



**EMS Information Bulletin 2020-27**

**DATE:** July 6, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Act 17 of 2020 BLS Ambulance Staffing Exceptions

**TO:** PA EMS Agencies  
PA EMS Agency Medical Directors  
PA Regional EMS Councils

**FROM:** Dylan Ferguson, Director  
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PA Department of Health  
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dylan J. Ferguson".

[Act 17](#) of 2020 amended the EMS System Act to permit the Department of Health to grant exceptions to the ambulance staffing standard for Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances for agencies not licensed to provide service higher than the BLS level. The Bureau of EMS has established a process and criteria for accepting and reviewing these exception requests from EMS agencies.

A resources page with all program guidance, criteria, and application instructions has been created and can be found at <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/EMS/Pages/Act-17.aspx>

Please note that this exception program does not effect in anyway the current staffing exceptions outlined in [EMSIB 2020-11 Level I EMS Staffing Exceptions](#), which remain in force for the duration of the disaster declaration related to COVID-19 or until rescinded by the Department.

Please address any questions to your Regional EMS Council.