
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1341 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY PYLE, MILLARD, PICKETT, CAUSER, NEILSON, IRVIN,
HEFFLEY, BOBACK, ZIMMERMAN, DeLUCA, WHEELAND, FARRY AND
GABLER, MAY 5, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
MAY 5, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 7, 2008 (P.L.654, No.55), entitled "An
2 act providing for bituminous coal mines; and making a
3 repeal," in emergency medical personnel, further providing
4 for definitions, for emergency medical personnel, for
5 regulations, for continuing training, for certification and
6 for liability.

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

9 Section 1. Sections 601, 602, 603, 605, 607 and 608 of the
10 act of July 7, 2008 (P.L.654, No.55), known as the Bituminous
11 Coal Mine Safety Act, are amended to read:

12 Section 601. Definitions.

13 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
14 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
15 context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "Emergency medical responder." A coal mine employee who
17 complies with all of the following:

18 (1) Has been certified by the Department of Health as an
19 emergency medical responder.

1 (2) Has successfully completed all of the following
2 courses of additional training of the type approved by the
3 Department of Health for emergency medical technicians:

4 (i) Patient assessment in the areas of splinting,
5 extremity manual, rigid and soft vacuum.

6 (ii) Spine care in the areas of:

7 (A) restricting spinal motion, helmet removal
8 and stabilization; and

9 (B) devices to restrict spinal motion.

10 (3) Has successfully completed any additional courses
11 required by regulation of the board.

12 "Emergency medical technician." A coal mine employee [who
13 has successfully completed the course on emergency first aid
14 care and transportation of the sick and injured recommended by
15 the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons or an equivalent
16 organization and] who has been certified by the Department of
17 Health [to provide] as an emergency [care] medical technician.

18 "[Emergency medical technician paramedic] Paramedic." An
19 individual who has been certified by the Department of Health
20 [to provide emergency medical treatment] as a paramedic.

21 Section 602. Emergency medical personnel.

22 Emergency medical personnel shall be employed at every mine
23 as follows:

24 (1) At least one emergency medical responder or
25 emergency medical technician shall be on duty at any time
26 when miners at that mine are engaged in the extraction,
27 production or preparation of coal. Emergency medical
28 responders or emergency medical technicians shall be on duty
29 at a mine in sufficient numbers to assure that no miner shall
30 work in a mine location which cannot be reached in 30 minutes

1 by an emergency medical responder or an emergency medical
2 technician. Emergency medical responders or emergency medical
3 technicians shall be employed at their regular duties at
4 locations convenient for quick response to emergencies and
5 shall have available to them at all times necessary equipment
6 in compliance with Federal regulations.

7 (2) Telephone services or the equivalent facilities
8 shall be installed which shall provide two-way voice
9 communications between the emergency medical responder or the
10 emergency medical technician at the mine and medical
11 personnel outside or away from the mine who provide emergency
12 medical services on a regular basis.

13 (3) Operators shall make adequate provisions so that at
14 least one [emergency medical technician] paramedic,
15 registered nurse, physician or physician assistant is
16 available to provide care at a mine at any time that
17 individuals are engaged in extraction, production or
18 preparation of coal. Emergency medical personnel under this
19 paragraph shall be on call to reach the entrance of the mine
20 within 30 minutes.

21 [Section 603. Regulations for training and certification.

22 The Department of Health shall promulgate regulations to
23 train and certify emergency medical technicians and emergency
24 medical technician paramedics.

25 Section 605. Continuing training.

26 The department, after consultation with the Department of
27 Health regarding the content of instruction courses, shall
28 provide for necessary training on a continuing basis of
29 emergency medical technicians and emergency medical technician
30 paramedics in sufficient numbers to satisfy the requirements of

1 this chapter.]

2 Section 607. Certification.

3 The Department of Health shall promulgate regulations to
4 prescribe procedures necessary to certify emergency medical
5 responders, emergency medical technicians and [emergency medical
6 technician] paramedics and consult with the department as may be
7 required under this chapter.

8 Section 608. Liability.

9 (a) Physicians.--

10 (1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), a physician
11 who in good faith gives instructions to [a certified] an
12 emergency medical responder, an emergency medical technician
13 [or emergency medical technician], a paramedic, a registered
14 nurse or a physician assistant shall not be liable for civil
15 damages as a result of issuing the instructions.

16 (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply where the actions
17 constitute gross negligence, reckless misconduct or
18 intentional misconduct.

19 (b) Other medical personnel.--

20 (1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), [a certified]
21 an emergency medical responder, an emergency medical
22 technician, [emergency medical technician] a paramedic, a
23 registered nurse or a physician assistant who in good faith
24 attempts to render emergency care to a sick or injured
25 individual in or about a mine shall not be liable for civil
26 damages as a result of any acts or omissions.

27 (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply where the actions
28 constitute gross negligence, reckless misconduct or
29 intentional misconduct.

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.