

Senate Bill 501

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

AS PASSED SENATE

**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 exempt air ambulances and air ambulance
4 services from a certain program; to establish requirements for licensure; to provide for
5 application for licensure; to require ambulances to comply with standards; to provide for
6 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (4) 'Ambulance service' means:

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

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

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

8 SECTION 2.

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

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

13 SECTION 3.

14 Said chapter is further amended by striking paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section
 15 31-11-5, relating to rules and regulations, and inserting in its place the following:

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

23 SECTION 4.

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

26 "31-11-7.

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

30 SECTION 5.

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

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.