



**Sub. H.B. 85\***

125th General Assembly

(As Reported by H. Transportation and Public Safety)

**Reps. Raussen, Raga, Wagner, McGregor, Kearns, Husted, Ujvagi, Allen, Schneider**

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Establishes licensing requirements for certain persons and government entities that use ambulettes, which are vehicles specifically designed to provide transportation services to persons who require the use of wheelchairs or are confined to wheelchairs, and classifies these persons and entities as "medical service organizations." Establishes equipment and staffing requirements for medical service organizations.
- Establishes licensing requirements for persons and government entities that provide medical transportation via rotorcraft and fixed wing air ambulances and classifies these persons and entities as "air medical service organizations." Establishes equipment and staffing requirements for air medical service organizations.
- Requires medical service organizations to register their ambulettes in the same manner as emergency medical service organizations must register their ambulances.
- Requires every medical service organization and air medical service organization to obtain a permit for each ambulette or air ambulance it owns or leases.
- Charges the Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board (renamed the Ohio Medical Transportation Board) with the duty of administering and

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\* *This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.*

enforcing the ambulette and air ambulance licensing programs by integrating these programs into the Board's existing regulatory schemes.

- Modifies the Board's membership due to the additional duties by increasing the Board's membership from five voting members to nine (adding two owners or operators of medical service organizations and two members of the Ohio Association of Critical Care Transport).
- Requires an applicant for employment as an ambulette driver to be trained in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation and to consent to a background investigation that includes a criminal records check, a check of the person's driving record, and drug and alcohol testing.
- Requires the Board to conduct a physical inspection of each ambulette to determine its roadworthiness, compliance with standard motor vehicle requirements, and compliance with the Board's requirements regarding ambulances. Requires the Board to conduct a physical inspection of each air ambulance to determine its operational condition and safety and its compliance with the Board's requirements regarding air ambulance. Eliminates the current role of the State Highway Patrol in conducting any roadworthiness inspections of ambulances and nontransport vehicles the Board licenses.
- Repeals the provisions of current law that permit emergency medical service organizations to be self-insured, and does not permit either medical service organizations or air medical service organizations to be self-insured.
- Provides that the provisions governing the Medical Transportation Board do not apply to emergency medical service personnel who are regulated by the State Board of Emergency Medical Services (persons such as emergency medical technicians and paramedics) under that Board's provisions when those personnel are practicing as emergency medical service personnel and engage in activities and render services that are regulated by the State Board of Emergency Medical Services.
- Requires the Board to adopt rules establishing a fee for a license to operate as a medical service organization or air medical service organization and for ambulances and air ambulances.



- Requires an ambulance to be issued special license plates and a rear window decal, and requires an air ambulance to be issued a fuselage aircraft window decal.
- Requires an *emergency* medical service organization that wishes to provide ambulance services to the public to apply for a separate medical service organization license.
- Permits the Medical Transportation Board to suspend summarily without a prior hearing a license it issued if the Board determines that there is evidence that (1) the license holder is subject to action by the Board, and (2) there is clear and convincing evidence that continued operation by the license holder presents a danger of immediate and serious harm to the public.
- Permits a license holder who is subjected to a summary suspension to request an adjudication hearing by the Board, and requires such a hearing to be held within 15 days but not earlier than seven days after the request unless another date is agreed to by the license holder and the Board.
- Specifically permits the Board to establish requirements for an emergency medical service organization to be licensed as a mobile intensive care unit organization so that the organization can operate special ambulances to transport patients, primarily between hospitals, whose conditions require care beyond the scope of a paramedic.
- Modifies the current definitions of "ambulance," "mobile intensive care unit," and "patient" in the provisions governing the renamed Ohio Medical Transportation Board.
- Permits the Board to create committees to review and make recommendations regarding medical transportation services in Ohio.

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-25-03	p. 168
Reported, H. Transportation & Public Safety	---	---
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