

## CHAPTER 2013-128

### Senate Bill No. 520

An act relating to emergency medical services; amending s. 381.0034, F.S.; deleting a requirement that emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and 911 public safety telecommunicators complete an educational course on HIV and AIDS; amending s. 401.23, F.S.; redefining the terms “basic life support” and “advanced life support” for purposes of the Raymond H. Alexander, M.D., Emergency Medical Transportation Services Act; amending s. 401.24, F.S.; revising the period for review of the comprehensive state plan for emergency medical services and programs; amending s. 401.27, F.S.; revising requirements for the certification and recertification of emergency medical technicians and paramedics; revising requirements for the certification of emergency medical technicians and paramedics trained outside the state; revising the time limit by which applicants trained outside the state must complete the certification examination without having to submit a new application and meet all eligibility and fee requirements; amending s. 401.2701, F.S.; revising requirements for institutions that conduct approved programs for the education of emergency medical technicians and paramedics; revising requirements that students must meet in order to receive a certificate of completion from an approved program; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 381.0034, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

381.0034 Requirement for instruction on HIV and AIDS.—

(1) The Department of Health shall require each person licensed or certified under ~~chapter 401~~, chapter 467, part IV of chapter 468, or chapter 483, as a condition of biennial relicensure, to complete an educational course approved by the department on the modes of transmission, infection control procedures, clinical management, and prevention of human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Such course shall include information on current state Florida law on acquired immune deficiency syndrome and its impact on testing, confidentiality of test results, and treatment of patients. Each such licensee or certificateholder shall submit confirmation of having completed the said ~~the~~ course, on a form provided by the department, when submitting fees or application for each biennial renewal.

Section 2. Subsections (1) and (7) of section 401.23, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

401.23 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

(1) “Advanced life support” means assessment or treatment by a person qualified under this part of life-threatening medical emergencies through the use of techniques such as endotracheal intubation, the administration of drugs or intravenous fluids, telemetry, cardiac monitoring, and cardiac defibrillation, and other techniques described in the EMT-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards ~~by a qualified person,~~ pursuant to rules of the department.

(7) “Basic life support” means the assessment or treatment by a person qualified under this part of medical emergencies ~~by a qualified person~~ through the use of techniques such as ~~patient assessment, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), splinting, obstetrical assistance, bandaging, administration of oxygen, application of medical antishock trousers, administration of a subcutaneous injection using a premeasured autoinjector of epinephrine to a person suffering an anaphylactic reaction, and other techniques~~ described in the EMT-Basic National Standard Emergency Medical Technician Basic Training Course Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards of the United States Department of Transportation and approved by the department. The term “~~basic life support~~” also includes the administration of oxygen and other techniques that ~~which~~ have been approved and are performed under conditions specified by rules of the department.

Section 3. Section 401.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

401.24 Emergency medical services state plan.—The department is responsible, at a minimum, for the improvement and regulation of basic and advanced life support programs. The department shall develop, and ~~biennially~~ revise every 5 years, a comprehensive state plan for basic and advanced life support services, the emergency medical services grants program, trauma centers, the injury control program, and medical disaster preparedness. The state plan shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) Emergency medical systems planning, including the prehospital and hospital phases of patient care, and injury control effort and unification of such services into a total delivery system to include air, water, and land services.

(2) Requirements for the operation, coordination, and ongoing development of emergency medical services, which includes: basic life support or advanced life support vehicles, equipment, and supplies; communications; personnel; training; public education; state trauma system; injury control; and other medical care components.

(3) The definition of areas of responsibility for regulating and planning the ongoing and developing delivery service requirements.

Section 4. Subsections (4) and (12) of section 401.27, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

401.27 Personnel; standards and certification.—

(4) An applicant for certification or recertification as an emergency medical technician or paramedic must:

(a) Have completed an appropriate training program ~~course~~ as follows:

1. For an emergency medical technician, an emergency medical technician training program approved by the department as ~~course~~ equivalent to the most recent EMT-Basic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards ~~emergency medical technician basic training course of the United States Department of Transportation as approved by the department;~~

2. For a paramedic, a paramedic training program approved by the department as ~~course~~ equivalent to the most recent EMT-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards ~~paramedic course of the United States Department of Transportation as approved by the department;~~

(b) Certify under oath that he or she is not addicted to alcohol or any controlled substance;

(c) Certify under oath that he or she is free from any physical or mental defect or disease that might impair the applicant’s ability to perform his or her duties;

(d) Within 2 years ~~1-year~~ after program ~~course~~ completion have passed an examination developed or required by the department;

(e)1. For an emergency medical technician, hold ~~either~~ a current American Heart Association cardiopulmonary resuscitation course card or an American Red Cross cardiopulmonary resuscitation course card or its equivalent as defined by department rule;

2. For a paramedic, hold a certificate of successful course completion in advanced cardiac life support from the American Heart Association or its equivalent as defined by department rule;

(f) Submit the certification fee and the nonrefundable examination fee prescribed in s. 401.34, which examination fee will be required for each examination administered to an applicant; and

(g) Submit a completed application to the department, which application documents compliance with paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (g), and, if applicable, (d). The application must be submitted so as to be received by the department at least 30 calendar days before the next regularly scheduled examination for which the applicant desires to be scheduled.

(12) An applicant for certification as ~~who is an out-of-state trained~~ emergency medical technician or paramedic who is trained outside the state

must provide proof of current emergency medical technician or paramedic certification or registration based upon successful completion of a training program approved by the department as equivalent to the most recent EMT-Basic or EMT-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards of the United States Department of Transportation emergency medical technician or paramedic training curriculum and hold a current certificate of successful course completion in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or advanced cardiac life support for emergency medical technicians or paramedics, respectively, to be eligible for the certification examination. The applicant must successfully complete the certification examination within 2 years ~~1-year~~ after the date of the receipt of his or her application by the department. After 2 years ~~1-year~~, the applicant must submit a new application, meet all eligibility requirements, and submit all fees to reestablish eligibility to take the certification examination.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection (5) of section 401.2701, Florida Statutes, are 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:

(a) Submit a completed application on a form provided by the department, which must include:

1. Evidence that the institution is in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Department of Education.

2. Evidence of an affiliation agreement with a hospital that has an emergency department staffed by at least one physician and one registered nurse.

3. Evidence of an affiliation agreement with a current ~~Florida-licensed~~ emergency medical services provider that is licensed in this state. Such agreement shall include, at a minimum, a commitment by the provider to conduct the field experience portion of the education program.

4. Documentation verifying faculty, including:

a. A medical director who is a licensed physician meeting the applicable requirements for emergency medical services medical directors as outlined in this chapter and rules of the department. The medical director shall have the duty and responsibility of certifying that graduates have successfully completed all phases of the education program and are proficient in basic or advanced life support techniques, as applicable.

b. A program director responsible for the operation, organization, periodic review, administration, development, and approval of the program.

5. Documentation verifying that the curriculum:

a. ~~Meets the course guides and instructor's lesson plans in the most recent Emergency Medical Technician-Basic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards approved by the department Curricula for emergency medical technician programs and Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards approved by the department Curricula for paramedic programs.~~

b. Includes 2 hours of instruction on the trauma scorecard methodologies for assessment of adult trauma patients and pediatric trauma patients as specified by the department by rule.

~~e. Includes 4 hours of instruction on HIV/AIDS training consistent with the requirements of chapter 381.~~

6. Evidence of sufficient medical and educational equipment to meet emergency medical services training program needs.

(5) Each approved program must notify the department within 30 days after of any change in the professional or employment status of faculty. Each approved program must require its students to pass a comprehensive final written and practical examination evaluating the skills described in the current United States Department of Transportation EMT-Basic or EMT-Paramedic, National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards and approved by the department. Each approved program must issue a certificate of completion to program graduates within 14 days after of completion.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor June 7, 2013.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 7, 2013.