



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

From: Senator Terry Moulton and Representatives Amy Loudenbeck and Katrina Shankland

To: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 24/Assembly Bill 59
Terminology change and corrections for emergency medical technicians and first responders

Date: April 6, 2017

Madam Chair and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this bipartisan legislation, Senate Bill 24/Assembly Bill 59. This bill updates statutory references for emergency medical technicians and first responders and aligns Wisconsin's statutory terminology with federal language and current industry practices.

Current state law uses the term "emergency medical technician" to collectively refer to numerous types of emergency services personnel. Senate Bill 24/Assembly Bill 59 replaces this term with "emergency medical services practitioner" and renames certification levels to be consistent with federal law and national industry standards.

We became aware of Wisconsin using a different set of terms for emergency medical personnel when working AB 151/SB 149 which creates Community EMS. It was difficult to follow the draft language when the term "emergency medical technician" was used to refer to an individual as well as a group. Modernizing these definitions will make state statute and future legislation easier to understand and will clarify the various levels of EMT certification.

It is important to note that the Department of Health Services assisted our offices with drafting this bill and the proposed changes are supported by the Department and several stakeholder groups. Passage was unanimously recommended by the Assembly Committee on Health and the bill passed the Assembly on a voice vote.

In conclusion, this bill is a technical change that clarifies industry terms and aligns these statutory terms with industry standards and federal law. I ask you to please recommend passage of Senate Bill 24/Assembly Bill 59 and would be happy to answer questions you might have at this time.



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Linda Seemeyer, Secretary

February 22, 2017

Summary of terminology changes in AB 59

Current WI Statute and Admin. Rule	AB 59 (Conforming to NREMT)
First Responder	Emergency Medical Responder
EMT Basic	Emergency Medical Technician
EMT Intermediate	EMT Intermediate
EMT Intermediate Technician	Advanced Emergency Medical Technician
EMT Paramedic	Paramedic
Umbrella Term	
Emergency Medical Technician	Emergency Medical Services Practitioner