

CHAPTER 265
FORMERLY
SENATE BILL NO. 147
AS AMENDED BY
SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 1

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM LIABILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS RENDERING EMERGENCY CARE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend § 3001G, Title 16 of the Delaware Code as follows:

§ 3001G. Administration of naloxone by public safety personnel and the Community-Based Naloxone Access Program.

(a) An individual who is public safety personnel is authorized to receive, carry, and administer the drug naloxone if the individual has completed a Department-approved training course. For purposes of this section, “public safety personnel” means as defined under § 9702 of this title.

(b) Public safety personnel who, acting in good faith and after completing a Department-approved training course, administers the drug naloxone to an individual whom the public safety personnel reasonably believes to be undergoing an opioid-related drug overdose is not liable for damages for injuries or death sustained to the individual in connection with administering the drug, unless it is established that such injuries or death were caused wilfully, wantonly, recklessly, or by gross negligence on the part of the public safety personnel who administered the drug.

(c) Nothing in this chapter mandates that an agency require its public safety personnel to carry or administer naloxone.

(e) DHSS shall create written and uniform treatment and care plans for emergency and critical patients statewide that constitute the standing orders for the administration of naloxone by public safety personnel and participants in the Community-Based Naloxone Access Program. The treatment protocol for naloxone administration under this chapter must be approved and signed by the State EMS Medical Director, or the Medical Director or the Director of the Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Social Services. A doctor prescribing naloxone who, acting in good faith, directly or by standing order, prescribes or dispenses the drug naloxone to a person who completes an approved-training program who, in the judgment of the health-care provider, is capable of administering the drug for an emergency opioid overdose, shall not be subject to disciplinary or other adverse action under any professional licensing statute, criminal liability, or liable for damages for injuries or death sustained to the individual in connection with administering the drug, unless it is established that such injuries or death were caused wilfully, wantonly, or by gross negligence on the part of the doctor who signed the standing order and protocol.

(f) DHSS is authorized to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Public Safety Personnel and Community-Based Naloxone Access Programs.

Section 2. Amend Section 6801, Title 16 of the Delaware Code as follows:

§ 6801. Persons rendering emergency care exempt from liability.

(a) Any lay individual who in good faith, without the expectation of monetary or other compensation from the individual aided or treated, renders emergency care or rescue assistance at the scene of any emergency or who undertakes to transport any victim thereof to the nearest medical facility is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission in rendering the emergency care unless it is established that the injuries or death were caused wilfully, wantonly, or recklessly or by gross negligence.

(b) This section may not be construed to require a lay individual to administer first aid or emergency care to another if the other individual objects.

Section 3. Amend Chapter 97, Title 16 of the Delaware Code as follows:

§ 9702. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

() “Law-enforcement officer” means a sworn member of a police force or other law-enforcement agency of this State, or of any county or municipality within this State, who is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of the laws of this State, or the laws of any county or municipality within this State.

(21) "Public safety personnel" shall mean law-enforcement officers, lifeguards, park rangers, firefighters, ambulance and rescue personnel, communications and dispatch specialists, and other public employees and emergency service providers charged with maintaining the public safety.

Section 4. Amend Chapter 97, Title 16 of the Delaware Code as follows:

§ 9708. Public safety personnel rendering emergency care exempt from liability.

(a) Public safety personnel who in good faith renders emergency care or rescue assistance at the scene of any emergency or who undertakes to transport any victim thereof to the nearest medical facility is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission in rendering the emergency care if all of the following apply:

(1) The public safety personnel has any required, relevant, current training or certification.

(2) The public safety personnel did not cause the injuries or death wilfully, wantonly, or recklessly or by gross negligence.

(b) This section may not be construed to require public safety personnel to administer first aid or emergency care to an individual who is ill or injured if such individual objects.

Section 5. Amend Chapter 97, Title 16 of the Delaware Code as follows:

§ 9709. Advanced Life Support Standards Committee.

(a) The Advanced Life Support Standards Committee is created for the purpose of assisting the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline in developing standards for advanced life support services. The Standards Committee is composed of the Chairperson and 20 members. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline shall appoint the Chairperson. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline shall select the other members of the Standards Committee from the names submitted to the Board by resolution of the following organizations:

(1) The American College of Emergency Physicians, 3 members with 1 member representing each county.

(2) The American College of Surgeon's Committee on Trauma, 1 member.

(3) The Medical Society of Delaware, 1 member.

(4) The Delaware Chapter of the Emergency Department Nurses Association, 1 member.

(5) Sussex County Firefighter's Association, 1 member who is an active practicing ambulance attendant.

(6) Kent County Firefighter's Association, 1 member who is an active practicing ambulance attendant.

(7) New Castle County Firefighter's Association, 1 member who is an active practicing ambulance attendant.

(8) The State of Emergency Medical Services Office, 1 member.

(9) The State Fire Prevention Commission, 1 member.

(10) New Castle County government, 1 member.

(11) Kent County government, 1 member.

(12) Sussex County government, 1 member.

(13) The City of Wilmington, 1 member.

(14) The City of Dover, 1 member

(15) The Delaware Chapter of the American Heart Association, 1 member.

(16) The Division of Public Health, 1 member.

(17) Delaware State Fire School, 1 member.

(18) The chief or director of each county paramedic service shall submit 1 name of a practicing paramedic, certified and employed in the State for selection to the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline. From these 3 names, 1 member.

(b) Each member serves at the pleasure of the organization that member represents and each member's successor shall be chosen in a like manner. The Standards Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson of the Standards Committee or the Chairperson of the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.

(c) The Standards Committee shall provide technical assistance to the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline regarding all of the following:

(1) Establishing of minimum standards for advanced life support services.

(2) Reviewing curricula for training programs submitted to the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.

(3) Providing recommendations on proposed curricula for training programs.

Approved June 12, 2018