

CHAPTER 421—S.F.No. 2171

An act relating to health; providing exemptions for certain air ambulance services; allowing first responders to drive life support transportation service vehicles under certain conditions; amending Minnesota Statutes 1984, sections 144.802, subdivision 5, and by adding a subdivision; and 144.804, subdivision 3, and by adding a subdivision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1984, section 144.802, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. The commissioner's decision made under section 2 or subdivision 4 shall be the final administrative decision. Any person aggrieved by the commissioner's decision shall be entitled to judicial review in the manner provided in sections 14.63 to 14.70.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1984, section 144.802, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 3a. LICENSURE OF SCHEDULED FIXED-WING AIR AMBULANCE. Except for submission of a written application to the commissioner on a form provided by the commissioner, an application to provide scheduled air ambulance service by fixed wing aircraft only, shall be exempt from the provisions of subdivisions 3 and 4.

A license issued pursuant to this subdivision need not designate a primary service area.

No license shall be issued under this subdivision unless the commissioner of health determines that the applicant complies with the requirements of section 144.804, and the rules promulgated under that section.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1984, section 144.804, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. ~~Before April 1, 1980,~~ The commissioner, in consultation with the appropriate standing committees of the legislature, shall promulgate as rules standards for the operation of the following types of life support transportation service:

(a) basic life support service, which shall have appropriate personnel, vehicles and equipment, and be maintained in a sanitary condition so as to ensure that life-threatening situations and potentially serious injuries can be recognized, patients will be protected from additional hazards, basic treatment to reduce the seriousness of emergency situations will be administered and patients will be transported to an appropriate medical facility for treatment;

(b) advanced life support service which shall have appropriate personnel, vehicles and equipment, and be maintained in a sanitary condition so as to

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provide medical care beyond the basic life support level, including, but not limited to, intubation, defibrillation and administration of intravenous fluids and certain pharmaceuticals;

(c) scheduled life support transportation service;

(d) life support transportation service provided by an employer for the benefit of its employees;

(e) life support transportation service operated by a nonprofit entity and limited exclusively to providing service by contract for specific events and meetings;

(f) air ambulance scheduled - fixed wing;

(g) air ambulance scheduled - helicopter.

An advanced life support ambulance may be used as a basic life support ambulance provided that its operation fulfills the standards promulgated pursuant to clause (a).

~~The standards promulgated under this subdivision shall take effect on June 1, 1980~~ Until standards have been developed under clauses (f) and (g), the current provisions of Minnesota Rules shall govern these services.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1984, section 144.804, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 7. DRIVERS OF LIFE SUPPORT TRANSPORTATION SERVICE VEHICLES. A life support transportation service vehicle may be staffed by a driver possessing a (1) current first responder certificate issued under United States department of transportation standards, or (2) a valid class C driver's license provided a siren and flashing lights are not used and the vehicle is driven within legal speed limits, if, in either case, the life support transportation service vehicle is also staffed by two or more attendants meeting the following qualifications: (a) attendants staffing a basic life support transportation service vehicle shall meet the qualifications contained in subdivision 1; and (b) attendants staffing an advanced life support transportation service vehicle shall possess a current certification as an emergency medical technician or an emergency medical technician-paramedic, provided that at least one attendant is an emergency medical technician-paramedic.

Approved March 24, 1986

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