

3 Senate Bill No. 1624

4 SENATE BILL NO. 1624 - By: LAMB and LEFTWICH of the Senate and
5 INGMIRE of the House.

6 An Act relating to public health and safety; amending 63
7 O.S. 2001, Section 1-2503, as amended by Section 1, Chapter
8 433, O.S.L. 2005 (63 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 1-2503), which
9 relates to emergency response systems; expanding stretcher
10 aid van services; and declaring an emergency.

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

12 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2001, Section 1-2503, as
13 amended by Section 1, Chapter 433, O.S.L. 2005 (63 O.S. Supp. 2005,
14 Section 1-2503), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

24 2. "Ambulance authority" means any public trust or nonprofit
25 corporation established by the state or any unit of local government
26 or combination of units of government for the express purpose of

1 providing, directly or by contract, emergency medical services in a
2 specified area of the state;

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

6 4. "Ambulance service" means any private firm or governmental
7 agency which is or should be licensed by the State Department of
8 Health to provide levels of medical care based on certification
9 standards promulgated by the Board;

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

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

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

19 8. "Commissioner" means the State Commissioner of Health;

20 9. "Council" means the Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems
21 Development Advisory Council;

22 10. "Department" means the State Department of Health;

1 11. "Emergency medical services system" means a system which
2 provides for the organization and appropriate designation of
3 personnel, facilities and equipment for the effective and
4 coordinated local, regional and statewide delivery of health care
5 services primarily under emergency conditions;

6 12. "Emergency Medical Technician/Basic, Emergency Medical
7 Technician/Intermediate, Emergency Medical Technician/Advanced
8 Cardiac, or Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic" means an
9 individual licensed by the Department to perform emergency medical
10 services in accordance with the Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems
11 Development Act and in accordance with the rules and standards
12 promulgated by the Board;

13 13. "First responder" means an individual certified by the
14 Department to perform emergency medical services in accordance with
15 the Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems Development Act and in
16 accordance with the rules and standards promulgated by the Board;

17 14. "First response agency" means an organization of any type
18 certified by the Department to provide emergency medical care, but
19 not transport. First response agencies may utilize certified first
20 responders or licensed emergency medical technicians; provided,
21 however, that all personnel so utilized shall function under the
22 direction of and consistent with guidelines for medical control;

1 15. "Licensure" means the licensing of emergency medical care
2 providers and ambulance services pursuant to rules and standards
3 promulgated by the Board at one or more of the following levels:

- 4 a. Basic life support,
- 5 b. Intermediate life support,
- 6 c. Paramedic life support,
- 7 d. Stretcher aid van, and
- 8 e. Specialized Mobile Intensive Care, which shall be used
9 solely for inter-hospital transport of patients
10 requiring specialized en route medical monitoring and
11 advanced life support which exceed the capabilities of
12 the equipment and personnel provided by paramedic life
13 support.

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

20 Licensure shall be granted or renewed for such periods and under
21 such terms and conditions as may be promulgated by the State Board;

22 16. "Medical control" means local, regional or statewide
23 medical direction and quality assurance of health care delivery in

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

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

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

20 19. "Regional emergency medical services system" means a
21 network of organizations, individuals, facilities and equipment
22 which serves a region, subject to a unified set of regional rules
23 and standards which may exceed, but may not be in contravention of,

1 those required by the state, which is under the medical direction of
2 a single regional medical director, and which participates directly
3 in the delivery of the following services:

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

20 20. "Regional medical director" means a licensed physician, who
21 meets or exceeds the qualifications of a medical director as defined
22 by the Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems Development Act, chosen

1 by an emergency medical service region to provide external medical
2 oversight, quality control and related services to that region;

3 21. "Registration" means the listing of an ambulance service in
4 a registry maintained by the Department; provided, however,
5 registration shall not be deemed to be a license;

6 22. "Stretcher aid van" means any ground vehicle which is or
7 should be approved by the State Commissioner of Health, which is
8 designed and equipped to transport individuals on a stretcher or
9 gurney type apparatus. Vehicles used as stretcher aid vans shall
10 meet such standards as may be required by the State Board of Health
11 for approval and shall display evidence of such approval at all
12 times. Stretcher aid van services shall only be permitted and
13 approved by the Commissioner in emergency medical service regions,
14 ambulance service districts, or municipalities with populations in
15 excess of 300,000 people or any municipality contiguous with such
16 municipalities. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph,
17 stretcher aid van transports may be made to and from any Oklahoma
18 Veterans Center;

19 23. "Stretcher aid van patient" means any person who is or will
20 be transported in a reclining position on a stretcher or gurney, who
21 is medically stable, non-emergent and does not require any medical
22 monitoring equipment or assistance during transport; and

1 24. "Transport protocol" means the written instructions
2 governing decision-making at the scene of a medical emergency by
3 ambulance personnel regarding the selection of the hospital to which
4 the patient shall be transported. Transport protocols shall be
5 developed by the regional medical director for a regional emergency
6 medical services system or by the Department if no regional
7 emergency medical services system has been established. Such
8 transport protocols shall adhere to, at a minimum, the following
9 guidelines:

- 10 a. nonemergency, routine transport shall be to the
11 facility of the patient's choice,
- 12 b. urgent or emergency transport not involving life-
13 threatening medical illness or injury shall be to the
14 nearest facility, or, subject to transport
15 availability and system area coverage, to the facility
16 of the patient's choice, and
- 17 c. life-threatening medical illness or injury shall
18 require transport to the nearest health care facility
19 appropriate to the needs of the patient as established
20 by regional or state guidelines.

21 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
22 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES, dated
4 2-23-06 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.