



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6605

LCO No. 3568



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING PRIMARY AREA SERVICE RESPONDERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivisions (10) to (12), inclusive, of section 19a-177 of the
2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

4 (10) [Establish] Designate primary service areas and authorize each
5 municipality within a primary service area to jointly assign in writing a
6 primary service area responder for [each] the primary service area. Each
7 state-owned campus having an acute care hospital on the premises shall
8 be designated as the primary service area responder for that campus;

9 (11) [Revoke] Authorize each primary service area to revoke its
10 primary service area [assignments] responder assignment upon
11 determination by the [commissioner] primary service area that it is in
12 the best interests of patient care to do so; [and]

13 (12) Establish an application process by which the chief elected
14 official or executive office of a municipality may apply to the
15 commissioner to be designated as a primary service area by the

16 commissioner; and

17 [(12)] (13) Annually issue a list of minimum equipment requirements
18 for authorized emergency medical services vehicles based upon current
19 national standards. The commissioner shall distribute such list to all
20 emergency medical service organizations and sponsor hospital medical
21 directors and make such list available to other interested stakeholders.
22 Emergency medical service organizations shall have one year from the
23 date of issuance of such list to comply with the minimum equipment
24 requirements.

25 Sec. 2. Section 19a-181g of the general statutes is repealed and the
26 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

27 A primary service area responder, as defined in section 19a-175, shall
28 notify [the Department of Public Health and] the chief elected official or
29 [the] chief executive officer of the municipality to which it is assigned
30 not later than sixty days prior to the sale or transfer of more than fifty
31 per cent of its ownership interest or assets. Any person who intends to
32 obtain ownership or control of a primary service area responder in a sale
33 or transfer for which notification is required under this section shall
34 submit an application for approval of such purchase or change in
35 control on a form prescribed by the [Commissioner of Public Health]
36 chief elected official or chief executive officer. The [commissioner] chief
37 elected official or chief executive officer shall, in determining whether
38 to grant approval of the sale or transfer, consider: (1) The applicant's
39 performance history in the state or another state; and (2) the applicant's
40 financial ability to perform the responsibilities of the primary service
41 area responder in accordance with the local emergency medical services
42 plan, established in accordance with section 19a-181b, as amended by
43 this act. The [commissioner] chief elected official or chief executive
44 officer shall approve or reject the application not later than forty-five
45 calendar days after receipt of the application. The [commissioner] chief
46 elected official or chief executive officer shall consult with any
47 [municipality or] sponsor hospital in the primary service area, as such
48 terms are defined in section 19a-175, in making a determination on the

49 application and may hold a hearing on the application.

50 Sec. 3. Section 19a-181b of the general statutes is repealed and the
51 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

52 (a) Each municipality shall establish a local emergency medical
53 services plan. Such plan shall include the written agreements or
54 contracts developed between the municipality, its emergency medical
55 service organizations and the public safety answering point, as defined
56 in section 28-25, that covers the municipality. The plan shall also
57 include, but not be limited to, the following:

58 (1) The identification of levels of emergency medical services,
59 including, but not limited to: (A) The public safety answering point
60 responsible for receiving emergency calls and notifying and assigning
61 the appropriate emergency medical service organization to a call for
62 emergency medical services; (B) the emergency medical service
63 organization that is notified for initial response; (C) basic ambulance
64 service; (D) advanced life support level; and (E) mutual aid call
65 arrangements;

66 (2) The name of the person or entity responsible for carrying out each
67 level of emergency medical services that the plan identifies;

68 (3) The establishment of performance standards, including, but not
69 limited to, standards for responding to a certain percentage of initial
70 response notifications, response times, quality assurance and service
71 area coverage patterns, for each segment of the municipality's
72 emergency medical services system; and

73 (4) Any subcontracts, written agreements or mutual aid call
74 agreements that emergency medical service organizations may have
75 with other entities to provide services identified in the plan.

76 (b) In developing the plan required by subsection (a) of this section,
77 each municipality: (1) May consult with and obtain the assistance of its
78 regional emergency medical services council established pursuant to

79 section 19a-183, its regional emergency medical services coordinator
80 appointed pursuant to section 19a-186a, its regional emergency medical
81 services medical advisory committees and any sponsor hospital, as
82 defined in regulations adopted pursuant to section 19a-179, located in
83 the area identified in the plan; and (2) shall submit the plan to its
84 regional emergency medical services council for the council's review
85 and comment.

86 (c) Each municipality shall update the plan required by subsection (a)
87 of this section not less than once every five years. The municipality shall
88 consult with the municipality's primary service area responder
89 concerning any updates to the plan. The Department of Public Health
90 shall, upon request, assist each municipality in the process of updating
91 the plan by providing technical assistance and helping to resolve any
92 disagreements concerning the provisions of the plan.

93 (d) Not less than once every five years, each municipality shall review
94 its plan and the primary service area responder's provision of services
95 under the plan and submit a revised plan to the Commissioner of Public
96 Health. The commissioner shall evaluate each municipality's plan on an
97 ongoing basis. The commissioner shall provide not less than one
98 hundred twenty days of notice to a municipality as to when the
99 commissioner's evaluation of the revised plan will be conducted. Upon
100 the conclusion of such evaluation, the department shall assign a rating
101 of "meets performance standards", "exceeds performance standards" or
102 "fails to comply with performance standards" for the primary service
103 area responder and notify the municipality and primary service area
104 responder of such rating. The commissioner may require any primary
105 service area responder that is assigned a rating of "fails to comply with
106 performance standards" to submit a performance improvement plan,
107 not later than ninety days after being notified of such rating, and meet
108 the department's requirements for compliance with performance
109 standards. Such primary service area responder may be subject to
110 subsequent performance reviews or removal by the municipality as the
111 municipality's primary service area responder for a failure to improve
112 performance. [in accordance with section 19a-181c.]

113 Sec. 4. Sections 19a-181c and 19a-181f of the general statutes are
114 repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2023*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	19a-177(10) to (12)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	19a-181g
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	19a-181b
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To allow each municipality within a primary service area to designate the primary service area responder and establish a process by which a municipality may apply to the Department of Public Health for designation as a primary service area.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]