

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

3 SENATE BILL 1764

By: Rosino

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to emergency response systems;  
8 amending 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2503, as last  
9 amended by Section 1, Chapter 93, O.S.L. 2019 (63  
10 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 1-2503), which relates to  
11 definitions; eliminating geographical restrictions on  
12 stretcher vans; and providing an effective date.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2503, as  
15 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 93, O.S.L. 2019 (63 O.S. Supp.  
16 2019, Section 1-2503), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1-2503. As used in the Oklahoma Emergency Response  
18 Systems Development Act:

19 1. "Ambulance" means any ground, air or water vehicle which is  
20 or should be approved by the State Commissioner of Health, designed  
21 and equipped to transport a patient or patients and to provide  
22 appropriate on-scene and en route patient stabilization and care as  
23 required. Vehicles used as ambulances shall meet such standards as  
24 may be required by the Commissioner for approval, and shall display  
evidence of such approval at all times;

1           2. "Ambulance authority" means any public trust or nonprofit  
2 corporation established by the state or any unit of local government  
3 or combination of units of government for the express purpose of  
4 providing, directly or by contract, emergency medical services in a  
5 specified area of the state;

6           3. "Ambulance patient" or "patient" means any person who is or  
7 will be transported in a reclining position to or from a health care  
8 facility in an ambulance;

9           4. "Ambulance service" means any private firm or governmental  
10 agency which is or should be licensed by the State Department of  
11 Health to provide levels of medical care based on certification  
12 standards promulgated by the Commissioner;

13           5. "Ambulance service district" means any county, group of  
14 counties or parts of counties formed together to provide, operate  
15 and finance emergency medical services as provided by Section 9C of  
16 Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution or Sections 1201 through 1221  
17 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

18           6. "Board" means the State Board of Health;

19           7. "Certified emergency medical responder" means an individual  
20 certified by the Department to perform emergency medical services in  
21 accordance with the Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems Development  
22 Act and in accordance with the rules and standards promulgated by  
23 the Commissioner;

1 8. "Certified emergency medical response agency" means an  
2 organization of any type certified by the Department to provide  
3 emergency medical care, but not transport. Certified emergency  
4 medical response agencies may utilize certified emergency medical  
5 responders or licensed emergency medical personnel; provided,  
6 however, that all personnel so utilized shall function under the  
7 direction of and consistent with guidelines for medical control;

8 9. "Classification" means an inclusive standardized  
9 identification of stabilizing and definitive emergency services  
10 provided by each hospital that treats emergency patients;

11 10. "CoAEMSP" means the Committee on Accreditation of  
12 Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions;

13 11. "Commissioner" means the State Commissioner of Health;

14 12. "Council" means the Trauma and Emergency Response Advisory  
15 Council created in Section 1-103a.1 of this title;

16 13. "Critical care paramedic" or "CCP" means a licensed  
17 paramedic who has successfully completed critical care training and  
18 testing requirements in accordance with the Oklahoma Emergency  
19 Response Systems Development Act and in accordance with the rules  
20 and standards promulgated by the Commissioner;

21 14. "Department" means the State Department of Health;

22 15. "Emergency medical services system" means a system which  
23 provides for the organization and appropriate designation of  
24 personnel, facilities and equipment for the effective and

1 coordinated local, regional and statewide delivery of health care  
2 services primarily under emergency conditions;

3 16. "Letter of review" means the official designation from  
4 CoAEMSP to a paramedic program that is in the "becoming accredited"  
5 process;

6 17. "Licensed emergency medical personnel" means an emergency  
7 medical technician (EMT), an intermediate, an advanced emergency  
8 medical technician (AEMT), or a paramedic licensed by the Department  
9 to perform emergency medical services in accordance with the  
10 Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems Development Act and the rules  
11 and standards promulgated by the Commissioner;

12 18. "Licensure" means the licensing of emergency medical care  
13 providers and ambulance services pursuant to rules and standards  
14 promulgated by the Commissioner at one or more of the following  
15 levels:

- 16 a. Basic life support,
- 17 b. Intermediate life support,
- 18 c. Paramedic life support,
- 19 d. Advanced life support,
- 20 e. Stretcher van, and
- 21 f. Specialty care, which shall be used solely for  
22 interhospital transport of patients requiring  
23 specialized en route medical monitoring and advanced  
24 life support which exceed the capabilities of the

1 equipment and personnel provided by paramedic life  
2 support.

3 Requirements for each level of care shall be established by the  
4 Commissioner. Licensure at any level of care includes a license to  
5 operate at any lower level, with the exception of licensure for  
6 specialty care; provided, however, that the highest level of care  
7 offered by an ambulance service shall be available twenty-four (24)  
8 hours each day, three hundred sixty-five (365) days per year.

9 Licensure shall be granted or renewed for such periods and under  
10 such terms and conditions as may be promulgated by the Commissioner;

11 19. "Medical control" means local, regional or statewide  
12 medical direction and quality assurance of health care delivery in  
13 an emergency medical service system. On-line medical control is the  
14 medical direction given to licensed emergency medical personnel,  
15 certified emergency medical responders and stretcher van personnel  
16 by a physician via radio or telephone. Off-line medical control is  
17 the establishment and monitoring of all medical components of an  
18 emergency medical service system, which is to include stretcher van  
19 service including, but not limited to, protocols, standing orders,  
20 educational programs, and the quality and delivery of on-line  
21 control;

22 20. "Medical director" means a physician, fully licensed  
23 without restriction, who acts as a paid or volunteer medical advisor  
24 to a licensed ambulance service and who monitors and directs the

1 care so provided. Such physicians shall meet such qualifications  
2 and requirements as may be promulgated by the Commissioner;

3 21. "Region" or "emergency medical service region" means two or  
4 more municipalities, counties, ambulance districts or other  
5 political subdivisions exercising joint control over one or more  
6 providers of emergency medical services and stretcher van service  
7 through common ordinances, authorities, boards or other means;

8 22. "Regional emergency medical services system" means a  
9 network of organizations, individuals, facilities and equipment  
10 which serves a region, subject to a unified set of regional rules  
11 and standards which may exceed, but may not be in contravention of,  
12 those required by the state, which is under the medical direction of  
13 a single regional medical director, and which participates directly  
14 in the delivery of the following services:

- 15 a. medical call-taking and emergency medical services  
16 dispatching, emergency and routine, including priority  
17 dispatching of first response agencies, stretcher van  
18 and ambulances,  
19 b. emergency medical responder services provided by  
20 emergency medical response agencies,  
21 c. ambulance services, both emergency, routine and  
22 stretcher van including, but not limited to, the  
23 transport of patients in accordance with transport  
24

1 protocols approved by the regional medical director,  
2 and

3 d. directions given by physicians directly via radio or  
4 telephone, or by written protocol, to emergency  
5 medical response agencies, stretcher van or ambulance  
6 personnel at the scene of an emergency or while en  
7 route to a hospital;

8 23. "Regional medical director" means a licensed physician, who  
9 meets or exceeds the qualifications of a medical director as defined  
10 by the Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems Development Act, chosen  
11 by an emergency medical service region to provide external medical  
12 oversight, quality control and related services to that region;

13 24. "Registration" means the listing of an ambulance service in  
14 a registry maintained by the Department; provided, however,  
15 registration shall not be deemed to be a license;

16 25. "Stretcher van" means any ground vehicle which is or should  
17 be approved by the State Commissioner of Health, which is designed  
18 and equipped to transport individuals on a stretcher or gurney type  
19 apparatus. Vehicles used as stretcher vans shall meet such  
20 standards as may be required by the Commissioner for approval and  
21 shall display evidence of licensure at all times. The Commissioner  
22 shall not establish Federal Specification KKK-A-1822 ambulance  
23 standards for stretcher vans; provided, a stretcher van shall meet  
24 Ambulance Manufacturers Division (AMD) Standards 004, 012 and 013,

1 and shall pass corresponding safety tests. Stretcher van services  
2 shall ~~only~~ be permitted and approved by the Commissioner ~~in~~  
3 ~~emergency medical service regions, ambulance service districts, or~~  
4 ~~counties with populations in excess of five hundred thousand~~  
5 ~~(500,000) people.~~ There shall be no geographical restrictions on  
6 stretcher van services. Notwithstanding the provisions of this  
7 paragraph, stretcher van transports may be made to and from any  
8 federal or state veterans facility. Stretcher vans may carry and  
9 provide oxygen and may carry and utilize any equipment necessary for  
10 the provision of oxygen;

11 26. "Stretcher van passenger" means any person who is or will  
12 be transported in a reclining position on a stretcher or gurney, who  
13 is medically stable, nonemergent and does not require any medical  
14 monitoring equipment or assistance during transport except oxygen.  
15 Passengers must be authorized as qualified to be transported by  
16 stretcher van. Passengers shall be authorized through screening  
17 provided by a certified medical dispatching protocol approved by the  
18 Department. All patients being transported to or from any medically  
19 licensed facility shall be screened before transport. Any patient  
20 transported without screening shall be a violation of ~~Commissioner~~  
21 administrative rule by the transporting company and subject to  
22 administrative procedures of the Department; and

23 27. "Transport protocol" means the written instructions  
24 governing decision-making at the scene of a medical emergency by



1 ambulance personnel regarding the selection of the hospital to which  
2 the patient shall be transported. Transport protocols shall be  
3 developed by the regional medical director for a regional emergency  
4 medical services system or by the Department if no regional  
5 emergency medical services system has been established. Such  
6 transport protocols shall adhere to, at a minimum, the following  
7 guidelines:

- 8 a. nonemergency, routine transport shall be to the  
9 facility of the patient's choice,
- 10 b. urgent or emergency transport not involving life-  
11 threatening medical illness or injury shall be to the  
12 nearest facility, or, subject to transport  
13 availability and system area coverage, to the facility  
14 of the patient's choice, and
- 15 c. life-threatening medical illness or injury shall  
16 require transport to the nearest health care facility  
17 appropriate to the needs of the patient as established  
18 by regional or state guidelines.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.  
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