

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1073

AN ACT REQUIRING THE ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE BY FIRST

Title: RESPONDERS.

Vote Date: 3/27/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/22/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Anaphylaxis is a systemic rapidly progressing allergic reaction that, if not treated promptly, can be fatal. Epinephrine is the medication of choice for the first-aid treatment of anaphylaxis. This life saving treatment is not currently standard practice for emergency first responders. First responders are police officers, municipal or volunteer firefighters or privately employed firefighters.

This bill requires emergency medical services (EMS) personnel and first responders to administer epinephrine in prefilled cartridge injectors if the following conditions are met:

- EMS personnel and first responders have been trained in a program with national standards that has been recognized by the Department of Public Health (DPH) and that the training is from a DPH designated organization.
- All licensed or certified ambulances and vehicles used by first responders have epinephrine in the injectors ready to be administered.
- Regarding EMS personnel, the medication is given according to written protocols and standing orders prescribed by a licensed physician serving as the emergency department director.
- EMS personnel and first responders have determined that the epinephrine is necessary to treat the individual.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Representative Irene Haines, 34th Assembly District, Connecticut General Assembly (CGA):

Rep. Haines is in support of this bill allowing first responders with proper training to administer life-saving epinephrine in an emergency. It is important to note that the first person to the scene of an emergency will be a medical responder, a police officer or firefighter, not an EMT or paramedic. Any trained first responder should be administering epinephrine for a positive outcome of patient care.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Bruce Baxter, President of the CT EMS Chiefs Association and CEO of New Britain Medical Services:

Mr. Baxter points out that the administration of epinephrine is included in the scope of practice for state certified EMTs, AEMTs and licensed paramedics. However, the use of an epinephrine injector is not included in the Emergency Medical Responder (EMRs) scope of practice. This defies logic, if you consider the widespread distribution of epinephrine injectors currently prescribed by primary care physicians to at-risk patients. The CT EMS Chiefs Association supports this legislation to expand the scope of practice for trained EMRs to include the use of epinephrine injectors when deemed medically necessary.

Anthony Scierka, RN, former EMS Responder:

Mr. Scierka shared that every responder knows that if a patient's airway, breathing or circulation is impaired, it takes only 4 to 6 minutes for brain damage to set in. The EMS system is designed to work in tiers and the first responder is a critical part of this system, especially if it is a battle against time. However, in cases of anaphylaxis basic life support is not enough. The need to address this issue is being recognized nationally with currently 17 states including Massachusetts and New York adding the use of epinephrine autoinjectors to the role of the EMR. Passing this law will save lives.

Bethany Camputo and Tracey Calvo, Friends of Edward Rubinowicz:

Both Ms. Caputo and Ms. Calvo submitted testimony in support of this bill that, in practice, may have saved the life of their friend Eddie Rubinowicz. Eddie was stung by bees as he was trimming bushes at his sister's home. At the time, Eddie had no known history of allergic reactions or allergies yet suffered an anaphylactic reaction from the bee stings that resulted in cardiac arrest within 10 minutes. Considering that epinephrine autoinjectors are required at schools, camps and other settings to be used by trained personnel and, Public Act 19-19 basically allows anybody to set up a process to train people in the use of epinephrine, how is it that our first responders are not? They ask for the support of the Committee to pass this bill so that no one else will lose their life in such a situation.

Roseanne Silvia, the sister of Eddie Rubinowicz:

Ms. Silvia urges passage of this bill. She is the sister of Eddie Rubinowicz and shares that we will never know if her brother Eddie would have had a different outcome on that terrible day. However, passing this bill may prevent this tragedy from happening to someone else.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Kathleen Panazza

Date: April 4 ,2023