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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: Senators Conley, Lombardo, Ciccone, Lombardi, and Algiere

Date Introduced: June 05, 2019

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

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~~ municipal officials,  
7 including, but not limited to, mayors, town administrators, and town managers, one of whom  
8 shall be recommended by the president of the senate, and one of whom shall be recommended by  
9 the speaker of the house; (2) Seven (7) practicing, licensed emergency medical technicians as  
10 follows: three (3) from a full-time, paid department, who shall be recommended from the Rhode  
11 Island State Association of Fire Fighters, IAFF, AFL-CIO; two (2) who are active E.M.S.  
12 administrators, one recommended by the Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs and one  
13 recommended by the Rhode Island State Firemen's League from a volunteer fire department; one  
14 recommended by the senate president; and one recommended by the speaker of the house; (3)  
15 One from the R.I. Hospital Association; (4) One from the R.I. Medical Society; (5) One from the  
16 R.I. chapter of the American College of Surgeons, committee on trauma; (6) One from the R.I.  
17 chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians; (7) One from the Rhode Island  
18 chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; (8) Two (2) from a professional ambulance

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

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

18 **23-4.1-7. Standards for ambulance license.**

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

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

29 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

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1           This act would replace two (2) employees from the department of health with two (2)  
2 municipal officials on the ambulance service coordinating advisory board. It would also require  
3 senate and house committees to hold public hearings concerning proposed department of health  
4 regulations for ambulance license standards.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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