

Senate Bill 501

By: Senators Jackson of the 50th, Mullis of the 53rd, Thomas of the 10th and Thomas of the 54th

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 provide for the licensure and regulation of air
3 ambulance services; to provide for definitions; to establish requirements for licensure; to
4 provide for application for licensure; to require ambulances to comply with standards; to
5 provide for related matters; 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 striking paragraphs (1) through (4) of Code Section 31-11-2,
10 relating to definitions, and inserting in their respective places the following paragraphs:

11 "(1) 'Air ambulance' means any rotary or fixed wing aircraft used or intended to be used
12 for transportation of sick or injured persons who may need medical attention during
13 transport.

14 (1.1) 'Air ambulance service' means the providing of emergency care and transportation
15 by means of an air ambulance for an injured or sick person to or from a place where
16 medical or hospital care is furnished.

17 (1.2) 'Ambulance' means a motor vehicle that is specially constructed and equipped or
18 an air ambulance and is intended to be used for the emergency transportation of patients,
19 including dual purpose police patrol cars and funeral coaches or hearses which otherwise
20 comply with the provisions of this chapter.

21 (2) 'Ambulance attendant' means a person responsible for the care of patients being
22 transported in an ambulance.

23 (3) 'Ambulance provider' means an agency or company providing ambulance service
24 which is operating under a valid license from the Emergency Health Section of the
25 Division of Public Health of the Department of Human Resources.

26 (4) 'Ambulance service' means:

1 (A) The the providing of emergency care and transportation on the public streets and
 2 highways of this state for a wounded, injured, sick, invalid, or incapacitated human
 3 being to or from a place where medical or hospital care is furnished;

4 (B) The provision of any air ambulance service; or

5 (C) The provision of services specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this
 6 paragraph."

7 **SECTION 2.**

8 Said chapter is further amended by striking paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section
 9 31-11-5, relating to rules and regulations, and inserting in its place the following:

10 ~~"(3) Establishing criteria for the training of ambulance attendants and prescribing further,~~
 11 ~~that ambulance attendants prior to employment as such must have completed the~~
 12 ~~American Red Cross advanced first-aid course and an approved cardiopulmonary~~
 13 ~~resuscitation course or other courses deemed equivalent by the department. Within nine~~
 14 ~~months of initial employment an attendant must complete an approved emergency~~
 15 ~~medical technician course with required tests and be certified as an emergency medical~~
 16 ~~technician in this state; and"~~.

17 **SECTION 3.**

18 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 31-11-7, relating to exercise of
 19 emergency vehicle privileges by ambulance drivers, and inserting in its place the following:

20 "31-11-7.

21 The driver of an ambulance on the public streets, highways, and private access roads of this
 22 state, when responding to an emergency call or while transporting a patient, is authorized
 23 to operate the ambulance as an emergency vehicle pursuant to Code Section 40-6-6."

24 **SECTION 4.**

25 Said chapter is further amended by striking paragraph (2) of Code Section 31-11-11, relating
 26 to applicability of chapter, and inserting in its place the following:

27 "(2) A vehicle or aircraft that is operated by a person who is not licensed to furnish
 28 ambulance service which is rendering assistance temporarily in the case of a major
 29 catastrophe or emergency because the licensed ambulance services of the state are
 30 insufficient or unable to meet the demands thereof;"

31 **SECTION 5.**

32 Said chapter is further amended by striking subsection (b) of Code Section 31-11-30, relating
 33 to license requirement, and inserting in its place the following:

1 "(b) No person shall make use of the word 'ambulance' to describe any ground or air
 2 transportation or facility or service associated therewith which such person provides or to
 3 otherwise hold oneself out to be an ambulance service unless such person has a valid
 4 license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter or is exempt from licensing under
 5 this chapter and is not the operator of an invalid car."

6 **SECTION 6.**

7 Said chapter is further amended by striking paragraph (4) of Code Section 31-11-31, relating
 8 to application for license, and inserting in its place the following:

9 "(4) A description or photograph of each ambulance, including the make, model, year of
 10 manufacture, and motor and chassis number; and the color scheme, insignia, name,
 11 monogram, or other distinguishing characteristics to be used to designate the applicant's
 12 ambulance or ambulances;

13 (4.1) A description or photograph of each air ambulance, including the color scheme,
 14 insignia, name, monogram, or other distinguishing characteristics to be used to designate
 15 the applicant's air ambulance or air ambulances; and"

16 **SECTION 7.**

17 Said chapter is further amended by striking subsection (a) of Code Section 31-11-33, relating
 18 to insurance coverage as condition of licensing, and inserting in its place the following:

19 "(a) Every ambulance operated on the streets, highways, and private access roads of this
 20 state by persons engaged in providing ambulance service shall have insurance coverage
 21 issued by an insurance company licensed to do business in this state providing at least the
 22 minimum coverage required for motor vehicles under Chapter 34 of Title 33; provided,
 23 however, in the case of ambulances operated by the state, the coverage required shall be
 24 the same coverage required for other state vehicles under Chapter 9 of Title 45. Every air
 25 ambulance operated by persons engaged in providing air ambulance service in this state
 26 shall have insurance coverage as described in Code Section 33-7-9."

27 **SECTION 8.**

28 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 31-11-34, relating to standards for
 29 ambulances, and inserting in its place the following:

30 "31-11-34.

31 Ambulances operated by persons engaged in providing ambulance service shall:

32 ~~(1) Be suitable for the transportation of patients from the standpoint of health, sanitation,~~
 33 ~~and safety and be maintained on suitable premises;~~

- 1 ~~(2) Have supplies and equipment readily available for dressing wounds, splinting~~
2 ~~fractures, controlling hemorrhaging, and providing oxygen; and~~
3 ~~(3) Be equipped with approved safety belts for the driver and for a passenger in the front~~
4 ~~seat if such seat is provided meet all standards as set forth in the department's rules and~~
5 ~~regulations."~~

6 **SECTION 9.**

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