

Subject Ambulance service personnel qualifications, staffing, and education programs

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Overview

This bill makes changes to the qualification requirements for ambulance service personnel; staffing requirements for basic life support and advanced life support ambulances; and requirements for approval of education programs for emergency medical responders (EMRs), emergency medical technicians (EMTs), advanced emergency medical technicians (AEMTs), and paramedics. It also modifies requirements for reinstatement of lapsed EMR registrations and lapsed EMT, AEMT, paramedic, and community paramedic certifications.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Ambulance service personnel.</p> <p>Amends § 144E.001, subd. 3a. In the definition of ambulance service personnel, amends the qualification requirements for registered nurses and physician assistants who may provide emergency care for an ambulance service. Instead of being required to pass a paramedic practical skills test approved by the board, requires registered nurses and physician assistants to have been approved by the ambulance service medical director to provide emergency care for the ambulance service. Also allows registered nurses certified as a certified flight registered nurse or certified emergency nurse to provide emergency care for the ambulance service.</p>
2	<p>Basic life support.</p> <p>Amends § 144E.101, subd. 6. Specifies a basic life support ambulance must be staffed by at least two individuals who are certified as an EMT, are a registered nurse who meets the qualification requirements to staff an ambulance, or are a physician assistant who meets the qualification requirements to staff an ambulance (current law requires a basic life support ambulance to be staffed by at least two EMTs). Also modifies alternative staffing for basic life support ambulances to conform with this change. Removes language limiting this alternative staffing to ambulance services operating in certain rural areas, allowing any basic life support ambulance to be</p>

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staffed in compliance with the alternative staffing. Adds a reference to basic life support ambulance staffing that may be authorized by a variance from the board. For a registered nurse staffing a basic life support ambulance as a driver, requires the registered nurse to have successfully completed a certified emergency vehicle operators program.

3 Variance; staffing of basic life-support ambulance.

Adds subd. 6a to § 144E.101. Upon application from an ambulance service that includes evidence demonstrating hardship, allows the EMS Regulatory Board to grant a variance and permit a basic life support ambulance to be staffed with: (1) one individual who is an EMT, a registered nurse who meets the qualification requirements to staff an ambulance, or a physician assistant who meets the qualification requirements to staff an ambulance; and (2) one individual to drive the ambulance who holds a valid driver's license, has attended an emergency vehicle driving course, completed a CPR course, and registered with the board. Allows the board to prohibit or place conditions on an individual's ability to drive an ambulance under this subdivision for acts that are grounds for disciplinary action.

4 Advanced life support.

Amends § 144E.101, subd. 7. Modifies the qualification requirements for registered nurses and physician assistants authorized to staff an advanced life support ambulance, to require registered nurses and physician assistants to have been approved by the ambulance service's medical director, instead of passing a paramedic practical skills test approved by the board. Also specifies a registered nurse may staff an advanced life support ambulance if the registered nurse is certified as a certified flight registered nurse or certified emergency nurse. Removes language limiting authority to seek a variance for alternative staffing of advanced life support ambulances to ambulance services operating in certain rural areas, allowing any advanced life support ambulance to seek a variance and, if approved, be staffed in compliance with the alternative staffing. For a registered nurse staffing an advanced life support ambulance as a driver, requires the registered nurse to have successfully completed a certified emergency vehicle operators program.

5 Renewal.

Amends § 144E.27, subd. 3. For the board to renew a registration or renew a lapsed registration of an emergency medical responder, requires the EMR to complete a CPR course approved by the ambulance service's medical director and specifies the CPR course may be part of a board-approved refresher course. Extends the time within which the board may renew a lapsed registration, from 12 months after the registration expires to 48 months after the registration expires.

Section	Description
6	<p>Denial, suspension, revocation; emergency medical responders and drivers.</p> <p>Amends § 144E.27, subd. 5. Specifies this subdivision, listing grounds for disciplinary action and providing a process for imposing discipline, applies to emergency medical responders and to individuals seeking registration or registered as a driver of a basic life support ambulance.</p>
7	<p>Temporary suspension; emergency medical responders and drivers.</p> <p>Amends § 144E.27, subd. 6. Specifies this subdivision, which allows the board to temporarily suspend a registration, applies to emergency medical responders and to individuals registered as a driver of a basic life support ambulance.</p>
8	<p>Reciprocity.</p> <p>Amends § 144E.28, subd. 3. Corrects a term referring to the credential an EMT receives from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, from registration to certification.</p>
9	<p>Reinstatement.</p> <p>Amends § 144E.28, subd. 8. In a subdivision governing reinstatement of a lapsed EMT, AEMT, paramedic, or community paramedic certification, requires community paramedics to complete training equivalent to the continuing education required for community paramedics in order to have a certification reinstated. Also allows the board, between July 1, 2024, and December 31, 2025, to reinstate an EMT, AEMT, paramedic, or community paramedic certification if the certification lapsed more than four years ago but less than ten years ago, and if the listed requirements are met. (Under current law an individual must complete the initial certification process if more than four years passed since the individual's certification expired.)</p>
10	<p>Approval required.</p> <p>Amends § 144E.285, subd. 1. Requires education programs for EMRs to be approved by the board (this requirement is currently in section 144E.27, subdivision 1a, and that subdivision is being repealed in this bill). Modifies the information that must be included in an application to the board for approval of an EMR, EMT, AEMT, or paramedic education program and eliminates certain criteria an education program must meet to be approved by the board (some of these requirements apply only to certain education programs and are being moved to subsequent subdivisions).</p>
11	<p>EMR education program requirements.</p> <p>Adds subd. 1a to § 144E.285. States the National EMS Education Standards specify the minimum knowledge and skills required for EMRs. Requires an EMR education program to meet the education program requirements in subdivision 1, para. (b),</p>

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| | that apply to all education programs, and allows a medical director of an EMR group to establish additional knowledge and skill requirements for EMRs. |
| 12 | EMT education program requirements.
Adds subd. 1b to § 144E.285. In addition to the requirements in subdivision 1, para. (b), that apply to all education programs, requires an education program applying for approval to teach EMTs to include in the application, the names and addresses of clinical sites; to maintain a written agreement with at least one clinical training site of a type recognized by the National EMS Education Standards; and to maintain a minimum average yearly pass rate set by the board. |
| 13 | AEMT and paramedic education program requirements.
Amends § 144E.285, subd. 2. In addition to the requirements in subdivision 1, para. (b), that apply to all education programs, requires an education program applying for approval to teach AEMTs and paramedics to include in the application, the names and addresses of clinical training sites, and to maintain a written agreement with a licensed hospital or licensed ambulance service designating a clinical training site. Strikes a paragraph exempting from this subdivision, a paramedic education program operated by an advanced life support ambulance service that received approval from the commissioner of health before 1991 to operate the paramedic education program. |
| 14 | Reapproval.
Amends § 144E.285, subd. 4. Changes the timeline within which an education program must apply for reapproval, from within three months before the expiration date of its approval to within 30 days before the expiration date of its approval. Requires an education program seeking reapproval to be subject to a site visit by the board, comply with the applicable education program requirements, and, for AEMT and paramedic education programs, maintain accreditation with the Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). |
| 15 | Repealer.
Repeals section 144E.27, subdivisions 1 (requiring an education program instructor to be an EMR, EMT, AEMT, paramedic, physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse) and 1a (requiring education programs for EMRs to be approved by the board and listing requirements for EMR education programs). |



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