



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 113 [2015 Senate Bill 143]	Ambulance Staffing Requirements
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2015 Wisconsin Act 113 changes the staffing requirements that will be in effect for emergency medical services under certain conditions. Generally, administrative rules promulgated by the Department of Health Services (DHS) establish staffing requirements for emergency medical services, based on the various levels of service.

AMBULANCE STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

Act 113 modifies staffing requirements related to three levels of emergency medical service, as follows:

- *Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-basic ambulance.* Prior to Act 113, DHS rules specified that 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 Act 113, an EMT-basic ambulance may also be staffed by one EMT and one first responder.
- *EMT-intermediate technician ambulance.* Prior to Act 113, DHS rules specified that 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 Act 113, 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.* Prior to Act 113, DHS rules specified that an EMT-intermediate ambulance must be staffed by one EMT-intermediate and one individual licensed at or above the EMT-basic level. Under Act 113, an EMT-intermediate

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

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

APPLICABILITY OF AMBULANCE STAFFING CHANGES

Act 113 specifies that the provisions describe above regarding ambulance staffing requirements apply only as follows:

- The provisions will apply to 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.
- In addition, the provisions will apply to an ambulance service provider that receives a waiver of its ambulance staffing plan from DHS. 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

Act 113 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.

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