

House Bill 518

By: Representatives Wilensky of the 79th, Frye of the 118th, Hawkins of the 27th, Stephens of the 164th, and Beverly of the 143rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 emergency medical services, so as to authorize adjacent municipalities that would qualify for
3 seven or more ground ambulances to request that territory be established concurrent with the
4 boundaries of adjacent municipalities; to provide for a hearing; to provide for related matters;
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency
9 medical services, is amended by revising Code Section 31-11-3, relating to recommendations
10 by local coordinating entity as to administration of EMSC Program and hearing and appeal,
11 as follows:

12 "31-11-3.

13 (a) The Board of Public Health shall have the authority on behalf of the state to designate
14 and contract with a public or nonprofit local entity to coordinate and administer the EMSC
15 Program for each health district designated by the Department of Public Health. The local
16 coordinating entity thus designated shall be responsible for recommending to the board or
17 its designee the manner in which the EMSC Program is to be conducted. In making its
18 recommendations, the local coordinating entity shall give priority to making the EMSC
19 Program function as efficiently and economically as possible. Each licensed ambulance
20 provider in the health district shall have the opportunity to participate in the EMSC
21 Program.

22 (b) The local coordinating entity shall request from each licensed ambulance provider in
23 its health district a written description of the territory in which it can respond to emergency
24 calls, based upon the provider's average response time from its base location within such
25 territory; and such written description shall be due within ten days of the request by the
26 local coordinating entity.

27 (c) After receipt of the written descriptions of territory in which the ambulance providers
28 propose to respond to emergency calls, the local coordinating entity shall within ten days
29 recommend in writing to the board or its designee the territories within the health district
30 to be serviced by the ambulance providers; and at this same time the local coordinating
31 entity shall also recommend the method for distributing emergency calls among the
32 providers, based primarily on the considerations of economy, efficiency, and benefit to the
33 public welfare. Upon request to a local coordinating entity by adjacent municipalities that
34 would qualify for seven or more ground ambulances based on call volume that a territory
35 be established concurrent with the boundaries of the adjacent municipalities, the local
36 coordinating entity shall include such municipal territory in its recommendations to the
37 board or its designee. The recommendation of the local coordinating entity shall be
38 forwarded immediately to the board or its designee for approval or modification of the
39 territorial zones and method of distributing calls among ambulance providers participating
40 in the EMSC Program in the health district.

41 (d) The board, or its designee, is empowered to conduct a hearing into the
42 recommendations made by the local coordinating entity, and such hearing shall be
43 conducted according to the procedures set forth in Code Section 31-5-2; provided,
44 however, that a board shall conduct a hearing if the recommendations from the local
45 coordinating entity include a request to establish a municipal territory as authorized in
46 subsection (c) of this Code section.

47 (e) The recommendations of the local coordinating entity, including the designation of a
48 municipal territory, shall not be modified unless the board or its designee shall find, after
49 a hearing, that the determination of the ~~district health director~~ local coordinating entity is
50 not consistent with operation of the EMSC Program in an efficient, economical manner that
51 benefits the public welfare. The decision of the board or its designee shall be rendered as
52 soon as possible and shall be final and conclusive concerning the operation of the EMSC
53 Program; and appeal from such decision shall be pursuant to Code Section 31-5-3.

54 (f) The local coordinating entity shall begin administering the EMSC Program in accord
55 with the decision by the board or its designee immediately after the decision by the board
56 or its designee regarding the approval or modification of the recommendations made by the
57 local coordinating entity; and the EMSC Program shall be operated in such manner pending
58 the resolution of any appeals filed pursuant to Code Section 31-5-3.

59 (g) This Code section shall not apply to air ambulances or air ambulance services."

60

SECTION 2.

61 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.