

No. 1980-236

AN ACT

HB 569

Amending the act of November 30, 1976 (P.L.1205, No.264), entitled "An act 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," further providing for additional job protection for emergency medical technician or emergency medical technician-paramedic and removing additional liabilities for instructions to emergency medical technician-paramedic.

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

Section 1. Section 2, act of November 30, 1976 (P.L.1205, No.264), referred to as the Emergency Medical Technician Law, is amended to read:

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; *and*

(3) perform the application of pressure devices to reduce peripheral blood flow and insert esophageal obturator airway devices (EOA), provided that the emergency medical technician has completed special training prescribed by the secretary, that the device is a type approved by the secretary and that the emergency medical technician is acting under direct verbal medical command. In the failure of communications systems providing such command, written specific protocols may govern the action.

Section 2. Section 3 of the act is amended to read:

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 *or the esophageal obturator airway (EOA)*; **[and]**

(4) perform defibrillation; *and*

(5) apply the MAST garment.

Section 3. Subsection (a) of section 5 of the act is amended and a subsection is added to read:

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

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(c) *No emergency medical technician or emergency medical technician-paramedic, who in good faith attempts to render emergency care authorized by this act at an emergency scene while en route to a place of employment, shall receive any form of reprimand or penalty by his or her employer as a result of late arrival at the place of employment. An employer may request written verification from any such emergency medical technician or emergency medical technician-paramedic who shall obtain the written verification from either the police officer or ambulance personnel who is in charge at the emergency scene.*

Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 19th day of December, A. D. 1980.

DICK THORNBURGH