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H.B. 598
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Blair and O'Brien

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SUMMARY

- During the COVID-19 emergency, expands the authority of an emergency medical technician (EMT) to perform services in a hospital by permitting the EMT to perform medical services in general, rather than only emergency medical services, and to do so in any area of the hospital, rather than only the emergency department.
- Declares an emergency.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Emergency medical technicians and hospitals

The bill temporarily broadens the authority of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to provide services within a hospital.¹ The expanded authority, which will be in effect only during the period of the COVID-19 emergency declared by the Governor,² applies to each of the three categories of EMTs certified under current law: EMTs-basic, EMTs-intermediate, and EMTs-paramedic.³

Specifically, the bill authorizes an EMT to do the following in a hospital:⁴

¹ Section 1.

² See Executive Order 2020-01D, issued March 9, 2020.

³ See also R.C. 4765.011 (describing alternative titles for the three categories of EMTs: emergency medical technician (EMT), advanced emergency medical technician (AEMT), and paramedic).

⁴ Section 1; R.C. 4765.36, not in the bill.

1. Perform medical services, without specification of those services. This is in place of current law that limits an EMT to performing the types of emergency medical services that are included in the EMT's typical scope of practice.⁵
2. Perform services in any area of a hospital. This is in place of current law that limits an EMT's actions to the hospital's emergency department or while moving a patient from the emergency department.

As is the case when an EMT performs services in a hospital's emergency department under current law, the bill specifies that an EMT may perform services in other areas of a hospital only if the EMT does so under direction and supervision.⁶ This direction and supervision may be provided by any of the health care professionals specified in current law, as follows:

- A physician;
- A physician assistant designated by a physician;
- A registered nurse designated by a physician.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-06-20

H0598-I-133/ec

⁵ See R.C. 4765.01(G), 4765.37, 4765.38, and 4765.39, none in the bill.

⁶ Section 1; R.C. 4765.36, not in the bill.