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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES--AMBULANCE SERVICE COORDINATING BOARD

Introduced By: Senator F Lombardi

Date Introduced: April 30, 2021

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 **23-4.1-3. Duties of the director.**

4 (a) The director of health, referred to as the "director," shall have full authority to
5 implement the provisions of this chapter and shall be guided by the purposes and intent of this
6 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 disposition
17 of injured persons.

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

1 (f) The director shall cooperate in the coordination of ambulance services throughout the
2 state with local or state police and fire authorities and other concerned agencies and individuals,
3 including the state civil defense agency. This coordination may be tested by local exercises from
4 time to time.

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

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

12 (i) When proposing standards under this chapter, the director shall prepare and publish for
13 the board a financial impact statement.

14 **23-4.1-8. Applications for license.**

15 (a) Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, municipality, volunteer units, or any other
16 business or organization providing ambulance service shall, at the time of license application,
17 furnish the director of health with a list of all persons authorized to act as an attendant of any
18 ambulance owned or operated by the applicant. Further, all applicants shall submit to the director
19 the person who shall serve as the emergency medical service physician medical director (the
20 “physician medical director”). The physician medical director shall be a physician board-certified
21 or board-eligible in emergency medicine and/or E.M.S. The physician medical director must have
22 an active Rhode Island license to practice medicine. The ambulance service coordinating advisory
23 board shall establish standards for the duties and responsibilities of the physician medical director.

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

25 (c) Subject to the approval of the board, the director shall make reasonable minimum
26 standards of health, performance, fitness, education, and moral fitness. The director may use the
27 guides established by the American College of Surgeons' Board of Regents as a standard, except
28 that a felony conviction shall not necessarily disqualify an attendant.

29 (d) ~~Each applicant shall hold a current certificate of completion of at least an emergency~~
30 ~~medical technical ambulance course approved by the board.~~ Each applicant shall hold a current
31 certificate of completion of either:

32 (1) An emergency medical responder course;

33 (2) An emergency medical technician course;

34 (3) An advanced emergency medical technician course;

1 (4) An advanced emergency medical technician-cardiac course; or

2 (5) A paramedic course.

3 These courses shall be approved by the board. The certificate needed shall be decided by
4 the person, firm, partnership, corporation, municipality , or any other business or organization
5 providing ambulance service employing the individual licensee or in the case of a volunteer unit
6 the unit for whom the individual licensee is volunteering for.

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

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES--AMBULANCE SERVICE COORDINATING BOARD

1 This act would provide that when proposing standards regarding emergency medical
2 transportation services, the director of health would prepare and publish a financial impact
3 statement for the ambulance service coordinating advisory board. This act would also provide that
4 each applicant for a license to provide ambulance services would need to hold a certificate of
5 completion from one of several different courses listed in the act, including but not limited to an
6 emergency medical responder course.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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