

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 2020
By: Martinez, "Mando"
Public Health
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Emergency medical technician-paramedics and licensed paramedics are highly trained individuals who specialize in treating patients at the scene of an accident and while transferring a patient to a hospital. This experience results in some skills that can readily transfer to an emergency room; however, interested parties note that a paramedic who provides such services in a hospital is paid and employed as an orderly making minimum wage. C.S.H.B. 2020 seeks to address this issue.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

Section 531.0055, Government Code, as amended by Chapter 198 (H.B. 2292), Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, expressly grants to the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission all rulemaking authority for the operation of and provision of services by the health and human services agencies. Similarly, Sections 1.16-1.29, Chapter 198 (H.B. 2292), Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, provide for the transfer of a power, duty, function, program, or activity from a health and human services agency abolished by that act to the corresponding legacy agency. To the extent practical, this bill analysis is written to reflect any transfer of rulemaking authority and to update references as necessary to an agency's authority with respect to a particular health and human services program.

C.S.H.B. 2020 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize a person who is certified as an emergency medical technician-paramedic or a licensed paramedic, is acting under the delegation and direct supervision of a licensed physician, and is authorized to provide advanced life support by a health care facility to provide, in accordance with rules adopted by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, advanced life support in the facility's emergency or urgent care clinical setting, including a hospital emergency room and a freestanding emergency medical care facility.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2015.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE

84R 26427

15.118.465

Substitute Document Number: 84R 26153

While C.S.H.B. 2020 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following comparison is organized and formatted in a manner that indicates the substantial differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

INTRODUCED

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 773, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 773.0496 to read as follows:
Sec. 773.0496. SCOPE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-PARAMEDIC AND LICENSED PARAMEDIC DUTIES.

Notwithstanding other law, a person who is certified under this chapter as an emergency medical technician-paramedic or a licensed paramedic and who is acting under the authority of a licensed physician may in accordance with department rules provide health care services, including advanced life support, in an emergency or urgent care clinical setting, including a hospital emergency room and a freestanding emergency medical care facility.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall adopt any rules necessary to implement Section 773.0496, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 773, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 773.0496 to read as follows:
Sec. 773.0496. SCOPE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-PARAMEDIC AND LICENSED PARAMEDIC DUTIES.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Advanced life support" means health care provided to sustain life in an emergency, life-threatening situation. The term includes the initiation of intravenous therapy, endotracheal or esophageal intubation, electrical cardiac defibrillation or cardioversion, and drug therapy procedures.

(2) "Direct supervision" means supervision of an emergency medical technician-paramedic or licensed paramedic by a licensed physician who is present in the same area or an area adjacent to the area where an emergency medical technician-paramedic or licensed paramedic performs a procedure and who is immediately available to provide assistance and direction during the performance of the procedure.

(b) Notwithstanding other law, a person who is certified under this chapter as an emergency medical technician-paramedic or a licensed paramedic, is acting under the delegation and direct supervision of a licensed physician, and is authorized to provide advanced life support by a health care facility may in accordance with department rules provide advanced life support in the facility's emergency or urgent care clinical setting, including a hospital emergency room and a freestanding emergency medical care facility.

SECTION 2. Same as introduced version.

SECTION 3. Same as introduced version.

house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.