

2023 -- H 5681

LC001894

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Introduced By: Representative William W. O'Brien

Date Introduced: February 17, 2023

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-4.1-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-4.1 entitled "Emergency  
2 Medical Transportation Services" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-4.1-6. Licensing of ambulances and ambulance service.**

4 (a) A person shall not engage in the business or service of the transportation of patients  
5 upon any public way of the state unless that person holds a license by the director of health for  
6 engaging in that business or service.

7 (b) A person shall not operate an ambulance on public ways in this state if the ambulance  
8 is not licensed by the director of health under this chapter.

9 (c) The director of health shall not issue or renew a license for an ambulance under this  
10 chapter unless the ambulance meets the minimum equipment standards established under this  
11 chapter.

12 (d) If a major emergency occurs and the licensed ambulances in the state are not sufficient  
13 to meet the needs to transport the injured or sick persons, the licensing provisions of this section  
14 do not apply during the period of the emergency.

15 (e)(1) If an ambulance is owned by a nonresident and is licensed as a motor vehicle in  
16 another state, it may be operated on the public ways of this state to transport patients who are picked  
17 up out of state and brought to treatment centers in the state, without the ambulance, its owners, the  
18 driver, the attendant, or the attendant drivers being licensed under this section.

1 (2) Also exempted are:

2 (i) Any motor vehicles or aircraft owned by or operated under the direct control of the  
3 United States;

4 (ii) Those hospital-based and owned vehicles and their attendants which are used solely for  
5 the transportation of non-emergency patients to and from other institutions for the purpose of  
6 therapy and/or other medical treatment and services of a non-emergency nature; and

7 (iii) Those private ambulance and service companies and their attendants which are used  
8 solely for the transportation of non-emergency patients; provided, however, that those private  
9 ambulance and service companies annually attest to the ambulance service coordinating board the  
10 fact that the ambulance or service companies are not engaged in the transportation of emergency  
11 patients.

12 (f) Any change of ownership of a licensed ambulance or of a business or service engaged  
13 in the transportation of patients ends the license concerned. Upon a change of ownership, the  
14 director of health shall issue a ninety (90) day temporary license upon the application of the new  
15 owner for a current license.

16 (g) All persons engaged in the business or service of the transportation of patients on any  
17 public ways in the state, all person operating an ambulance for ambulance purposes on any public  
18 way in the state, and all ambulances operated on public ways in this state shall conform to the  
19 minimum standards set by regulations issued under the authority of this chapter.

20 (h) If there is a hardship imposed on any applicant for a license because of an unusual  
21 circumstance, the applicant may apply to the director for a temporary waiver of the licensing  
22 provisions of this section for good cause shown. The director has the power to waive licensing  
23 provisions for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days.

24 (i) A person may not transport a patient by a stretcher in a vehicle unless the person holds  
25 a license as an emergency medical services provider issued by the director of health for engaging  
26 in that business or service. For purposes of this section, a "person" means an individual,  
27 corporation, organization, government, governmental subdivision or agency, business, trust,  
28 partnership, association, or any other legal entity.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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SERVICES

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- 1           This act would require any person who transports a patient by a stretcher in a vehicle to be
- 2 licensed as an emergency medical services provider through the director of health.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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