
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: March 2, 2020

Contact: Andrea Brauer, Staff Attorney

2019 Assembly Bill 741

Assembly Amendment 1

2019 Assembly Bill 741 makes a number of changes to the regulation of emergency medical services. Assembly Amendment 1 modifies the bill's provisions that relate to staffing requirements for ambulances engaged in interfacility transports.

BACKGROUND

When an ambulance transports a sick, disabled, or injured individual, generally at least two emergency medical technicians (EMT) or one EMT and one training permit holder must be present. One of the EMTs must also generally be licensed at the same level of care as the ambulance service. For example, an EMT-intermediate ambulance service could be staffed with one EMT-intermediate and another EMT at any level. Staffing requirements are based on the level of service for which an ambulance is licensed under its operational plan rather than the service provided at the scene, subject to a few limited exceptions. For example, an ambulance service provider may deviate from staffing requirements if all 911 response ambulances are busy, it has an approved reserve ambulance vehicle, and other conditions are met. There are also certain exceptions for rural ambulance service providers.

2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 741

The bill states that an ambulance engaged in an interfacility transport may be staffed with one EMT who is in the patient compartment during transport of the patient and one individual who has a certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, through a course approved by the Department of Health Services (DHS).

The bill defines the term “interfacility transport” to mean any transfer of a patient between health care facilities or any nonemergent transfer of a patient. This is the same as the definition currently used in DHS's administrative rules.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

The amendment specifies that the new staffing arrangement authorized under the bill applies only to **nonemergent** interfacility transports.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Tranel introduced the bill on January 16, 2020, and offered the amendment on January 31, 2020. On February 2, 2020, the Assembly Committee on Health unanimously recommended adoption of the amendment. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 5.

AB:ksm