

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 948

An act relating to emergency medical services; amending s. 401.2701, F.S.; revising requirements for the field internship experience in paramedic programs; authorizing the Department of Health to adopt rules; amending s. 401.281, F.S.; revising the documented requirements for a driver of an emergency vehicle; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 401.2701, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

401.2701 Emergency medical services training programs.—

(1) Any private or public institution in Florida desiring to conduct an approved program for the education of emergency medical technicians and paramedics shall:

(b) Receive a scheduled site visit from the department to the applicant's institution. Such site visit shall be conducted within 30 days after notification to the institution that the application was accepted. During the site visit, the department must determine the applicant's compliance with the following criteria:

1. Emergency medical technician programs must be a minimum of 110 hours, with at least 20 hours of supervised clinical supervision, including 10 hours in a hospital emergency department.

2. Paramedic programs must be available only to Florida-certified emergency medical technicians or an emergency medical technician applicant who will obtain Florida certification prior to completion of phase one of the paramedic program. Paramedic programs must be a minimum of 700 hours of didactic and skills practice components, with the skills laboratory student-to-instructor ratio not exceeding six to one. Paramedic programs must provide a field internship experience aboard an advanced life support permitted ambulance. However, a portion of the field internship experience may be satisfied aboard an advanced life support permitted vehicle other than an ambulance as determined by rule of the department.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 401.281, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

401.281 Drivers.—

(1) Each licensee is responsible for assuring that its vehicles are driven only by trained, experienced, and otherwise qualified personnel. The licensee must, at a minimum, document that each of its drivers:

(a) Is at least 18 years of age;

- (b) Certifies under oath that he or she is not addicted to alcohol or any controlled substance;
- (c) Certifies under oath that he or she is free from any physical or mental defect or disease that might impair his or her ability to drive an ambulance;
- (d) Upon initial designation as a driver, has not, within the past 3 years, been convicted of ~~reckless driving or~~ driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances and has not had a driver's license suspended under the point system provided for in chapter 322;
- (e) Possesses a valid driver's license issued under chapter 322, is trained in the safe operation of emergency vehicles, and has completed an emergency vehicle operator's course or the reasonable equivalent as approved by the department; however, this paragraph applies only to a driver of a land vehicle;
- (f) Possesses a valid American Red Cross or National Safety Council standard first aid course card or its equivalent; and
- (g) Possesses a valid American Red Cross or American Heart Association cardiopulmonary resuscitation card.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor June 16, 2009.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 16, 2009.