

2013 -- H 5482

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES

Introduced By: Representative Joseph M. McNamara

Date Introduced: February 14, 2013

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 23-4.1-1, 23-4.1-3, 23-4.1-8 and 23-4.1-16 of the General Laws in
2 Chapter 23-4.1 entitled "Emergency Medical Transportation Services" are hereby amended to
3 read as follows:

4 **23-4.1-1. Declaration of policy and purpose.** -- (a) The general assembly declares that it
5 is the policy of the state to save lives and speed the healing of persons injured in accidents or
6 otherwise in need of medical service by providing an emergency care system that will bring the
7 injured or sick person under the care of persons properly trained to care for the injured or sick in
8 the shortest practical time and that will provide safe transportation for the injured or sick person
9 to a treatment center prepared to receive the injured person.

10 (b) It is the purpose of this chapter to promote this policy by providing the means by
11 which the best possible ~~first aid treatment~~ [emergency medical care](#) can be brought to the injured
12 or sick person in the shortest practical time and by which the injured or sick person can be safely
13 transported to a medical treatment center in proper equipment that is designed to provide
14 supportive care for the injured or sick person and which is able to communicate with the medical
15 treatment center regarding the treatment of the injured or sick person.

16 (c) It is the plan of this chapter to provide help for any scheme of emergency medical
17 service that provides trained personnel, furnishes adequate equipment, and which furnishes
18 emergency medical service to the public.

1 (d) It is not the intent of this chapter to prevent the operation of any nonprofit ambulance
2 service which meets the minimum standards as provided by this chapter for the training of
3 ambulance personnel and for medical service equipment.

4 **23-4.1-3. Duties of the director.** -- (a) The director of health, referred to as the
5 "director," shall have full authority to implement the provisions of this chapter and shall be
6 guided by the purposes and intent of this chapter.

7 (b) The director shall cooperate with hospitals, furnishers of ambulance services, local
8 governments, police departments, fire departments, emergency units, first aid groups, or any other
9 groups that furnish or work with groups that furnish emergency medical services.

10 (c) The director shall cooperate with concerned agencies and individuals to coordinate
11 programs for training emergency medical technicians, and other persons who provide emergency
12 medical care services, including dispatchers. If funds are available, the director may establish
13 training grants to aid groups and communities to train people in emergency medical care.

14 (d) The standards used by the director under this chapter shall be reasonable and based
15 upon local and statewide conditions. However, the minimum standards imposed by the director
16 may be the standards issued by any responsible organization having its main concern the
17 disposition of injured persons.

18 (e) The director shall annually submit a report to the governor and the general assembly.

19 (f) The director shall cooperate in the coordination of ambulance services throughout the
20 state with local or state police and fire authorities and other concerned agencies and individuals,
21 including the ~~state civil defense agency~~ [Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency](#). This
22 coordination may be tested by local exercises from time to time.

23 (g) The director shall cooperate with concerned agencies and individuals in the
24 development of a state communications network involving the transportation of injured persons
25 by vehicles licensed under this chapter and hospitals. The director may allocate available funds
26 for the establishing and maintenance of a communications network involving vehicles, hospitals,
27 and other emergency treating organizations within the state.

28 (h) The director shall cooperate with concerned agencies and individuals in the
29 development of a plan for the coordination of ambulance dispatching services with the state.

30 **23-4.1-8. Applications for license.** -- (a) Any person, firm, partnership, corporation,
31 municipality, volunteer units, or any other business or organization providing ambulance service
32 shall, at the time of license application, furnish the director of health with a list of all persons
33 authorized to act as an attendant of any ambulance owned or operated by the applicant.

34 (b) The director shall provide application forms for licenses under this section.

1 (c) ~~Subject to the approval of the board, the~~ The director shall make reasonable
2 minimum standards of health, performance, fitness, education, and moral fitness. The director
3 may use the guides established by the American College of Surgeons' Board of Regents or the
4 National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians as a standard, except that a felony
5 conviction shall not necessarily disqualify an attendant.

6 (d) Each applicant shall hold a current certificate of completion of at least an emergency
7 medical technical-ambulance course approved by the board.

8 (e) If there is a hardship imposed upon any applicant for a license because of an unusual
9 circumstance, the applicant may apply to the director for a temporary waiver of the licensing
10 provisions for good cause shown. The director has the power to waive licensing provisions for a
11 period not to exceed ninety (90) days.

12 **23-4.1-16. Emergency medical services for children.** -- (a) There is established within
13 the department of health, division of emergency medical services (EMS), an emergency medical
14 services for children (EMSC) program. The EMSC program, ~~operated within the department of~~
15 ~~emergency medicine of Hasbro Children's Hospital,~~ shall be recognized by the department of
16 health as a resource to the state's overall emergency medical services system, in order to effect the
17 provisions of this chapter. The objective and directive of the EMSC program shall be to continue,
18 to the extent that funds through the federal government, state government or private sources are
19 available for this purpose, the growth and development of those programs already in effect
20 pursuant to the federal grant received under the maternal and child health bureau. The goal and
21 objective of the program shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

22 (1) To develop and implement new statewide EMS treatment protocols that emphasize
23 pediatric emergency care, along with supporting EMT education and training programs;

24 (2) To develop programs for parents and communities, which shall:

25 (i) Identify and reduce barriers to emergency care for children;

26 (ii) Provide information relating to health promotion and injury prevention; and

27 (iii) Focus on recognition of emergencies, and improving access to and appropriate use
28 of the local EMS systems; and

29 (3) The program shall also provide periodic case reviews and follow-up to EMS
30 personnel in pediatric cases.

31 (b) The EMSC program may solicit, receive, and spend funds it receives from the federal
32 government, state government or private sources to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

33 (c) The EMSC program may employ or contract with professional, technical, research,
34 and clerical staff, and with health care facilities that have expertise in pediatric care, as necessary

1 within the limits of available funding.

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
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- 1 This act would revise the statutes regarding emergency management transportation
- 2 services in order to replace certain terminology to reflect current standards and practices.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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