

The House Committee on Health and Ecology offers 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 create the Georgia Emergency Medical Services Medical Directors Advisory Council; to provide for duties of such council; to provide for rules and regulations or policies governing such council; 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-wing aircraft used or intended to be used for hire for transportation of sick or injured persons who may need medical attention during transport.

(1.1) 'Air ambulance service' means the for-hire 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.

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

4 (4) 'Ambulance service' means:

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

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

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

## 11 SECTION 2.

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

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

## 16 SECTION 3.

17 Said chapter is further amended by striking paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section  
 18 31-11-5, relating to rules and regulations, and inserting in its place the following:

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

## 26 SECTION 4.

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

29 "31-11-7.

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



1 ambulance operated by persons engaged in providing air ambulance service in this state  
 2 shall have insurance coverage as described in Code Section 33-7-9."

### 3 SECTION 9.

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

6 "31-11-34.

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

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

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

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

### 15 SECTION 10.

16 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code Section 31-11-51.1 to read as follows:

17 "31-11-51.1.

18 (a) There is created the Georgia Emergency Medical Services Medical Directors Advisory  
 19 Council which shall:

20 (1) Acting as a liaison with the medical community, medical facilities, and appropriate  
 21 governmental entities, advise and provide consultation to the Office of Emergency  
 22 Medical Services of the Department of Human Resources on practice issues related to the  
 23 care delivered by emergency medical technicians, cardiac technicians, and paramedics;

24 (2) Advise on and review matters of medical direction and training in conformity with  
 25 acceptable emergency medical practices and procedures;

26 (3) Recommend and review policies and procedures affecting emergency patient care;

27 (4) Advise on the scope and extent of emergency medical practice for the emergency  
 28 medical services of this state;

29 (5) Advise on the formulation of medical, communication, and emergency transportation  
 30 protocols; and

31 (6) Advise on quality improvement issues related to emergency patient care.

32 (b) The composition and all other aspects of the Georgia Emergency Medical Services  
 33 Medical Directors Advisory Council shall be governed by rules and regulations or policies  
 34 of the department consistent with this Code section."

**SECTION 11.**

1  
2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.