

Subject Alternative staffing; basic life support ambulances

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Overview

Under current law a basic life support ambulance must be staffed by at least two emergency medical technicians (EMTs), except that an ambulance service providing service in certain rural areas may staff basic life support ambulances with one EMT and one emergency medical responder (EMR) driver. This bill also allows an ambulance service providing service in certain rural areas to apply to the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board for a staffing variance and, upon receiving a variance, to temporarily staff its basic life support ambulances with one EMT and one fire department employee who completed formal emergency vehicle operations training.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Basic life support.
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Amends § 144E.101, subd. 6. Strikes language permitting ambulance services with a primary service area mainly located outside the metro counties and outside the cities of Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, Rochester, and St. Cloud, or based in a community with a population of less than 2,500, to staff its basic life support ambulances with one emergency medical technician and one emergency medical responder driver. (This alternative staffing is replaced by alternative staffing authorized in subd. 6a.)

2	Basic life support; alternative staffing.
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Adds subd. 6a to § 144E.101. For an ambulance service whose primary service area is mainly located outside the metro counties and outside the cities of Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, Rochester, and St. Cloud, or an ambulance service based in a community with a population of less than 2,500, the ambulance service:

- may staff its basic life support ambulances with one EMT who must accompany the patient and one registered EMR driver (this is current law and is being moved from subd. 6); or

Section **Description**

- may apply to the board for a staffing variance and provide evidence demonstrating hardship and upon receiving a variance from the board, may temporarily staff its basic life support ambulances with one EMT who must accompany the patient and one fire department employee who completed formal emergency vehicle operations training with the fire department. Allows this variance to apply to subsequent emergency ambulance responses after the initial call until an ambulance with regular or alternative staffing is available again. Provides the variance is valid until the ambulance service renews its license.



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