.4)

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21 3. (New section) a. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law
22 to the contrary, members of a volunteer paramedic unit may
23 respond to an emergency jointly or separately.

24 (2) The first member of a volunteer paramedic unit to respond to
25 an emergency may provide aid prior to the arrival of the second
26 member of a volunteer paramedic if necessary.

27 (3) The first member of a volunteer paramedic unit to respond to
28 an emergency may cancel the response of a second member of a
29 volunteer paramedic unit to the emergency if the aid of a second
30 member of a volunteer paramedic unit is unnecessary.

31 b. (1) Members of a volunteer paramedic unit shall be dressed
32 professionally and shall wear identification identifying members as
33 paramedics.

34 (2) Members of a volunteer paramedic unit shall not be required
35 to respond to an emergency dressed in a uniform issued by the
36 mobile intensive care unit.

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38 4. (New section) The Commissioner of Health may adopt rules
39 and regulations, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure
40 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
41 effectuate the provisions of this act.

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43 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill permits volunteer paramedics to operate within mobile intensive care units.

The bill defines “volunteer paramedic unit” to mean an operational subunit within a mobile intensive care unit that is exclusively staffed by at least two volunteer paramedics with access to any vehicle, including a personal vehicle.

The bill provides that members of a volunteer paramedic unit may respond to an emergency jointly or separately. The first member of a volunteer paramedic unit to respond to an emergency may provide aid prior to the arrival of the second member of a volunteer paramedic if necessary. The first member of a volunteer paramedic unit to respond to an emergency may cancel the response of a second member of a volunteer paramedic unit to the emergency if the first member determines the aid of a second member of a volunteer paramedic unit is unnecessary.

The bill provides that members of a volunteer paramedic unit are to be dressed professionally and to wear identification that identifies the members as paramedics. Members of a volunteer paramedic unit are not to be required to respond to an emergency dressed in a uniform issued by the mobile intensive care unit.

Under the bill, a mobile intensive care paramedic may perform advanced life support services, provided that the paramedic is following a standing order.