February 8, 2017 – Introduced by JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services.

AN ACT to amend 256.15 (6n); and to create 256.20 of the statutes; relating to: intravenous technician endorsement for emergency medical technicians.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This bill was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Shortages. The bill directs the Department of Health Services (DHS) to develop an intravenous technician endorsement.

DHS issues several levels of credentials for emergency medical services (EMS) personnel. Under current law, DHS issues first responder certificates and EMT licenses at the following levels of progression: EMT-basic, EMT-intermediate technician, EMT-intermediate, and EMT-paramedic. DHS also issues critical care and tactical EMS endorsements for EMT-paramedics. As defined by administrative rule, an “endorsement” is a validation by DHS that a licensed EMT has received the training and education required to be a specialist within the license level. DHS determines the training required for any endorsement as well as the scope of practice authorized for a person holding the endorsement.
The bill directs DHS to develop an intravenous technician endorsement and to approve a training program for the endorsement. The training program must include training in the administration of intravenous and intraosseous infusions of medicated and nonmedicated fluids. DHS may approve different training programs for different EMT licensure levels.

Under the bill, a licensed EMT who completes the training program is only eligible for the endorsement if the individual's license has not been suspended or revoked and no disciplinary proceedings are pending. An EMT who holds the endorsement may administer intravenous and intraosseous infusions of medicated and nonmedicated fluids that are approved by the ambulance service provider or medical director and for which the individual is trained.

In practice, the endorsement would likely be most commonly utilized by a person at the EMT-basic level, as the more advanced levels of licensure may already include intravenous or intraosseous administration in their scopes of practice.

SECTION 1. 256.15 (6n) of the statutes is amended to read:

256.15 (6n) Authorized actions of emergency medical technicians. An emergency medical technician may undertake only those actions that are authorized under s. 256.20 (3) and in rules promulgated under sub. (13) (c).

SECTION 2. 256.20 of the statutes is created to read:

256.20 Intravenous technician endorsement. (1) Endorsement. The department shall develop an endorsement as an intravenous technician. To be eligible for an endorsement as an intravenous technician under this section, an individual shall meet all of the following criteria:

(a) The individual is licensed as an emergency medical technician, that license has not been suspended or revoked, and the individual is not the subject of an action under s. 256.15 (11).

(b) The individual successfully completes a training program that has been approved by the department under sub. (2).

(2) Training. (a) The department shall approve a training program to obtain an intravenous technician endorsement that includes training in successfully
administering intravenous and intraosseous infusions of medicated and nonmedicated fluids.

(b) The department may approve different training programs for different licensure levels of emergency medical technician.

(3) AUTHORIZED ACTIONS. An emergency medical technician with an intravenous technician endorsement may undertake those actions described under sub. (2) (a) that are approved by the ambulance service provider or medical director and for which he or she is trained.