



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 2058 Printer's No. 3428

Prime Sponsor: Farry
Committee: Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

SYNOPSIS:

House Bill 2058 would amend Titles 35 (Health & Safety) and 42 (Judiciary) by permitting paramedics to assist Law Enforcement in drawing blood from persons suspected of Driving under the Influence.

SUMMARY:

The bill would amend Title 35 (Health & Safety) - Chapter 81 (Emergency Medical Services System) by:

1. Requiring the Department of Health to promulgate regulations for the standards and criteria for EMS services (on top of EMS systems under current law).
2. Adding a new service - Blood Draw Service.
3. Permitting Paramedics to perform legal blood draws - upon request by law enforcement - on individuals suspected of driving under the influence or under a controlled substance.
4. Stipulating that such blood draws are under a paramedic's scope of practice.
5. Allowing an EMS agency to enter into an agreement with a law enforcement agency to perform blood draws.
6. Requiring agencies to have vehicle policies in place to ensure that an ambulance is always available for a 911 emergency call.
7. Ensuring liability for paramedics performing such blood draws.
8. Permits the law enforcement officers who witnessed the blood draw to testify in place of a paramedic as to the chain of custody of the blood draw.

The bill would amend Title 42 (Judiciary) - Chapter 17 (Governance of the System) by:

1. Establishing a Paramedic User Fee, which would include and not be limited to the costs of the paramedic attending court proceedings.
2. Requiring the payment of a paramedic user fee, upon an offender's conviction. The fee would be payable to the EMS agency and used only for the provision of criminal laboratory services.

Effective Date: 90 Days

BILL HISTORY:

HB 2058 was unanimously passed by the House

Prepared by: N. Silcox 6/29/2016