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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - AMBULANCE LICENSES

Introduced By: Representative Scott Slater

Date Introduced: February 25, 2010

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 23-4.1-6 and 23-4.1-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-4.1
2 entitled "Emergency Medical Transportation Services" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-4.1-6. Licensing of ambulances and ambulance service.** -- (a) A person shall not
4 engage in the business or service of the transportation of patients upon any public way of the state
5 unless that person holds a license issued by the director of health for engaging in that business or
6 service.

7 (b) A person shall not operate an ambulance on public ways in this state if the ambulance
8 is not licensed by the director of health under this chapter.

9 (c) The director of health shall not issue or renew a license for an ambulance under this
10 chapter unless the ambulance meets the minimum equipment standards established under this
11 chapter; provided, further, no new license shall be issued unless the director makes a finding of
12 need for the new or expanded ambulance service. The director shall hold a public hearing on each
13 application for a new license prior to making a finding of need. Written notice of such hearing
14 shall be given to the current providers in the geographic region where the new or expanded
15 service would be implemented.

16 (d) If a major emergency occurs and the licensed ambulances in the state are not
17 sufficient to meet the needs to transport the injured or sick persons, the licensing provisions of
18 this section do not apply during the period of the emergency.

19 (e) (1) If an ambulance is owned by a nonresident and is licensed as a motor vehicle in

1 another state, it may be operated on the public ways of this state to transport patients who are
2 picked up out of state and brought to treatment centers in the state, without the ambulance, its
3 owners, the driver, the attendant, or the attendant drivers being licensed under this section.

4 (2) Also exempted are:

5 (i) Any motor vehicles or aircraft owned by or operated under the direct control of the
6 United States;

7 (ii) Those hospital-based and owned vehicles and their attendants which are used solely
8 for the transportation of non-emergency patients to and from other institutions for the purpose of
9 therapy and/or other medical treatment and services of a non-emergency nature; and

10 (iii) Those private ambulance and service companies and their attendants which are used
11 solely for the transportation of non-emergency patients; provided, however, that those private
12 ambulance and service companies annually attest to the ambulance service coordinating board the
13 fact that the ambulance or service companies are not engaged in the transportation of emergency
14 patients.

15 (f) Any change of ownership of a licensed ambulance or of a business or service engaged
16 in the transportation of patients ends the license concerned. Upon a change of ownership, the
17 director of health shall issue a ninety (90) day temporary license upon the application of the new
18 owner for a current license.

19 (g) All persons engaged in the business or service of the transportation of patients on any
20 public ways in the state, all person operating an ambulance for ambulance purposes on any public
21 way in the state, and all ambulances operated on public ways in this state shall conform to the
22 minimum standards set by regulations issued under the authority of this chapter.

23 (h) If there is a hardship imposed on any applicant for a license because of an unusual
24 circumstance, the applicant may apply to the director for a temporary waiver of the licensing
25 provisions of this section for good cause shown. The director has the power to waive licensing
26 provisions for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days.

27 **23-4.1-7. Standards for ambulance license.** -- The director of health shall issue
28 regulations [to govern the standards of need for new or expanded ambulance service and](#) to govern
29 the standards of suitability of ambulances for the transportation of patients from the standpoint of
30 health, sanitation, safety, communications, maintenance, on-board medical equipment, safety
31 equipment, extraction equipment, ambulance markings, garaging conditions, and care and
32 condition of the ambulance and its equipment.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - AMBULANCE LICENSES

1 This act would require the director of health to hold a public hearing and make a
2 determination of need prior to issuing any new ambulance licenses.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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