

No. 264

AN ACT

HB 730

Defining emergency medical technician; authorizing such personnel to render emergency care; exempting such personnel and physicians working in conjunction with them from civil liability when rendering such care; and making repeals.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.—As used in this act:

“Emergency medical technician-paramedic” (referred to as EMT-paramedic) means an emergency medical technician specifically trained in an advanced program of emergency cardiac and noncardiac care and certified by the secretary as qualified to render the services enumerated in section 3.

“Emergency medical technician” (referred to as EMT) means an individual who is certified by the secretary as (1) having completed an approved course of instruction in emergency care and transportation of the sick and injured; or as (2) having demonstrated comparable knowledge and skills in emergency care.

“Secretary” means the Secretary of Health, or his duly appointed representative.

Section 2. Treatment Rendered by Emergency Medical Technician.—Notwithstanding the provisions of the act of July 20, 1974 (P.L.551, No.190), known as the “Medical Practice Act of 1974,” or the provisions of any other act to the contrary, any emergency medical technician may, in the case of an emergency:

(1) render emergency medical care, including pulmonary resuscitation; and

(2) perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, but excluding those skills enumerated in section 3.

Section 3. Treatment Rendered by Emergency Medical Technician-paramedic.—In addition to the provisions of section 2, any emergency medical technician-paramedic, may upon order of a physician:

(1) administer parenteral medications and solutions authorized by the secretary;

(2) perform gastric and pharyngeal suction by intubation;

(3) establish and maintain an airway by endotracheal intubation; and

(4) perform defibrillation.

Section 4. Training and Certification.—(a) In developing training and certification standards for emergency medical technicians or emergency medical technician-paramedics, the secretary shall seek the advice of a technical Pennsylvania Emergency Health Service Council.

(b) When serving in this capacity members of the council shall serve without compensation except for travel expenses for which they shall be reimbursed.

Section 5. Liabilities.—(a) No physician, who in good faith gives instructions to an emergency medical technician, shall be liable for any civil damages as a result of issuing the instructions, unless guilty of gross or willful negligence.

(b) No emergency medical technician or emergency medical technician-paramedic, who in good faith attempts to render emergency care authorized by this act, shall be liable for civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions, unless guilty of gross or willful negligence.

Section 6. Repeals.—All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 7. Effective Date.—This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 30th day of November, A. D. 1976.

MILTON J. SHAPP