- 1 HB346
- 2 118265-5
- 3 By Representative Grantland
- 4 RFD: Health
- 5 First Read: 19-JAN-10

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2	ENROLLED, An Act,
3	Relating to the regulation of emergency medical
4	services by the Department of Public Health; to amend Sections
5	22-18-1, 22-18-2, 22-18-3, 22-18-4, 22-18-6, 22-18-8,
6	22-18-40, 22-18-41, and 22-18-42, Code of Alabama 1975; to
7	update language to be consistent with national standards and
8	guidelines; to add a new category of licensure for advanced
9	emergency medical technicians; to define and regulate air
10	ambulances; to add members to the State Emergency Medical
11	Control Committee; and to establish the terms of the members
12	and allow for meetings by electronic means and participation
13	in meetings by designees of members.
14	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
15	Section 1. Sections 22-18-1, 22-18-2, 22-18-3,
16	22-18-4, 22-18-6, and 22-18-8, Code of Alabama 1975, are
17	amended to read as follows:
18	"§22-18-1.
19	"For the purposes of this article, the following
20	terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by
21	this section:
22	"(1) ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN. Any
23	norgan 18 years of ago or older who:

1	"a. has successfully completed the advanced
2	emergency medical technician course of instruction, or its
3	equivalent, as approved by the State Board of Health;
4	"b. has passed the state Advanced EMT examination,
5	as well as having met the requirements for becoming a licensed
6	<pre>emergency medical technician; and</pre>
7	"c. has been granted a license by the State Board of
8	<u>Health.</u>
9	" $\frac{(7)}{(2)}$ ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT $\frac{(ALS)}{(ALS)}$ . The treatment
10	of potentially life-threatening medical emergencies through
11	the use of invasive medical techniques specified as advanced
12	life support techniques by the Board of Health, which
13	ordinarily would be performed or provided by licensed
14	physicians, but which may be performed by <del>emergency medical</del>
15	technicians emergency medical service personnel during
16	emergencies under constraints specified by rule of the board.
17	"(3) AIR AMBULANCE. An aircraft that is intended to
18	be used for and is maintained or operated for transportation
19	to a medical care facility of persons who are sick or injured.
20	For the purposes of this chapter, fixed-wing aircraft that do
21	not conduct scene flights shall not be considered air
22	ambulances.
23	"(8)(4) BOARD or BOARD OF HEALTH. The State Board of
24	Health. BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS). Pre-hospital care involving
25	non-invasive life support measures as specified by the board.

1	"(5) BOARD or BOARD OF HEALTH. The State Board of
2	<u>Health.</u>
3	"(6) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Public
4	<u>Health.</u>
5	"(7) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS). A system of
6	coordinated response to provide pre-hospital emergency aid and
7	medical assistance from primary response to definitive care,
8	involving personnel trained in the rescue, stabilization,
9	transportation, and treatment of sick or injured persons.
10	"(8) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL (EMSP).
11	The collective term used to refer to licensed Emergency
12	Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Technicians
13	Intermediate, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians,
14	Paramedics, and/or any level of licensure as recognized by the
15	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for individuals
16	who provide emergency medical services or who initiate
17	<pre>immediate lifesaving care.</pre>
18	"(4) LICENSED (9) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-BASIC
19	(EMT). Any person 18 years of age or older who:
20	"a. has successfully completed the basic emergency
21	medical technician course of instruction, or its equivalent,
22	as approved by the Board of Health, and;
23	"b. has passed the state EMT-basic examination,; and

<del>who</del>

1	" <u>c.</u> has been granted a <del>current, valid</del> license by the
2	Board of Health.
3	"(1)(10) GROUND AMBULANCE. A motor vehicle including
4	a convalescent ambulance that is intended to be used for and
5	is maintained or operated for transportation to a medical care
6	facility of persons who are sick or injured.
7	" <del>(5)</del> (11) LICENSED EMERGENCY MEDICAL
8	TECHNICIAN-INTERMEDIATE. Any person 18 years of age or older
9	who <del>has</del> prior to December 31, 2002:
10	"a. has successfully completed the intermediate
11	emergency medical technician course of instruction, or its
12	equivalent, as approved by the Board of Health,;
13	" <u>b. has</u> and passed the state EMT-intermediate
14	Intermediate examination, as well as having met the
15	requirements for becoming a licensed emergency medical
16	technician-basic,; and
17	" <u>c.</u> who has been granted a <del>current, valid</del> license by
18	the Board of Health.
19	"(12) NON-TRANSPORT VEHICLE. A vehicle operated with
20	the intent to provide BLS or ALS stabilization on scene, but
21	not intended to transport a patient to a medical care
22	facility.
23	" <del>(6)</del> (13) LICENSED EMERGENCY MEDICAL
24	TECHNICIAN-PARAMEDIC. Any person 18 years of age or older who
25	has successfully completed the EMT-paramedic course of

1	instruction, or its equivalent, as approved by the Board of
2	Health, and passed the state EMT-paramedic examination, $\frac{1}{2}$
3	well as having met the requirements for becoming a licensed
4	emergency medical technician-intermediate, and who has been
5	granted a <del>current, valid</del> license by the Board of Health.
6	" $\frac{(9)}{(14)}$ PATIENT. An individual who receives or
7	requests medical care, or for whom medical care is requested,
8	because the individual is sick or injured.
9	" $\frac{(10)}{(15)}$ PHYSICIAN. An individual licensed to
10	practice medicine by the Medical Licensure Commission of
11	Alabama.
12	"(16) PROVIDER SERVICE. An organization, whether
13	public or private, which provides transport or non-transport
14	<pre>emergency medical services.</pre>
15	"(2) AMBULANCE SERVICE OPERATOR. Any person, firm or
16	corporation engaged in the business of operating a ground
17	ambulance or convalescent ambulance.
18	"(3) LICENSED AMBULANCE DRIVER. Any individual who
19	successfully completes the course of instruction for emergency
20	vehicle operation prescribed by the Board of Health, and who
21	has been granted a current, valid license by the Board of
22	Health.
23	"(17) SCENE FLIGHT. The flight of an air ambulance
24	to the physical location of a sick or injured person.

"(11) CONVALESCENT AMBULANCE. A vehicle that is intended to be used for and is maintained or operated for making non-emergency calls for patients in a recumbent position who require transportation to or from a physician's office, hospital, other health care facility, or residence, provided a convalescent ambulance shall not include a hospital operated vehicle used exclusively for intra hospital facility transfers.

"(18) TRANSPORT VEHICLE. An air or ground ambulance.
"\$22-18-2.

"The provisions of this article shall not apply to volunteer rescue squads that are members of the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads, Inc. and which furnish BLS ambulance service to the public; nor shall the provisions of this chapter apply to businesses or companies which only provide free ambulance service to their employees who require medical attention on business or company grounds; nor shall the provisions of this chapter apply to or govern ambulances owned by the a county, a municipality or any other political subdivision of the state, nor to the drivers of or attendants on such ambulances in Marengo County. The governing body of such county is hereby authorized to prescribe rules and regulations governing ambulance drivers and ambulance attendants, including rules and regulations for their training and qualifications.

1 "\$22-18-3.

"(a) In the manner provided in this section, the
State Board of Health, with advice and recommendation of the
advisory board, shall establish and publish reasonable rules
and regulations for the training, qualification, scope of
privilege, and licensing of ambulance drivers, emergency
medical technicians EMSP, and ambulance service operators
provider services, and for the operation, design, equipment
and licensing of <u>air and ground</u> ambulances <del>and convalescent</del>
ambulances. In adopting rules and regulations, the Board of
Health shall follow the provisions of the Alabama
Administrative Procedure Act, provided, that the board and
shall, in all cases, hold one or more public hearings prior to
adoption, amendment, or rescission of any rule or regulation.
All hearings shall be joint hearings set by the Board of
Health and the advisory board established in Section 22-18-5.
At such hearing, any interested person, firm or corporation or
any member of the public may be heard. Any person, firm or
corporation affected by any regulation, amendment or
rescission hereof may appeal consideration thereof to the
circuit court of Montgomery County pursuant to the provisions
of the Administrative Procedure Act.

"(b) Regulations adopted under this section shall become effective as provided in the Administrative Procedure Act. From any judgment of the circuit court in any case

appealed to it, an appeal shall be made pursuant to the
Administrative Procedure Act.

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"(a) In addition to all other licenses or fees now payable, the Board of Health shall, as prerequisite for issuing a license under the provisions of this article and rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, charge a fee of \$10.00 for each license valid for a period of 24 months issued to the an ambulance driver, emergency medical technician (EMT)-basic, EMT-intermediate or EMT-paramedic EMSP 7 and a fee of \$25.00 for each license issued to a ground ambulance service operator, and a fee of \$25.00 for each license issued to a convalescent service ambulance operator. Licenses in effect on June 29, 1995, shall remain in effect until the expiration date set forth thereon any provider service operating an air or ground ambulance. Each license issued to an ambulance service operator a provider service shall be valid for a period not to exceed 12 calendar months. The same fee shall be charged for renewal of a license as is fixed in this subsection for the original license. No additional fee shall be collected when an EMT EMSP becomes eligible for reclassification of his or her license to a higher level.

"(b) All fees collected under this chapter shall be retained in a separate fund by the Board of Health for the

purpose of enforcing this chapter and shall be disbursed as other funds of the state are disbursed; provided, that no fee or permit charge authorized under this chapter shall be charged or collected for the issuing of a permit to a volunteer rescue squad, as defined in Section 32-11-1, for providing ambulance service on a gratuitous basis, or any member who volunteers his service, unless licensure is requested by the squad, company or individual, whereupon, with the exception of the issuance of a license for the EMT reclassifications, a fee will be charged. An EMT may hold a dual license as an ambulance driver and an EMT at any level for which he or she is eligible for licensure, and there shall be no license fee imposed other than that imposed for an EMT license.

"(b)(c) Any person desiring EMSP licensure as an EMT shall complete an approved EMT course EMSP course as defined by regulations of the Board of Health, successfully pass the appropriate level licensure examination as determined by the Board of Health, and submit an application to the board. An approved EMT EMSP course for any level shall be a course conforming to the curriculum for that level approved by the United States Department of Transportation, or approved by any other federal agency as may, in the future, take jurisdiction over EMT EMSP training curriculum development. A curriculum may be required to be supplemented with additional modules if:

1	" <del>(1) The</del> <u>the</u> modules are optional modules approved
2	by the United States Department of Transportation, or its
3	successor as specified above, and the optional modules are
4	prescribed by rule by the board pursuant to the Alabama
5	Administrative Procedure Act.

"(2) The modules, though not included in the federally approved curriculum for a particular level of training, have been required in Alabama for emergency medical technician training at that level on or before January 1, 1995.

"(3) The modules are necessary to train EMTs in the use of new procedures, devices, techniques, or drugs which may be approved by the board for use by EMTs.

"(c)(d) No air or ground ambulance and no convalescent ambulance shall be operated for ambulance purposes and no individual shall fly, drive, operate, attend or permit same to be operated for the purpose of transporting a patient from any point within the State of Alabama to any other point within the State of Alabama unless such ambulance or convalescent ambulance is duly licensed by the Board of Health and unless it shall be under the immediate supervision and direction of a person who is holding a currently valid license as an emergency medical technician or as a physician. The Board of Health may prescribe exceptions to this requirement consistent with the interests of public health.

1	Any ground ambulance or convalescent ambulance shall at all
2	times be driven by a person holding a current, valid driver's
3	license as an ambulance driver and who has passed the
4	Emergency Vehicle Operator Course approved by the Board of
5	Health, or the Apparatus Operator's Course taught by the
6	Alahama Fire College

7 "\$22-18-6.

- "(a) It shall be a Class A misdemeanor for any person, firm, company, corporation, organization, facility, or agency to do any of the following:
- "(1) Deliberately hinder, obstruct, or interfere with an officer, inspector, or duly authorized agent of the board while in the performance of official duties.
- "(2) Deliberately hinder, obstruct, or interfere with any physician, licensed nurse, licensed emergency personnel EMSP, or emergency personnel exempt from licensure under the provisions of this article while that person is providing emergency care to a third person or while that person is assisting at the scene of an emergency, directing traffic at the scene of an emergency, or managing or helping to manage the scene of an emergency.
  - "(3) Violate subsections (c) or (d) of this section.
- "(4) Offer, provide, or perform, without a valid, current license or certificate to do so, an emergency medical service or other function which, under the provisions of this

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article or the rules adopted pursuant thereto, may not be

performed without a license or certificate issued by the Board

of Health. No person shall be subject to criminal liability

pursuant to this section in the event he or she renders first

aid or emergency care at the scene of an injury caused by a

motor vehicle crash or by some other incident, or at the scene

of a mass casualty or disaster if:

"a. The first aid or emergency care is rendered gratuitously and in good faith; and

"b. The first aid or emergency care is not rendered in the course of a business, program, or system which regularly engages in the provision of emergency medical care.

- "(b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to repeal, abridge, or modify Section 6-5-332 or any other good Samaritan statute.
- "(c) No person shall regularly engage in providing emergency medical care at the scene of emergencies unless he or she is a licensed emergency medical technician as EMSP as defined in this article, or unless he or she is exempted from licensure pursuant to the provisions of this article.

  Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit any physician or nurse licensed in Alabama from performing any act within his or her scope of practice. No person shall hold himself or herself out to be an emergency medical technician EMSP, unless he or she is a

licensed emergency medical technician as such as defined in
this chapter. Provided, that emergency medical technicians

EMSP licensed in other jurisdictions may identify themselves
as holding such licensure.

- "(d) The board shall by rule establish the scope of privilege for each level of emergency medical technician EMSP licensure. No person shall exceed the scope of privilege granted to his or her level of licensure.
- "(e) Control of an emergency scene may be taken by an emergency medical technician or other emergency personnel EMSP if the personnel arrive at the scene of an emergency prior to the arrival of law enforcement personnel, and if managing the emergency scene will not interfere with other emergency medical care duties. Emergency scene control shall include the authority to direct traffic. A driver of a motor vehicle entering an emergency scene or entering a roadway adjacent to an emergency scene shall use caution, shall maintain proper control of the motor vehicle, and shall obey the directions of law enforcement personnel and emergency personnel at the scene. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a violation.
- "(f) The board may, following the contested case provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, suspend or revoke the license or certificate of an ambulance driver, an emergency medical technician EMSP at any level, or an

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1	ambulance service operator a provider service, or it may
2	refuse to grant a license or certificate to any person or
3	entity at any time that any of the following is determined
4	with respect to the holder or applicant:

- 5 "(1) Does not meet or no longer meets the prescribed 6 qualifications.
  - "(2) Is guilty of misconduct as defined by the board's rules or otherwise commits a violation of this act or any rules promulgated thereunder.
    - "(3) Has failed to maintain the required level of continuing education units or any equivalent therefor defined in the board's rules.
    - "(4) Has provided care to a patient or patients under his or her care which falls short of the standard of care which ordinarily would be expected to be provided by similarly situated EMS personnel EMSP in Alabama, and has thereby jeopardized the life, health, or safety of a patient or patients.
    - "(5) Has sexually or physically abused a patient under his or her care.
  - "(6) Has submitted a license or test application, a report of continuing education requirements, a run report, a patient care record, EMT EMSP student record, clinical rotation record, intent to train form, self-study document, fluid and drug application, physician medication order form,

1	or any other document which is material to the duties and
2	qualifications of $\frac{EMS}{P}$ personnel $\frac{EMSP}{P}$ or those of a student in
3	an $\overline{\mathtt{EMT}}$ $\overline{\mathtt{EMSP}}$ training program and which is fraudulent or
4	knowingly false in any respect.

- "(7) Has committed fraud in the performance of his or her duties or in connection with any matter related to emergency medical services.
- "(8) Has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, or a crime in which the victim is an EMS EMSP provider organization service or an EMS patient, unless the board determines that the fact of the conviction would not be likely to interfere with the performance of EMS duties.
- "(9) Has performed any act requiring licensure or certification under state EMS statutes, without possession of the requisite licensure or certification.
- "(10) Has performed any act which exceeds the scope of license or privilege granted to the holder.

18 "\$22-18-8.

"In those instances in which an ambulance service operator, ambulance driver, ambulance attendant, ambulance driver-attendant, or emergency medical technician EMSP of any municipality, county, fire district, or the state is are employed by the State of Alabama, any county, fire district, or another municipality, within 24 months after completing the training requirements mandated by this chapter, or by rules

1	adopted by the <del>Alabama Committee on Public Health</del> <u>board</u> , the
2	total expense of the training, including, but not limited to,
3	salary paid during training, transportation costs paid to the
4	trainee for travel to and from the training facility, room,
5	board, tuition, overtime paid to other employees who fill in
6	for the trainee during his or her absence, and any other
7	related training expenses, shall be reimbursed to the
8	municipality, county, fire district, or the state which paid
9	for the training. The municipality, county, fire district, or
10	the state which paid for the training shall submit an itemized
11	sworn statement to the new employer of the ambulance service
12	operator, ambulance driver, ambulance attendant, ambulance
13	driver-attendant, or emergency medical technician, as the case
14	may be EMSP, shall demand payment thereof, and may enforce
15	collection of the obligation through civil remedies and
16	procedures. The terms "ambulance service operator," "ambulance
17	driver," "ambulance attendant," "ambulance driver-attendant,"
18	and "emergency medical technician," "EMSP" shall have the same
19	meanings meaning as in Section 22-18-1."
20	Section 2. Sections 22-18-40, 22-18-41, and
21	22-18-42, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as
22	follows:
23	"§22-18-40.

rules and policy pertaining to emergency medical services by

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"<a>(a)</a> The board shall be assisted in formulating

1	the State Emergency Medical Control Committee (SEMCC). Members
2	of the SEMCC shall serve without compensation but shall be
3	entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the
4	performance of the duties of their office at the same rate
5	paid state employees. The chair of SEMCC may establish
6	subcommittees of SEMCC comprised of representatives from
7	ambulance, fire, rescue, and other EMS groups, as needed.
8	"(b) The SEMCC shall be composed as follows:
9	"(1) The medical directors of each regional EMS
10	agency region designated by the board as ex officio members
11	with voting privileges.
12	"(2) One member who shall be appointed by the

"(2) One member who shall be appointed by the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

- "(3) One member who shall be appointed by the State Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons.
- "(4) One member who shall be appointed by the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- "(5) The State EMS Medical Director, <u>as an ex</u> officio member with voting privileges, who shall serve as its chair.
- "(6) The State Trauma Consultant if a physician is designated as such by the Board of Health or pursuant to other procedure established by law as an ex officio member with voting privileges.

Τ	"(/) One member who shall be an Alabama physician				
2	appointed by the Alabama Chapter of the Association of Air				
3	Medical Services.				
4	"(8) The Chair of the State EMS Advisory Board, as				
5	ex officio member with no voting privileges.				
6	"(9) One member who shall be appointed by the				
7	Alabama Hospital Association.				
8	"(c) Each representative shall serve for a period of				
9	four years or until his or her successor is appointed,				
10	whichever is sooner.				
11	"(d) Any vacancy shall be filled by the organization				
12	selecting the vacating member. In case of a vacancy, the new				
13	appointee shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.				
14	"(e) Each ex officio member's term will be				
15	<u>indefinite.</u>				
16	"(f) The SEMCC may meet and vote by electronic				
17	means and votes may be taken by proxy. Those members				
18	participating by electronic means shall be counted toward a				
19	quorum. A quorum is established by attending in person or by				
20	electronic means. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the				
21	membership. With the consent of a majority of the members, the				
22	chair shall set requirements for proxy representation, voting,				
23	and the establishment of a quorum.				

"(g) The membership of the SEMCC shall be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.

"\$22-18-41.

- "(a) The board may by rule designate certain procedures as "advanced life support techniques," which may be performed by EMTS EMSP during emergencies, such as situations where the life, health, or safety of a prehospital patient is in immediate jeopardy. The board may prescribe by rule the qualifications and certification necessary for personnel performing advanced life support techniques, and the specific conditions under which the techniques may be performed by emergency medical technicians EMSP. Notwithstanding any statutory provision to the contrary, emergency medical services personnel EMSP who possess the necessary qualifications and certification prescribed by the board shall not be deemed to have engaged in the unlawful practice of medicine when performing advanced life support techniques in accordance with the constraints established by the board.
- "(b) Emergency vehicles manned by licensed emergency medical technicians who are trained to provide advanced life support and who possess current board licensure, may carry a drug kit containing limited quantities of drugs, including controlled substances, which have been approved by the board for administration to patients during the regular course of

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duties of prehospital personnel, provided, that these drugs may be administered only pursuant to the order of a physician who possesses a valid license to practice medicine within this state, and who is, at the time the order is given, functioning in accordance with the applicable regional medical control plan approved by the board. Fluids and drugs may not be carried only by any ambulance a properly licensed provider service operator or other emergency medical services provider without a certificate of fluid and drug authorization from the board. The board may offer a certificate of fluid and drug authorization to a non-transport service which is not licensed if the unlicensed non-transport service meets all requirements in the board's rules for issuance of a certificate to a licensed ambulance operator. A licensed emergency medical services provider service may purchase necessary drugs and fluids pursuant to proper authorization from any reliable source, including wholesalers, distributors, and hospitals. Emergency medical services providers Provider services shall purchase, maintain, and administer fluids and drugs in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board.

"(c) Emergency medical technicians EMSP may not perform services only pursuant to standing orders from physicians without prior approval of the board the protocols approved by the board. Emergency medical technicians EMSP may accept orders to perform advanced life support techniques only

from medical control direction physicians who have completed
medical control direction training prescribed by the board on
the recommendation of the SEMCC and the State Health Officer
and holds a current medical direction number.

"§22-18-42.

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"This chapter shall govern and it shall authorize the Board of Health to regulate only emergency medical care provided outside of hospitals, emergency medical technicians EMSP who provide care outside of hospitals, ambulance drivers, ambulance service operators, provider services ground ambulances, convalescent air ambulances, ALS non-transport services, the training of ambulance drivers and emergency medical technicians EMSP who provide care outside of hospitals, and orders given for emergency medical care to be provided outside of hospitals. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, authorized drugs and fluids for emergency medical care and services may be purchased from any reliable source, including wholesalers, distributors, and hospitals. To the extent medical care and nursing care provided within hospitals is governed by other provisions of law, these those provisions of law shall not be construed to have been repealed, amended, abridged, or otherwise altered by this chapter."

## НВ346

1		Section 3.	This act	shall become	effective on the
2	first day	of the thi	rd month	following its	passage and
3	approval k	ov the Gove	ernor, or	its otherwise	becoming law.

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4	Speaker of the House of Representatives
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6	President and Presiding Officer of the Senate
7	House of Representatives
8 9 10	I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 23-FEB-10, as amended.
11 12 13	Greg Pappas Clerk
14	
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16	Senate 08-APR-10 Passed
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