

1           HB141  
2           211142-2  
3           By Representative Sells  
4           RFD: Health  
5           First Read: 02-FEB-21  
6           PFD: 01/26/2021

ENGROSSED

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

## AN ACT

Relating to emergency medical services; to amend Section 22-18-1, Code of Alabama 1975, and to add Section 22-18-10 to the Code of Alabama 1975; to authorize the State Board of Health to establish and administer a community paramedicine program that allows paramedics to provide certain services to patients; to authorize rulemaking; and to revise definitions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 22-18-1, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§22-18-1.

"For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

"(1) ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN. Any person individual who is an emergency medical services personnel and is 18 years of age or older, and who satisfies all of the following:

"a. Has successfully completed the advanced emergency medical technician course of instruction, or its equivalent, as approved by the ~~State Board of Health~~ board.

"b. Has passed the state Advanced EMT examination, as well as having met the requirements for becoming a licensed emergency medical technician.

"c. Has been granted a license by the ~~State Board of~~ Health board.

"(2) ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS). The treatment of potentially life-threatening medical emergencies through the use of invasive medical techniques specified as advanced life support techniques by the ~~Board of Health~~ board, which ordinarily would be performed or provided by licensed physicians, but which may be performed by emergency medical service personnel during emergencies under constraints specified by rule of the board.

"(3) AIR AMBULANCE. An aircraft that is intended to be used for and is maintained or operated for transportation to a medical care facility of persons who are sick or injured. For the purposes of this chapter, fixed-wing aircraft that do not conduct scene flights shall not be considered air ambulances.

"(4) BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS). Prehospital care involving non-invasive life support measures as specified by the board.

"(5) BOARD or BOARD OF HEALTH. The State Board of Health.

"(6) COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC. An individual who is an emergency medical services personnel and is 18 years of age or older, and who satisfies all of the following:

"a. Is currently licensed as a paramedic.

"b. Has at least two years of full-time service as a paramedic.

"c. Has successfully completed a community paramedic training program from an accredited college or university approved by the board.

"d. Has passed the state community paramedic examination and has met the requirements for becoming a licensed community paramedic.

"e. Has been granted a license by the board.

"(7) COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM. The provision of episodic care, patient evaluation, advice, and treatment directed at preventing or improving a particular medical condition, within the scope of practice of the emergency medical services personnel.

"(8) DEFINITIVE CARE FACILITY. A facility that has the capability to render care to conclusively manage a patient's current medical condition. The term includes, but is not limited to, urgent care facilities, family practice facilities, doctor's offices, and emergency departments.

"~~(6)~~(9) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Public Health.

"(7) (10) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS). A system of coordinated ~~response to provide prehospital emergency aid~~

1 and medical assistance from primary response to definitive  
2 care, involving personnel trained in the rescue,  
3 stabilization, transportation, and treatment of sick or  
4 injured persons medical assistance and care provided by  
5 emergency medical services personnel, including:

6 "a. The transportation and medical care provided to  
7 sick or injured individuals before arrival at a definitive  
8 care facility.

9 "b. Continuation of care within a definitive care  
10 facility subject to the approval from that facility.

11 "c. Integrated medical care with the oversight of a  
12 medical director.

13 ~~(8)~~ (11) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL (EMSP). The collective term used to refer to ~~licensed emergency~~  
14 ~~medical technicians, emergency medical technicians~~  
15 ~~intermediate, advanced emergency medical technicians,~~  
16 ~~paramedics, and any level of licensure as recognized by the~~  
17 ~~all recognized National Highway Traffic Safety Administration~~  
18 ~~for individuals levels of personnel licensed by the board, who~~  
19 ~~have met all primary and renewal educational requirements, and~~  
20 ~~who provide emergency or non-emergency medical services or who~~  
21 ~~initiate immediate lifesaving care within the level of their~~  
22 ~~scope of practice and in accordance with the applicable EMS~~  
23 Patient Care Protocols.

25 " ~~(9)~~ (12) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT). Any  
26 ~~person~~ An individual who is an emergency medical services

1 personnel and is 18 years of age or older, and who satisfies  
2 all of the following:

3 "a. Has successfully completed the basic emergency  
4 medical technician course of instruction, or its equivalent,  
5 as approved by the ~~Board of Health~~ board.

6 "b. Has passed the state EMT examination.

7 "c. Has been granted a license by the ~~Board of~~  
8 Health board.

9 "(13) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-INTERMEDIATE. An  
10 individual who is an emergency medical services personnel and  
11 is 18 years of age or older, and who, prior to December 31,  
12 2002, satisfies all of the following:

13 "a. Has successfully completed the intermediate  
14 emergency medical technician course of instruction, or its  
15 equivalent, as approved by the board.

16 "b. Has passed the state EMT Intermediate  
17 examination and has met the requirements for becoming a  
18 licensed emergency medical technician.

19 "c. Has been granted a license by the board.

20 "(10) (14) GROUND AMBULANCE. A motor vehicle that is  
21 intended to be used for and is maintained or operated for  
22 transportation to a medical care facility of ~~persons~~  
23 individuals who are sick or injured.

24 "(11) LICENSED EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
25 TECHNICIAN-INTERMEDIATE. Any person 18 years of age or older  
26 who, prior to December 31, 2002, satisfies all of the  
27 following:

1                   "a. Has successfully completed the intermediate  
2                   emergency medical technician course of instruction, or its  
3                   equivalent, as approved by the Board of Health.

4                   "ub. Has passed the state EMT Intermediate  
5                   examination, as well as having met the requirements for  
6                   becoming a licensed emergency medical technician.

7                   "uc. has been granted a license by the Board of  
8                   Health.

9                   "(12) (15) NON-TRANSPORT VEHICLE. A vehicle operated  
10                  with the intent to provide BLS or ALS stabilization on scene,  
11                  but not intended to transport a patient to a medical care  
12                  facility.

13                  "(13) (16) PARAMEDIC. Any person individual who is an  
14                  emergency medical services personnel and is 18 years of age or  
15                  older, and who has successfully completed the paramedic course  
16                  of instruction, or its equivalent, as approved by the Board of  
17                  Health board, and passed the state EMT-paramedic examination,  
18                  and who has been granted a license by the Board of Health  
19                  board.

20                  "(14) (17) PATIENT. An individual who receives or  
21                  requests medical care, or for whom medical care is requested,  
22                  because the individual is sick or injured.

23                  "(15) (18) PHYSICIAN. An individual licensed to  
24                  practice medicine or osteopathy by the Medical Licensure  
25                  Commission of Alabama.

26                  "(19) PROGRAM MEDICAL DIRECTOR. A physician who has  
27                  completed the approved EMS Medical Director course and

1                   provides medical direction and oversight to emergency medical  
2                   services personnel.

3                   "~~(16)~~(20) PROVIDER SERVICE. An organization, whether  
4                   public or private, which provides transport or non-transport  
5                   emergency medical services.

6                   "~~(17)~~(21) SCENE FLIGHT. The flight of an air  
7                   ambulance to the physical location of a sick or injured ~~person~~  
8                   individual.

9                   "~~(18)~~(22) TRANSPORT VEHICLE. An air or ground  
10                  ambulance."

11                  Section 2. Section 22-18-10 is added to the Code of  
12                  Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

13                  §22-18-10.

14                  (a) The board may establish and administer a  
15                  community paramedicine program to authorize paramedics to  
16                  provide community paramedic services under the direction and  
17                  oversight of the program medical director, as further provided  
18                  in this section.

19                  (b) The criteria for which an individual is eligible  
20                  as a patient for a community paramedicine program includes,  
21                  but is not limited to, any of the following:

22                  (1) The individual has been discharged from a  
23                  definitive care facility, and has declined or is not eligible  
24                  for home health or hospice services.

25                  (2) The individual has been identified as a patient  
26                  for whom community paramedic services would likely prevent

1 admission or readmission to, or allow discharge from, a  
2 definitive care facility.

3 (3) The individual has been referred to the  
4 community paramedicine program to receive preventive services.

5 (c) Community paramedic services include, but are  
6 not limited to:

7 (1) Coordination of community services.

8 (2) Chronic disease monitoring and education.

9 (3) Health assessment.

10 (4) Hospital discharge follow-up care.

11 (5) Laboratory specimen collection.

12 (6) Medication compliance.

13 (d) A community paramedic shall document and submit  
14 all services provided in accordance with the applicable  
15 patient care reporting rules or other rules as prescribed by  
16 the board.

17 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
18 allow a community paramedic to practice medicine or surgery,  
19 to make a diagnosis, or to prescribe drugs.

20 (f) The board shall adopt rules to implement this  
21 section, including, but not limited to, the length of time  
22 after discharge a patient is eligible for community paramedic  
23 services.

24 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the  
25 first day of the third month following its passage and  
26 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

## House of Representatives

Read for the first time and referred to the House of Representatives committee on Health .....	.....	02-FEB-21
Read for the second time and placed on the calendar.....	.....	24-FEB-21
Read for the third time and passed as amended.....	.....	16-MAR-21

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk