

## **Basic Life Support Ambulance Staffing Waivers and the Heart and Lung Act**

[Act 17](#), signed by the Governor on April 29, amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), providing authorization for the Department of Health (DOH) to grant Basic Life Support Ambulance (BLS) staffing waivers. DOH would permit an EMS agency to file for a waiver from staffing requirements for extraordinary reasons as determined by the department on a case by case basis and in the best interest of the EMS system and patient care. Waivers expire in three years.

The act also requires municipal employers to automatically grant a Heart and Lung benefit claim to police and fire personnel if they contract COVID-19 or have to be quarantined. The requirement for an employee to prove the injury was caused in the performance of her or his duties is waived. The act limits the benefit to 60 days.