

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT

TO

2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1515

By: Weaver, Matthews, and
Rogers of the Senate

3

and

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Osburn of the House

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

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14 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause, and entire bill
and insert:

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

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

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

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

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

13 2. "Ambulance authority" means any public trust or nonprofit
14 corporation established by the state or any unit of local government
15 or combination of units of government for the express purpose of
16 providing, directly or by contract, emergency medical services in a
17 specified area of the state;

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

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

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

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

7 7. "Certified emergency medical responder" means an individual
8 certified by the Department to perform emergency medical services in
9 accordance with the Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems Development
10 Act and in accordance with the rules and standards promulgated by
11 the Commissioner;

12 8. "Certified emergency medical response agency" means an
13 organization of any type certified by the Department to provide
14 emergency medical care, ~~but not transport~~ and limited transport in
15 an emergency vehicle as defined in Section 1-103 of Title 47 of the
16 Oklahoma Statutes. A certified emergency medical response agency
17 shall only provide transport upon approval by the appropriate online
18 medical control at the time of transport. Certified emergency
19 medical response agencies may utilize certified emergency medical
20 responders or licensed emergency medical personnel; provided,
21 however, that all personnel so utilized shall function under the
22 direction of and consistent with guidelines for medical control;

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- 1 9. "Classification" means an inclusive standardized
2 identification of stabilizing and definitive emergency services
3 provided by each hospital that treats emergency patients;
- 4 10. "CoAEMSP" means the Committee on Accreditation of
5 Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions;
- 6 11. "Commissioner" means the State Commissioner of Health;
- 7 12. "Council" means the Trauma and Emergency Response Advisory
8 Council created in Section 1-103a.1 of this title;
- 9 13. "Critical care paramedic" or "CCP" means a licensed
10 paramedic who has successfully completed critical care training and
11 testing requirements in accordance with the Oklahoma Emergency
12 Response Systems Development Act and in accordance with the rules
13 and standards promulgated by the Commissioner;
- 14 14. "Department" means the State Department of Health;
- 15 15. "Emergency medical services system" means a system which
16 provides for the organization and appropriate designation of
17 personnel, facilities and equipment for the effective and
18 coordinated local, regional and statewide delivery of health care
19 services primarily under emergency conditions;
- 20 16. "Letter of review" means the official designation from
21 CoAEMSP to a paramedic program that is in the "becoming accredited"
22 process;
- 23 17. "Licensed emergency medical personnel" means an emergency
24 medical technician (EMT), an intermediate, an advanced emergency

1 medical technician (AEMT), or a paramedic licensed by the Department
2 to perform emergency medical services in accordance with the
3 Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems Development Act and the rules
4 and standards promulgated by the Commissioner;

5 18. "Licensure" means the licensing of emergency medical care
6 providers and ambulance services pursuant to rules and standards
7 promulgated by the Commissioner at one or more of the following
8 levels:

- 9 a. ~~Basic~~ basic life support,
- 10 b. ~~Intermediate~~ intermediate life support,
- 11 c. ~~Paramedic~~ paramedic life support,
- 12 d. ~~Advanced~~ advanced life support,
- 13 e. ~~Stretcher~~ stretcher van, and
- 14 f. ~~Specialty~~ specialty care, which shall be used solely
15 for interhospital transport of patients requiring
16 specialized en route medical monitoring and advanced
17 life support which exceed the capabilities of the
18 equipment and personnel provided by paramedic life
19 support.

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

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

5 19. "Medical control" means local, regional or statewide
6 medical direction and quality assurance of health care delivery in
7 an emergency medical service system. ~~On-line~~ Online medical control
8 is the medical direction given to licensed emergency medical
9 personnel, certified emergency medical responders and stretcher van
10 personnel by a physician via radio or telephone. Off-line medical
11 control is the establishment and monitoring of all medical
12 components of an emergency medical service system, which is to
13 include stretcher van service including, but not limited to,
14 protocols, standing orders, educational programs, and the quality
15 and delivery of ~~on-line~~ online control;

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

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

3 22. "Regional emergency medical services system" means a
4 network of organizations, individuals, facilities and equipment
5 which serves a region, subject to a unified set of regional rules
6 and standards which may exceed, but may not be in contravention of,
7 those required by the state, which is under the medical direction of
8 a single regional medical director, and which participates directly
9 in the delivery of the following services:

- 10 a. medical call-taking and emergency medical services
11 dispatching, emergency and routine, including priority
12 dispatching of first response agencies, stretcher van
13 and ambulances,
- 14 b. emergency medical responder services provided by
15 emergency medical response agencies,
- 16 c. ambulance services, both emergency, routine and
17 stretcher van including, but not limited to, the
18 transport of patients in accordance with transport
19 protocols approved by the regional medical director,
20 and
- 21 d. directions given by physicians directly via radio or
22 telephone, or by written protocol, to emergency
23 medical response agencies, stretcher van or ambulance

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1 personnel at the scene of an emergency or while en
2 route to a hospital;

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

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

11 25. "Stretcher van" means any ground vehicle which is or should
12 be approved by the State Commissioner of Health, which is designed
13 and equipped to transport individuals on a stretcher or gurney type
14 apparatus. Vehicles used as stretcher vans shall meet such
15 standards as may be required by the Commissioner for approval and
16 shall display evidence of licensure at all times. The Commissioner
17 shall not establish Federal Specification KKK-A-1822 ambulance
18 standards for stretcher vans; provided, a stretcher van shall meet
19 Ambulance Manufacturers Division (AMD) Standards 004, 012 and 013,
20 and shall pass corresponding safety tests. Stretcher van services
21 shall only be permitted and approved by the Commissioner in
22 emergency medical service regions, ambulance service districts, or
23 counties with populations in excess of five hundred thousand
24 (500,000) people. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph,

1 | stretcher van transports may be made to and from any federal or
2 | state veterans facility. Stretcher vans may carry and provide
3 | oxygen and may carry and utilize any equipment necessary for the
4 | provision of oxygen;

5 | 26. "Stretcher van passenger" means any person who is or will
6 | be transported in a reclining position on a stretcher or gurney, who
7 | is medically stable, nonemergent and does not require any medical
8 | monitoring equipment or assistance during transport except oxygen.
9 | Passengers must be authorized as qualified to be transported by
10 | stretcher van. Passengers shall be authorized through screening
11 | provided by a certified medical dispatching protocol approved by the
12 | Department. All patients being transported to or from any medically
13 | licensed facility shall be screened before transport. Any patient
14 | transported without screening shall be a violation of Commissioner
15 | rule by the transporting company and subject to administrative
16 | procedures of the Department; and

17 | 27. "Transport protocol" means the written instructions
18 | governing decision-making at the scene of a medical emergency by
19 | ambulance personnel regarding the selection of the hospital to which
20 | the patient shall be transported. Transport protocols shall be
21 | developed by the regional medical director for a regional emergency
22 | medical services system or by the Department if no regional
23 | emergency medical services system has been established. Such
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1 transport protocols shall adhere to, at a minimum, the following
2 guidelines:

- 3 a. nonemergency, routine transport shall be to the
4 facility of the patient's choice,
- 5 b. urgent or emergency transport not involving life-
6 threatening medical illness or injury shall be to the
7 nearest facility, or, subject to transport
8 availability and system area coverage, to the facility
9 of the patient's choice, ~~and~~
- 10 c. life-threatening medical illness or injury shall
11 require transport to the nearest health care facility
12 appropriate to the needs of the patient as established
13 by regional or state guidelines, and
- 14 d. emergency ambulance transportation is not required
15 when a patient's apparent clinical condition, as
16 defined by applicable medical treatment protocols,
17 does not warrant emergency ambulance transport, and
18 nontransport of patients is authorized pursuant to
19 applicable medical treatment protocols established by
20 the regional medical director.

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