

The Senate Veterans and Consumer Affairs Committee offered the following substitute to SB 501:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency medical services, so as to provide for the licensure and regulation of air ambulance services; to provide for definitions; to exempt air ambulances and air ambulance services from a certain program; to establish requirements for licensure; to provide for application for licensure; to require ambulances to comply with standards; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency medical services, is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (4) of Code Section 31-11-2, relating to definitions, and inserting in their respective places the following paragraphs:

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

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

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

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

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

(4) 'Ambulance service' means;

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

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

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

## SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by adding a new subsection (g) to Code Section 31-11-3, relating to recommendations by local coordinating entity as to administration of EMSC Program and hearing and appeal, to read as follows:

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

## SECTION 3.

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

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

## SECTION 4.

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

"31-11-7.

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

## SECTION 5.

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

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

#### SECTION 6.

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

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

#### SECTION 7.

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

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

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

#### SECTION 8.

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

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

**SECTION 9.**

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

"31-11-34.

Ambulances operated by persons engaged in providing ambulance service shall:

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

~~(2) Have supplies and equipment readily available for dressing wounds, splinting fractures, controlling hemorrhaging, and providing oxygen; and~~

~~(3) Be equipped with approved safety belts for the driver and for a passenger in the front seat if such seat is provided~~ meet all standards as set forth in the department's rules and regulations."

**SECTION 10.**

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