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AB 427 Signed into Law, Clearing Way for EMS Pilot Participation

West Allis and Milwaukee EMS providers set to join federal ET3 pilot program

Madison, Wis. – This afternoon, Governor Tony Evers signed [2019 Assembly Bill 427](#) into law at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh. Authored by Rep. Amy Loudenberg (R–Clinton) and Sen. Dale Kooyenga (R–Brookfield), the bill implements technical changes to state law governing emergency medical services (EMS) providers, empowering the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to work with municipalities and other local EMS providers to explore new models for higher quality emergency transport.

The need for AB 427 became clear when EMS providers in West Allis and Milwaukee sought to participate in a new federal pilot program called the Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport Model (ET3). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are promoting ET3 to remove misguided payment pressures from emergency ambulance care teams, allowing them the flexibility to provide the most efficient and effective care possible. Current Medicare regulations limit payment for emergency ground ambulance services to instances when the patient is transported to a hospital or other high-acuity facility. ET3 would allow payment to an emergency ambulance care team for treatment at the scene of a Medicare beneficiary or for their transport to a lower-acuity facility, such as a clinic, physician’s office, or mental health facility, as needed. By encouraging emergency ambulance care teams to triage patients without background financial pressures influencing their decisions, ET3 will help to lower costs while getting patients the care that best suits their condition.

West Allis and Milwaukee EMS identified an obstacle in state law preventing them from being eligible to participate in ET3. With the application deadline approaching, local officials reached out to state legislators for help. After productive discussions between legislators, providers, and DHS officials, AB 427 emerged as a legislative fix to allow Wisconsin EMS providers to participate.

“I am extremely grateful to the local EMS providers who brought this to our attention, especially West Allis Fire Chief Mason Pooler. We are extremely lucky to have such diligent and proactive first responders serving our area,” said Sanfelippo, adding, “I am extraordinarily proud of the way that all the stakeholders were able to pull together and get this important healthcare reform done in quick, bipartisan fashion. DHS Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm and her staff were exceptionally helpful in collaborating on a solution within the time crunch we were facing. I would also like to thank Rep. Loudenberg and Sen. Kooyenga for their support in pushing the legislative fix through both chambers and Governor Evers, as well, for signing this bill into law. It is heartening to see that, even in these factious times, we can all still work together to make progress on helping to lower costs and deliver access to better healthcare for the people of Wisconsin.”

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The [15th Assembly District](#) includes most of West Allis and the Northern half of New Berlin.