

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 778

By: Murdock

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to emergency medical services; amending 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2515, which relates to regulation and control of ambulance service transports; mandating sole-provider system for ambulance service districts; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-2515, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-2515. A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, ~~Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Regions~~ emergency medical service (EMS) regions, ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance service districts or municipalities are hereby authorized to regulate and control, pursuant to duly enacted ordinance or regulation, ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance service transports originating within the jurisdiction of such EMS ~~Regions~~ regions, ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance service districts or municipalities.

B. Any ordinance or regulation adopted pursuant to subsection A of this section shall meet and may exceed, but shall not be in

1   contravention of, the standards promulgated by the State ~~Board~~  
2   Commissioner of Health for ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance service  
3   transports.

4       C. 1. Any ordinance or regulation adopted by an EMS ~~Region~~  
5   region, ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance service district or a  
6   municipality may establish a sole-provider system for stretcher van  
7   and/or ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance service transports; provided,  
8   however, any such designated or contracted sole-provider which is  
9   not an EMS ~~Region~~ region, ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance service  
10   district, municipality, or other public entity shall be selected by  
11   competitive bidding.

12       2. A contract entered into pursuant to such bidding shall be  
13   with the lowest and best bidder and may be for an initial term of  
14   such duration as deemed operationally and fiscally prudent by the  
15   contracting agency. The term of such sole-provider contract shall  
16   be made public at the time bids are solicited, which solicitation  
17   shall be not less than sixty (60) days prior to the contract start  
18   date.

19       D. Any EMS ~~Region~~, ~~Ambulance Service district~~ region or  
20   municipality may establish a sole-provider system for stretcher van  
21   and/or ~~Ambulance Service~~ or ambulance service transports or both,  
22   and may allow additional geographic or political subdivisions to  
23   join such a system at any time. All ambulance service districts  
24   shall be sole-provider systems for stretcher van and ambulance

1 service transports within their geographical boundaries. Whenever  
2 such a geographic or political subdivision joins such a sole-  
3 provider system, competitive bidding shall not be required and  
4 provision for servicing the new jurisdiction may be accomplished by  
5 amending the existing sole-provider contract. Furthermore, in the  
6 event the expansion of the service area of the EMS ~~Region~~ region,  
7 ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance service district or the municipality is  
8 substantial (in the sole opinion of the governing body of the EMS  
9 ~~Region~~ region, ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance service district or  
10 municipality), the existing sole-provider contract may be extended  
11 for a period sufficient to allow reasonable opportunity for recovery  
12 of capital costs of expansion, as determined by the contracting  
13 agency.

14 E. The provisions of this section shall not be construed or  
15 applied to limit the operation of any emergency medical service  
16 district established and operating pursuant to Section 9C of Article  
17 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution; provided, however, that, upon  
18 invitation and approval of a majority of the voters of the district,  
19 any such district is hereby authorized to join by appropriate  
20 agreement any system established by an EMS ~~Region~~ region, ~~Ambulance~~  
21 ~~Service~~ ambulance service district or a municipality pursuant to the  
22 provisions of this section.

1 F. The following types of patient transports shall be exempt  
2 from regulation by EMS ~~Regions~~ regions, ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance  
3 service districts or municipalities:

4 1. Any ambulance owned or operated by, or under contract to  
5 perform ambulance transport services for, the Federal or State  
6 government, or any agency thereof;

7 2. Any ambulance owned and operated by a hospital and in use to  
8 transport a patient of the owner-hospital, which patient has been  
9 admitted to and not been discharged from the owner-hospital, to or  
10 from another hospital or medical care facility at which the patient  
11 receives a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure not available at the  
12 owner-hospital;

13 3. Any ambulance engaged in a routine transport call to  
14 transport a patient from a hospital, nursing home, or dialysis  
15 center located within an EMS ~~Region~~ region, ~~Ambulance Service~~  
16 ambulance service district or municipality to any location outside  
17 the EMS ~~Region~~ region, ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance service district  
18 or municipality;

19 4. Any ambulance engaged in the transport of a patient from a  
20 location outside an EMS ~~Region~~ region, ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance  
21 service district or municipality to a location inside an EMS ~~Region~~  
22 region, ~~Ambulance Service~~ ambulance service district or  
23 municipality; or  
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5. Any ambulance engaged in the interstate transport of a patient.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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