

## CHAPTER 98-87

### Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 290

An act relating to emergency medical services; creating s. 401.272, F.S., providing for paramedics and emergency medical technicians to provide health promotion and wellness activities and blood pressure screenings; providing for paramedics to administer immunizations and requiring the verification and documentation of their qualifications to do so; providing conditions to the provision of such community health care; providing for rulemaking; amending s. 401.265, F.S.; specifying additional liability provisions for medical directors under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 401.272, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

401.272 Emergency medical services community health care.—

(1) The purpose of this section is to encourage more effective utilization of the skills of emergency medical technicians and paramedics by enabling them to perform, in partnership with local county health departments, specific additional health care tasks that are consistent with the public health and welfare.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary:

(a) Paramedics or emergency medical technicians may perform health promotion and wellness activities and blood pressure screenings in a non-emergency environment, within the scope of their training, and under the direction of a medical director. As used in this paragraph, the term “health promotion and wellness” means the provision of public health programs pertaining to the prevention of illness and injury.

(b) Paramedics may administer immunizations in a nonemergency environment, within the scope of their training, and under the direction of a medical director. There must be a written agreement between the paramedic’s medical director and the county health department located in each county in which the paramedic administers immunizations. This agreement must establish the protocols, policies, and procedures under which the paramedic must operate.

(3) Each medical director under whose direction a paramedic administers immunizations must verify and document that the paramedic has received sufficient training and experience to administer immunizations. The verification must be documented on forms developed by the department, and the completed forms must be maintained at the service location of the licensee and made available to the department upon request.

(4) The department may adopt and enforce all rules necessary to enforce the provisions relating to a paramedic’s administration of immunizations

and the performance of health promotion and wellness activities and blood pressure screenings by a paramedic or emergency medical technician in a nonemergency environment.

Section 2. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section 401.411, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

401.411 Disciplinary action; penalties.—

(1) The department may deny, suspend, or revoke a license, certificate, or permit or may reprimand or fine any licensee, certificateholder, or other person operating under this part for any of the following grounds:

(g) Unprofessional conduct, including, but not limited to, any departure from or failure to conform to the minimal prevailing standards of acceptable practice as an emergency medical technician or paramedic, including undertaking activities that the emergency medical technician or paramedic is not qualified by training or experience to perform.

Section 3. Subsection (4) is added to section 401.265, Florida Statutes, to read:

401.265 Medical directors.—

(4) Each medical director who uses a paramedic or emergency medical technician to perform blood pressure screening, health promotion, and wellness activities, or to administer immunization on any patient under a protocol as specified in s. 401.272, which is not in the provision of emergency care, is liable for any act or omission of any paramedic or emergency medical technician acting under his or her supervision and control when performing such services.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Became a law without the Governor's approval May 22, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 21, 1998.