

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR ENGROSSED
5 SENATE BILL NO. 1515

By: Weaver, Matthews, and
Rogers of the Senate

and

Osburn of the House

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11 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

12 An Act relating to emergency medical services;
13 amending 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2503, as amended by
14 Section 1, Chapter 93, O.S.L. 2019, which relates to
15 definitions used in the Oklahoma Emergency Response
16 Systems Development Act; modifying definitions;
17 allowing certified emergency medical response agency
18 to provide limited transport under certain
19 conditions; modifying transport protocol; and
20 providing an effective date.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2503, as
23 amended by Section 1, Chapter 93, O.S.L. 2019, is amended to read as
24 follows:

Section 1-2503. As used in the Oklahoma Emergency Response
Systems Development Act:

1 1. "Ambulance" means any ground, air or water vehicle which is
2 or should be approved by the State Commissioner of Health, designed
3 and equipped to transport a patient or patients and to provide
4 appropriate on-scene and en route patient stabilization and care as
5 required. Vehicles used as ambulances shall meet such standards as
6 may be required by the Commissioner for approval, and shall display
7 evidence of such approval at all times;

8 2. "Ambulance authority" means any public trust or nonprofit
9 corporation established by the state or any unit of local government
10 or combination of units of government for the express purpose of
11 providing, directly or by contract, emergency medical services in a
12 specified area of the state;

13 3. "Ambulance patient" or "patient" means any person who is or
14 will be transported in a reclining position to or from a health care
15 facility in an ambulance;

16 4. "Ambulance service" means any private firm or governmental
17 agency which is or should be licensed by the State Department of
18 Health to provide levels of medical care based on certification
19 standards promulgated by the Commissioner;

20 5. "Ambulance service district" means any county, group of
21 counties or parts of counties formed together to provide, operate
22 and finance emergency medical services as provided by Section 9C of
23 Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution or Sections 1201 through 1221
24 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

1 6. "Board" means the State Board of Health;

2 7. "Certified emergency medical responder" means an individual
3 certified by the Department to perform emergency medical services in
4 accordance with the Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems Development
5 Act and in accordance with the rules and standards promulgated by
6 the Commissioner;

7 8. "Certified emergency medical response agency" means an
8 organization of any type certified by the Department to provide
9 emergency medical care, ~~but not transport~~ and limited transport. A
10 certified emergency medical response agency shall only provide
11 transport upon approval by the appropriate online medical control at
12 the time of transport. Certified emergency medical response
13 agencies may utilize certified emergency medical responders or
14 licensed emergency medical personnel; provided, however, that all
15 personnel so utilized shall function under the direction of and
16 consistent with guidelines for medical control;

17 9. "Classification" means an inclusive standardized
18 identification of stabilizing and definitive emergency services
19 provided by each hospital that treats emergency patients;

20 10. "CoAEMSP" means the Committee on Accreditation of
21 Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions;

22 11. "Commissioner" means the State Commissioner of Health;

23 12. "Council" means the Trauma and Emergency Response Advisory
24 Council created in Section 1-103a.1 of this title;

1 13. "Critical care paramedic" or "CCP" means a licensed
2 paramedic who has successfully completed critical care training and
3 testing requirements in accordance with the Oklahoma Emergency
4 Response Systems Development Act and in accordance with the rules
5 and standards promulgated by the Commissioner;

6 14. "Department" means the State Department of Health;

7 15. "Emergency medical services system" means a system which
8 provides for the organization and appropriate designation of
9 personnel, facilities and equipment for the effective and
10 coordinated local, regional and statewide delivery of health care
11 services primarily under emergency conditions;

12 16. "Letter of review" means the official designation from
13 CoAEMSP to a paramedic program that is in the "becoming accredited"
14 process;

15 17. "Licensed emergency medical personnel" means an emergency
16 medical technician (EMT), an intermediate, an advanced emergency
17 medical technician (AEMT), or a paramedic licensed by the Department
18 to perform emergency medical services in accordance with the
19 Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems Development Act and the rules
20 and standards promulgated by the Commissioner;

21 18. "Licensure" means the licensing of emergency medical care
22 providers and ambulance services pursuant to rules and standards
23 promulgated by the Commissioner at one or more of the following
24 levels:

- 1 a. ~~Basic~~ basic life support,
- 2 b. ~~Intermediate~~ intermediate life support,
- 3 c. ~~Paramedic~~ paramedic life support,
- 4 d. ~~Advanced~~ advanced life support,
- 5 e. ~~Stretcher~~ stretcher van, and
- 6 f. ~~Specialty~~ specialty care, which shall be used solely
7 for interhospital transport of patients requiring
8 specialized en route medical monitoring and advanced
9 life support which exceed the capabilities of the
10 equipment and personnel provided by paramedic life
11 support.

12 Requirements for each level of care shall be established by the
13 Commissioner. Licensure at any level of care includes a license to
14 operate at any lower level, with the exception of licensure for
15 specialty care; provided, however, that the highest level of care
16 offered by an ambulance service shall be available twenty-four (24)
17 hours each day, three hundred sixty-five (365) days per year.

18 Licensure shall be granted or renewed for such periods and under
19 such terms and conditions as may be promulgated by the Commissioner;

20 19. "Medical control" means local, regional or statewide
21 medical direction and quality assurance of health care delivery in
22 an emergency medical service system. Online medical control is the
23 medical direction given to licensed emergency medical personnel,
24 certified emergency medical responders and stretcher van personnel

1 by a physician via radio or telephone. Off-line medical control is
2 the establishment and monitoring of all medical components of an
3 emergency medical service system, which is to include stretcher van
4 service including, but not limited to, protocols, standing orders,
5 educational programs, and the quality and delivery of online
6 control;

7 20. "Medical director" means a physician, fully licensed
8 without restriction, who acts as a paid or volunteer medical advisor
9 to a licensed ambulance service and who monitors and directs the
10 care so provided. Such physicians shall meet such qualifications
11 and requirements as may be promulgated by the Commissioner;

12 21. "Region" or "emergency medical service region" means two or
13 more municipalities, counties, ambulance districts or other
14 political subdivisions exercising joint control over one or more
15 providers of emergency medical services and stretcher van service
16 through common ordinances, authorities, boards or other means;

17 22. "Regional emergency medical services system" means a
18 network of organizations, individuals, facilities and equipment
19 which serves a region, subject to a unified set of regional rules
20 and standards which may exceed, but may not be in contravention of,
21 those required by the state, which is under the medical direction of
22 a single regional medical director, and which participates directly
23 in the delivery of the following services:
24

- 1 a. medical call-taking and emergency medical services
2 dispatching, emergency and routine, including priority
3 dispatching of first response agencies, stretcher van
4 and ambulances,
5 b. emergency medical responder services provided by
6 emergency medical response agencies,
7 c. ambulance services, both emergency, routine and
8 stretcher van including, but not limited to, the
9 transport of patients in accordance with transport
10 protocols approved by the regional medical director,
11 and
12 d. directions given by physicians directly via radio or
13 telephone, or by written protocol, to emergency
14 medical response agencies, stretcher van or ambulance
15 personnel at the scene of an emergency or while en
16 route to a hospital;

17 23. "Regional medical director" means a licensed physician, who
18 meets or exceeds the qualifications of a medical director as defined
19 by the Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems Development Act, chosen
20 by an emergency medical service region to provide external medical
21 oversight, quality control and related services to that region;

22 24. "Registration" means the listing of an ambulance service in
23 a registry maintained by the Department; provided, however,
24 registration shall not be deemed to be a license;

1 25. "Stretcher van" means any ground vehicle which is or should
2 be approved by the State Commissioner of Health, which is designed
3 and equipped to transport individuals on a stretcher or gurney type
4 apparatus. Vehicles used as stretcher vans shall meet such
5 standards as may be required by the Commissioner for approval and
6 shall display evidence of licensure at all times. The Commissioner
7 shall not establish Federal Specification KKK-A-1822 ambulance
8 standards for stretcher vans; provided, a stretcher van shall meet
9 Ambulance Manufacturers Division (AMD) Standards 004, 012 and 013,
10 and shall pass corresponding safety tests. Stretcher van services
11 shall only be permitted and approved by the Commissioner in
12 emergency medical service regions, ambulance service districts, or
13 counties with populations in excess of five hundred thousand
14 (500,000) people. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph,
15 stretcher van transports may be made to and from any federal or
16 state veterans facility. Stretcher vans may carry and provide
17 oxygen and may carry and utilize any equipment necessary for the
18 provision of oxygen;

19 26. "Stretcher van passenger" means any person who is or will
20 be transported in a reclining position on a stretcher or gurney, who
21 is medically stable, nonemergent and does not require any medical
22 monitoring equipment or assistance during transport except oxygen.
23 Passengers must be authorized as qualified to be transported by
24 stretcher van. Passengers shall be authorized through screening

1 provided by a certified medical dispatching protocol approved by the
2 Department. All patients being transported to or from any medically
3 licensed facility shall be screened before transport. Any patient
4 transported without screening shall be a violation of Commissioner
5 rule by the transporting company and subject to administrative
6 procedures of the Department; and

7 27. "Transport protocol" means the written instructions
8 governing decision-making at the scene of a medical emergency by
9 ambulance personnel regarding the selection of the hospital to which
10 the patient shall be transported. Transport protocols shall be
11 developed by the regional medical director for a regional emergency
12 medical services system or by the Department if no regional
13 emergency medical services system has been established. Such
14 transport protocols shall adhere to, at a minimum, the following
15 guidelines:

- 16 a. nonemergency, routine transport shall be to the
17 facility of the patient's choice,
- 18 b. urgent or emergency transport not involving life-
19 threatening medical illness or injury shall be to the
20 nearest facility, or, subject to transport
21 availability and system area coverage, to the facility
22 of the patient's choice, ~~and~~
- 23 c. life-threatening medical illness or injury shall
24 require transport to the nearest health care facility

1 appropriate to the needs of the patient as established
2 by regional or state guidelines, and

3 d. emergency ambulance transportation is not required
4 when a patient's apparent clinical condition, as
5 defined by applicable medical treatment protocols,
6 does not warrant emergency ambulance transport, and
7 nontransport of patients is authorized pursuant to
8 applicable medical treatment protocols established by
9 the regional medical director.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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