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**The State Board of Emergency Medical Service's Position on
Amended Substitute Senate Bill 129
Passed in the 127th General Assembly**

Board Approved:
March 18, 2009

The State EMS Board recognizes the importance of SB 129 and supports the limited use that is described in the bill if there is not another alternative.

The bill provides that, during each emergency run made by an ambulance that is operated by an emergency medical service organization that substantially utilizes volunteer emergency medical service providers, the ambulance must be staffed by at least one first responder and one emergency medical technician-Basic (EMT-Basic), emergency medical technician-Intermediate (EMT-I), or Paramedic. It also provides that if circumstances so require, an ambulance that is staffed by only one first responder and one EMT-B, EMT-I, or Paramedic may be driven by the first responder.

An organization substantially utilizes volunteer emergency medical service providers if, on any given date, for the six-month period immediately prior to that date, the organization's daily average number of hours during which the organization used only volunteer first responders, volunteer EMTs-B, volunteer EMTs-I, or volunteer Paramedics, or a combination of such volunteers, was fifty per cent or more of the daily average number of hours that the organization made emergency medical services available to the public. With this definition in mind it is important to note that unless this applies to the transporting agency, the same standards apply as they have always applied and that is that, during each emergency run made by an ambulance that is operated by an emergency medical service organization that does not substantially utilize any volunteer emergency medical service providers, the ambulance must be staffed by at least two EMTs-B, EMTs-I, or Paramedics.

Even though it is lawful under SB 129 for an agency that substantially utilizes volunteer emergency medical service providers to transport with one first responder and one EMT-B, EMT-I, or Paramedic and be driven by the first responder, it is the Board's strong position that whenever possible to only transport with the ambulance staffed by at least two EMTs-B, EMTs-I, or Paramedics.

While the Board recognizes the issues with recruitment and retention of volunteers, the substantially volunteer agencies are encouraged to maintain patient care with a minimum of two EMTs during transport. The Board has a standing committee dedicated to Recruitment and Retention and encourages your feedback.

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."