

2019 -- H 6169

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION  
SERVICES

Introduced By: Representatives Fellela, O'Brien, Ucci, and Costantino

Date Introduced: May 30, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 23-4.1-2 and 23-4.1-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-4.1  
2 entitled "Emergency Medical Transportation Services" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-4.1-2. Ambulance service coordinating advisory board.**

4 (a) The ambulance service coordinating advisory board is hereby created and shall consist  
5 of twenty-five (25) members appointed as set out in this section. The governor shall appoint the  
6 members of the board as follows: (1) ~~Two (2) from the department of health~~ One mayor, town  
7 administrator, town manager or other municipal official recommended by the Rhode Island  
8 league of cities and towns; (2) ~~Seven (7)~~ Eight (8) practicing, licensed emergency medical  
9 technicians as follows: ~~three (3)~~ four (4) from a full-time, paid department, who shall be  
10 recommended from the Rhode Island State Association of Fire Fighters, IAFF, AFL-CIO; two (2)  
11 who are active E.M.S. administrators, one recommended by the Rhode Island Association of Fire  
12 Chiefs and one recommended by the Rhode Island State Firemen's League from a volunteer fire  
13 department; one recommended by the senate president; and one recommended by the speaker of  
14 the house; (3) One from the R.I. Hospital Association; (4) One from the R.I. Medical Society; (5)  
15 One from the R.I. chapter of the American College of Surgeons, committee on trauma; (6) One  
16 from the R.I. chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians; (7) One from the Rhode  
17 Island chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; (8) Two (2) from a professional  
18 ambulance service; (9) Two (2) from the general public; (10) Two (2) from Providence county

1 who are active members of a public ambulance service or fire department rescue squad unit, one  
2 from a full-time paid department and one from a volunteer department; (11) Four (4), one each  
3 from the counties of Kent, Newport, Bristol, and Washington, who shall be members of a public  
4 ambulance service or a fire department rescue squad; and (12) One certified, emergency nurse in  
5 current practice who is a member of the Emergency Room Nurses Association. The members of  
6 the board shall be chosen and shall hold office for five (5) years and until their respective  
7 successors are appointed and qualified. In the month of February in each year, the governor shall  
8 appoint successors to the members of the board whose terms shall expire in that year, to hold  
9 office until the first day of March in the fifth (5th) year after their appointment and until their  
10 respective successors are appointed and qualified. Any vacancy that may occur in the board shall  
11 be filled by appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the  
12 original appointment. Each member may designate a representative to attend in his or her absence  
13 by notifying the chair prior to that meeting of the board. The board shall meet at least quarterly  
14 and to elect its officers annually.

15 (b) The division of emergency medical services of the department of health shall provide  
16 staff support to the board.

17 **23-4.1-7. Standards for ambulance license.**

18 (a) The director of health shall issue regulations to govern the standards of suitability of  
19 ambulances for the transportation of patients from the standpoint of health, sanitation, safety,  
20 communications, maintenance, on-board medical equipment, safety equipment, extraction  
21 equipment, ambulance markings, garaging conditions, and care and condition of the ambulance  
22 and its equipment, and to govern minimum financial capacity of private ambulance service  
23 providers.

24 (b) If a proposed regulation would result in additional mandated costs to local  
25 government, as defined in § 45-13-7, the final regulation shall not be adopted until the senate  
26 committee on health and human services and the house committee on health, education and  
27 welfare, have held a public hearing to assess the proposals.

28 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  
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1           This act would expand membership on the ambulance service coordinating advisory  
2 board to include more representatives from cities and towns.

3           The act would also include a provision for a committee review if a proposed regulation  
4 resulted in increased state mandates.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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