

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5751

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As of February 13, 2017

**Title:** An act relating to personnel requirements for municipal ambulance services.

**Brief Description:** Concerning personnel requirements for municipal ambulance services.

**Sponsors:** Senator Schoesler.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health Care: 2/14/17.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Authorizes persons without a first aid certificate to drive an ambulance under certain circumstances.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**Staff:** Evan Klein (786-7483)

**Background:** Ambulances. Ambulances are required to operate with sufficient personnel to care for patients, including at least one emergency medical technician (EMT). EMTs have responsibility for the operation of the ambulance and for the care of the patient. EMTs are persons certified by the Department of Health (DOH) to render emergency medical care or, under the responsible supervision and direction of an approved medical program director, to participate in a community assistance referral and education services program.

The driver of the ambulance must have at least a certificate of first aid qualification, recognized by the Secretary of DOH, unless there are at least two EMTs in attendance of the patient, in which case the driver does not need a certificate.

Certificate of First Aid. DOH must recognize a current certificate of advanced first aid qualification by those who show proof of advanced Red Cross training or its equivalent. Red Cross courses teach participants how to respond to common emergencies, including burns, cuts, and head and neck injuries. They last from two to five hours and provide participants with a two-year certification.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill:** With approval from DOH, an ambulance service established by a municipal corporation with insufficient personnel may use a driver without any medical or first aid training so long as the driver:

- is at least 17 years old;
- possesses a valid driver's license with no restrictions;
- is accompanied by a non-driving EMT; and
- does not provide any medical care to patients.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.