

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:

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~~ board.

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

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

9 "(2) ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS). The treatment of
10 potentially life-threatening medical emergencies through the
11 use of invasive medical techniques specified as advanced life
12 support techniques by the ~~Board of Health~~ board, which
13 ordinarily would be performed or provided by licensed
14 physicians, but which may be performed by emergency medical
15 service personnel during emergencies under constraints
16 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 "(4) BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS). Prehospital care
24 involving non-invasive life support measures as specified by
25 the board.

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

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

4 "a. Is currently licensed as a paramedic.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 ~~"(6)~~(9) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Public
25 Health.

26 ~~"(7)~~(10) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS). A system
27 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).
14 The collective term used to refer to ~~licensed emergency~~
15 ~~medical technicians, emergency medical technicians~~
16 ~~intermediate, advanced emergency medical technicians,~~
17 ~~paramedics, and any level of licensure as recognized by the~~
18 all recognized National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
19 ~~for individuals~~ levels of personnel licensed by the board, who
20 have met all primary and renewal educational requirements, and
21 who provide emergency or non-emergency medical services or who
22 ~~initiate immediate lifesaving care~~ within the level of their
23 scope of practice and in accordance with the applicable EMS
24 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 ~~"b. Has passed the state EMT Intermediate~~
5 ~~examination, as well as having met the requirements for~~
6 ~~becoming a licensed emergency medical technician.~~

7 ~~"c. 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.

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-
ferred to the House of Representa-
tives 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

Yeas 98, Nays 0, Abstains 1

Jeff Woodard
Clerk