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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
AMENDMENT MEMO**

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<b>2015 Senate Bill 143</b>	<b>Assembly Substitute Amendment 1</b>
<i>Memo published: September 22, 2015</i>	
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**AMBULANCE STAFFING REQUIREMENTS**

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 (ASA 1) to Senate Bill 143 changes the staffing requirements for ambulances operating in certain areas under certain conditions. Current law authorizes the Department of Health Services (DHS) to promulgate rules that establish various ambulance service levels and the minimum staffing requirements for each level. Those administrative rules establish eight different levels of ambulance service, three of which are affected by ASA 1. Those service levels and the minimum required staffing for each service level under current law (as set forth in s. DHS 110.50, Wis. Adm. Code) and ASA 1 are as follows<sup>1</sup>:

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-basic ambulance. Under current law, an EMT-basic ambulance must be staffed by at least two EMT-basics or one licensed EMT-basic and one individual with an EMT-basic training permit. Under ASA 1, an EMT-basic ambulance may also be staffed by one EMT and one first responder.

EMT-intermediate technician ambulance. Under current law, an EMT-intermediate technician ambulance must be staffed by one EMT-intermediate technician and one individual licensed at or above the EMT-basic level. Under ASA 1, an EMT-intermediate technician ambulance may also be staffed by one EMT-intermediate technician and one individual licensed at or above the first responder level.

EMT-intermediate ambulance. Under current law, an EMT-intermediate ambulance must be staffed by one EMT-intermediate and one individual licensed at or above the EMT-basic

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<sup>1</sup> Under current law and ASA 1, if the patient requires the level of care of the EMT who holds the higher level credential, then that EMT must remain with the patient at all times during care and transport of the patient.

level. Under ASA 1, an EMT-intermediate ambulance may be staffed by one EMT-intermediate and one individual licensed at or above the first responder level.

### **APPLICABILITY OF AMBULANCE STAFFING CHANGES**

ASA 1 specifies that the provisions describe above regarding ambulance staffing requirements apply only to the following:

- An ambulance service provider for which the population of the largest single city, village, or town in the ambulance service provider's service area is less than 10,000.
- An ambulance service provider that has received a waiver of its ambulance staffing plan. Waivers are allowed only for ambulance service providers for which the population of the largest single city, village, or town in the ambulance service provider's service area is between 10,000 and 20,000. In addition to the population limitation, an applicant for a waiver must show all of the following:
  - The ambulance service provider has undertaken efforts to recruit and train EMTs.
  - Despite those efforts, EMTs are not available in sufficient numbers for staffing for the ambulance service provider.
  - Without a waiver, the municipality that the ambulance service provider serves is unable to meet staffing requirements for ambulances that require two EMTs on every service call.

A waiver is valid for four years and an ambulance service provider may apply for renewal of a waiver. An ambulance service provider with a waiver must attempt to staff an ambulance with two licensed EMTs whenever possible.

### **STAFFING OF CERTAIN AIRPLANE AMBULANCES**

ASA 1 also provides that if an ambulance is a fixed-wing airplane transporting a sick, disabled, or injured pediatric patient from one hospital to another hospital, it must be staffed with one respiratory care practitioner, plus one additional individual who is an EMT, a licensed registered nurse, a licensed physician assistant, or a physician.

### **BILL HISTORY**

The Assembly Committee on Health offered ASA 1 on September 15, 2015. The committee then recommended its adoption and concurrence with the bill, as amended, on successive votes of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0.

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