

HCS HB 1977 -- EMERGENCY SERVICES

SPONSOR: Bruns (Wasson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Public Safety by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding emergency services and emergency medical technicians-intermediate. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Requires all basic life support ambulances and stretcher vans to be equipped with an automated external defibrillator and staffed by at least one person trained in its use;
- (2) Repeals the provision allowing only emergency medical response agencies, fire departments, and fire protection districts to provide certain advanced life support services with emergency medical technicians-intermediate;
- (3) Repeals the provision requiring emergency medical response agencies using emergency medical technicians-intermediate to work in collaboration with an ambulance service providing advanced life support with personnel trained at the paramedic level;
- (4) Allows a temporary emergency medical technician licensee to practice under the immediate supervision of a licensed emergency medical technician-intermediate;
- (5) Requires employers and supervisors of emergency medical technicians-intermediate to cooperate with the Department of Health and Senior Services compliance requirements under the Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services Systems Act; and
- (6) Adds an emergency medical technician-intermediate or EMT-I to the definition of "emergency medical care provider" as it relates to exposure to contagious or infectious diseases.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill increases the level of care patients receive from basic to intermediate allowing for any needed invasive procedures. In some areas of the state, it is difficult to find paramedics. By allowing an EMT-I designation, it will alleviate this problem.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wasson; Sean Hill; George Wright; and Missouri State Council of Fire Fighters.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.