

Senate Bill 4

By: Senator Jackson of the 50th

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 establish requirements for licensure; to provide for definitions; to
4 provide for renewal of licenses for air ambulances; to establish specific staffing
5 requirements for air ambulances; to establish operating requirements for air ambulances; to
6 provide for insurance coverage for air ambulances; to provide for an annual license fee; to
7 establish standards for communication, protection against infectious disease exposure, and
8 equipment and supplies for air ambulances; to provide for requirements for reports and
9 record keeping for air ambulances; to establish air ambulance personnel certification and
10 qualification requirements; to require the employment of a medical director for air ambulance
11 services; to provide for suspension or revocation of licenses; to provide for administrative
12 remedies for aggrieved parties; to prohibit relicensing for 24 months or more for failure to
13 comply with licensing requirements; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
14 and for other purposes.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

16 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

17 Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency
18 medical services, is amended by striking paragraph (1) of Code Section 31-11-2, relating to
19 definitions, and inserting in its place the following paragraphs:

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

23 (1.1) 'Air ambulance service' means the providing of emergency care and transportation
24 by means of an air ambulance for an injured or sick person to or from a place where
25 medical or hospital care is furnished.

1 (1.2) 'Ambulance' means a motor vehicle that is specially constructed and equipped or
 2 an air ambulance and is intended to be used for the emergency transportation of patients,
 3 including dual purpose police patrol cars and funeral coaches or hearses which otherwise
 4 comply with the provisions of this chapter."

5 **SECTION 2.**

6 Said chapter is further amended by striking paragraph (4) of Code Section 31-11-2, relating
 7 to definitions, and inserting in its place the following:

8 "(4) 'Ambulance service' means:

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

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

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

15 **SECTION 3.**

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

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

23 **SECTION 4.**

24 Said chapter is further amended by adding at the end thereof a new article to read as follows:

25 **"ARTICLE 5**

26 31-11-90.

27 (a) No person shall operate an air ambulance service in this state without having a valid
 28 license or provisional license issued by the license officer pursuant to this article.

29 (b) This article shall not apply to the following:

30 (1) An air ambulance or air ambulance service operated by an agency of the United
 31 States government;

1 (2) An air ambulance or air ambulance service owned and operated by a governmental
2 entity whose primary role is not to transport patients by air ambulance and which is not
3 receiving payment for services rendered;

4 (3) An air ambulance or air ambulance service owned and operated by a charity and
5 which is not for hire; or

6 (4) An air ambulance or air ambulance service operated from a location outside of the
7 state in order to transport patients from without the state's limits to locations within the
8 state.

9 (c) Nothing in this article shall be construed as prohibiting or preventing a municipality
10 from fixing, charging, or assessing any license fee or registration fee on any business or
11 profession covered by this article or upon any related profession or any person engaged in
12 any profession governed by this article or collecting any fee so imposed or from
13 establishing additional regulations regarding air ambulance service as long as there is no
14 conflict with this article.

15 (d) An air ambulance service which receives and maintains certification from a national
16 accrediting organization approved by the department and which maintains compliance with
17 state personnel staffing requirements shall be considered to have met the requirements of
18 this article upon submission to and approval of the department of the following:

19 (1) A copy of the self-study for accreditation;

20 (2) A copy of the formal accreditation approval;

21 (3) Any correspondence from the accreditation organization affecting the air ambulance
22 service's accreditation;

23 (4) Any additional information requested by the license officer of the department; and

24 (5) Copies of any updates submitted to the accrediting organization.

25 (e) Licensure as an air ambulance service shall only be granted to a person or entity that
26 directs and controls the integrated activities of both the medical and aviation components
27 of operation.

28 (1) The person or entity in charge of the medical functions of the air ambulance service
29 shall direct the combined efforts of the aviation and medical components during patient
30 transport operations, however, the aircraft operator is directly responsible to the Federal
31 Aviation Administration and must possess a Federal Aviation Regulations Part 135
32 certificate for the operation of the aircraft.

33 (2) Any disciplinary action taken against the air ambulance service by the Federal
34 Aviation Administration shall be reported to the license officer within ten business days.

35 (3) Any accidents involving any of the aircraft operating under the air ambulance license
36 shall be reported to the license officer within 72 hours of their occurrence.

37 (f) No air ambulance service shall be a party to any form of subscription service.

1 31-11-91.

2 An application for an air ambulance license or provisional license shall be made to the
3 license officer. The application shall be made upon forms prescribed by the license officer
4 and shall contain at a minimum, but not be limited to, the following:

5 (1) The name and address of the owner of the air ambulance service or proposed air
6 ambulance service;

7 (2) The name under which the applicant is doing business or proposes to do business;

8 (3) A complete personnel list including the training and experience of the applicant and
9 all employees involved in the care and transportation of patients;

10 (4) A description of each helicopter including the type, make, model, year of
11 manufacture, identification numbers, and a photograph or description of the color
12 scheme, insignia, name, monogram, or other distinguishing characteristics to be used to
13 designate the applicant's helicopter or helicopters;

14 (5) Proof of insurance coverage for the helicopter or helicopters;

15 (6) The location and description of the place or places from which the air ambulance
16 service is intended to operate;

17 (7) The name of the medical director and information about how to contact him or her;

18 (8) Copies of all drug or intravenous agreements;

19 (9) A copy of the Air Worthiness Certificate;

20 (10) A copy of the business license issued by the jurisdiction within which the air
21 ambulance service operates;

22 (11) A copy of the articles of incorporation for the air ambulance service, if applicable;

23 (12) Evidence of compliance with this article; and

24 (13) Payment of the annual air ambulance service license fee. A check returned to the
25 department for insufficient funds or other reasons shall be cause for refusal to issue a
26 license. A check returned to the department for insufficient funds or other reasons shall
27 be cause for revocation or nonrenewal of an existing license.

28 31-11-92.

29 (a) Renewal of any license issued under this article shall require conformance with the
30 requirements of this article as upon original licensing.

31 (b) A renewed license shall be valid on the day after the expiration date of the previous
32 license.

33 (c) Change of ownership of an air ambulance service shall require a new application and
34 a new license issued in conformance with the requirements of this article as upon original
35 licensing.

1 31-11-93.

2 (a) The license officer shall, within ten days after receipt of an application for a license or
3 provisional license as provided for in this article, cause such investigation as he or she
4 deems necessary to be made to determine that the standards prescribed by this article have
5 been met.

6 (b) The license officer shall issue a license under this article for a period of two years,
7 unless earlier suspended, revoked, or terminated, when he or she finds that all the
8 requirements of this article have been met.

9 (c) The license officer may issue an initial license for less than two years to conform
10 expiration dates to existing schedules for a locality.

11 (d) An initial license shall be valid upon the date of issuance.

12 (e) Within 30 days prior to the anniversary date of the license, the air ambulance service
13 shall submit the appropriate documents to indicate any changes from the previous
14 submission.

15 (f) The license officer shall issue provisional licenses at his or her discretion.

16 31-11-94.

17 Helicopters operated by persons engaged in providing air ambulance service shall:

18 (1) Be configured so that medical personnel have adequate access to the patient to begin
19 and maintain basic and advanced life support treatment;

20 (2) Have an entry that allows loading and unloading patients with maneuvering that is
21 no more than 45 degrees about the lateral axis and 30 degrees about the longitudinal axis
22 and does not compromise the function of monitoring systems, intravenous lines, or
23 manual, mechanical, or manual and mechanical ventilation;

24 (3) Have a supplemental lighting system in the event standard lighting is insufficient for
25 patient care that includes:

26 (A) A self-contained lighting system powered by a battery pack or a portable light with
27 a battery source; and

28 (B) A means to protect the pilot's night adaptation vision. Use of night compatible
29 intensity lighting in the patient care area is acceptable if it is impossible to isolate the
30 patient care area;

31 (4) Have an electric power outlet with an inverter or appropriate power source of
32 sufficient output to meet the requirements of the complete specialized equipment package
33 without compromising the operation of any of the aircraft's electrical equipment;

34 (5) Have protection of the pilot's flight controls, throttles, and radios from any intended
35 or accidental interference by the patient, air medical personnel, or equipment and
36 supplies;

- 1 (6) Have an internal medical configuration located so that air medical personnel can
2 provide patient care consistent with the scope of care of the air medical service, to
3 include:
- 4 (A) Space necessary to ensure the patient's airway is maintained and to provide
5 adequate ventilatory support from the secured, seat-belted position of the air medical
6 personnel;
 - 7 (B) Aircraft with gaseous oxygen systems shall have equipment installed so that
8 medical personnel can determine if oxygen is on by in-line pressure gauges mounted
9 in the patient care area;
 - 10 (C) Aircraft using liquid or gaseous oxygen shall have equipment installed in the
11 following manner:
 - 12 (i) Each gas outlet shall be clearly marked for identification;
 - 13 (ii) Oxygen flow shall be capable of being stopped at or near the oxygen source from
14 inside the aircraft;
 - 15 (iii) Measurement of the liter flow and quantity of oxygen remaining shall be
16 accessible to air medical personnel while in flight;
 - 17 (iv) All flow meters and outlets must be padded or flush-mounted, located to prevent
18 injury to medical personnel, or attendants must wear helmets;
 - 19 (D) Have available hangers or hooks to secure intravenous solutions in place or a
20 mechanism to provide high flow fluids if needed:
 - 21 (i) All intravenous hooks shall be padded or flush-mounted, located to prevent head
22 trauma to air medical personnel in the event of a hard landing or emergency, or
23 attendants must wear helmets;
 - 24 (ii) Glass containers shall not be used unless required by medication specifications
25 and when used shall be properly vented and wrapped or taped;
 - 26 (E) Medication shall be protected from extreme temperatures; and
 - 27 (F) Cardiac monitors, defibrillators, and external pacemakers shall be securely
28 positioned so that displays are visible to medical personnel;
- 29 (7) Be equipped with Federal Aviation Administration approved safety belts for all seats;
- 30 (8) Be inspected and approved by the department and so registered by affixing a
31 department decal to the unit prior to their use as air ambulances;
- 32 (9) Be reported to the department prior to disposal by sale or otherwise and the
33 department's decal shall be removed; and
- 34 (10) Have on both sides of the aircraft the name of the service in at least three-inch
35 lettering to ensure proper identification of the air ambulance.

1 31-11-95.

2 Licensed air ambulance services shall be available 24 hours per day and 365 days per year
3 and shall respond within ten minutes of receiving a call for service unless:

4 (1) Unsafe weather conditions exist;

5 (2) A commitment to another flight has been made;

6 (3) The helicopter is grounded due to maintenance; or

7 (4) Other reasons that would prevent response that are deemed acceptable by the license
8 officer.

9 31-11-96.

10 (a) No air ambulance service shall be licensed nor shall any license be renewed unless the
11 air ambulance operator has insurance coverage in force as required by this Code section.
12 A certificate of insurance or satisfactory evidence of self-insurance shall be submitted to
13 the license officer for approval prior to the issuance or renewal of each air ambulance
14 license. Satisfactory evidence that such insurance is at all times in force and effect shall be
15 furnished to the license officer, in such form as he or she may specify, by all licensees
16 required to provide such insurance under this Code section.

17 (b) Every air ambulance service shall have bodily injury and property damage insurance
18 coverage issued by an insurance company licensed to do business in this state to secure
19 payment for any loss or damage resulting from any occurrence arising out of or caused by
20 the operation or use of any of the licensee's aircraft. Minimum limits on coverage shall
21 include:

22 (1) One million dollars for injuries to, or death of, any one person arising out of any one
23 incident or accident;

24 (2) Three million dollars for injuries to, or death of, more than one person in any one
25 incident or accident; and

26 (3) Five hundred thousand dollars for damage to property arising from any one incident
27 or accident.

28 (c) Every air ambulance service shall submit to the license officer proof of professional
29 liability insurance coverage issued by a company licensed to do business in this state in the
30 minimum amount of five hundred thousand dollars per occurrence to secure payment for
31 any loss or damage resulting from any occurrence arising out of or caused by the care or
32 lack of care of a patient.

33 (d) Every air ambulance service shall submit to the license officer a list of all aircraft along
34 with their registration or Federal Aviation Administration 'N' numbers.

1 (e) Any air ambulance service that leases aircraft from a pool shall submit to the license
2 officer a letter stating that all helicopters that will be used by the licensee meet all of the
3 specifications of this Code section.

4 31-11-97.

5 (a) Every air ambulance service, whether privately operated or operated by any political
6 subdivision of the state or any municipality, as a condition of maintaining a valid license
7 shall pay an annual license fee to the license officer in an amount to be determined by the
8 Board of Human Resources. The amount of such license fee may be periodically revised
9 by said board. Said license fee shall become due and payable upon the initial issuance of
10 the license and each year thereafter on the anniversary date of the initial license issuance.

11 (b) All revenues collected from this annual fee shall be dedicated and deposited into the
12 Indigent Care Trust Fund by the licensing officer.

13 31-11-98.

14 (a) Every air ambulance shall be equipped with a two-way radio that provides for
15 communication from:

- 16 (1) Air ambulance to on-scene ambulance;
- 17 (2) Air ambulance to hospital;
- 18 (3) Air ambulance to law enforcement agencies;
- 19 (4) Air ambulance to air ambulance dispatch; and
- 20 (5) Air ambulance to air traffic control.

21 (b) Every air ambulance service shall have an emergency medical communication system
22 available 24 hours each day and staffed by a dispatcher.

23 (c) The pilot of the air ambulance shall be able to control all radio transmissions and, in
24 the event of an emergency situation, to override from the cockpit any or all radio
25 transmissions.

26 31-11-99.

27 To protect against infectious disease exposure, every air ambulance shall institute the
28 following controls:

- 29 (1) Maintain the patient compartment in a clean condition;
- 30 (2) Ensure that disposable medical supplies or those intended for single use are not used
31 on more than one patient;
- 32 (3) Develop an exposure control plan that is approved by the air ambulance service
33 medical director;

1 (4) Maintain a sufficient quantity of supplies, as specified by the federal Occupational
2 Safety and Health Administration requirements, for all air medical personnel, each flight
3 crew member, and all ground personnel with incidental exposure risks, which includes,
4 but is not limited to:

5 (A) Protective gloves, gowns, eyewear, and face masks;

6 (B) An approved biohazard waste bag or impervious container to receive and dispose
7 of used supplies; and

8 (C) Hand washing capabilities, antiviral towelettes, or antiviral waterless hand cleaner;
9 and

10 (5) Comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations in regard to
11 infectious disease control procedures.

12 31-11-100.

13 (a) All equipment and supplies of the air ambulance service shall be maintained in working
14 order and shall be stored in an orderly manner so as to protect the patient and be readily
15 accessible when needed.

16 (b) Medical supplies and equipment shall be consistent with the air ambulance service's
17 scope of care as defined in the protocols or standing orders and the needs of each patient.

18 (c) Medical equipment used by the air ambulance service shall be functional without
19 interfering with the avionics, nor shall avionics interfere with the function of the medical
20 equipment.

21 (d) Every air ambulance service shall include the following equipment and supplies, at a
22 minimum, on every air ambulance:

23 (1) Transport equipment including one or more stretchers which are capable of being
24 secured in the aircraft and meet the following criteria:

25 (A) Can accommodate an adult six feet tall and weighing 212 pounds;

26 (B) Includes restraining devices or additional appliances available to provide adequate
27 restraint of all patients including those under 60 pounds or 36 inches in height;

28 (C) Has the head of the primary stretcher capable of being elevated up to 30 degrees,
29 but the elevating section shall not interfere with or require that the patient or stretcher
30 securing straps and hardware be removed or loosened;

31 (D) Is composed of material that is sturdy and rigid enough to support
32 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and, if a backboard or equivalent device is required, such
33 device shall be readily available; and

34 (E) Has a pad or mattress impervious to moisture and easily cleaned and disinfected,
35 according to the blood borne pathogen requirements of the federal Occupation and
36 Safety Health Administration;

- 1 (2) Respiratory equipment including the following:
- 2 (A) An adequate amount of oxygen for every mission for anticipated liter flow and
3 length of flight with an emergency reserve;
- 4 (B) One portable oxygen cylinder;
- 5 (C) A back-up source of oxygen, which may be the required portable tank if that tank
6 is accessible in the patient care area during flight, of sufficient quantity to get safely to
7 a facility for replacement;
- 8 (D) Hand operated bag-valve-mask ventilators of adult, pediatric, and infant sizes with
9 clear masks capable of use with a supplemental oxygen supply and an oxygen reservoir;
- 10 (E) Oropharyngeal airways in at least five sizes including adult, child, and infant;
- 11 (F) Nasopharyngeal airways in at least three sizes with water soluble lubricant;
- 12 (G) Portable suction aspirator, either a portable self-contained battery rechargeable
13 suction or oxygen powered unit, having at least 12 inches mercury negative pressure
14 and flow for pharyngeal suction. The portable suction unit shall be fitted with large
15 bore, nonkinking suction tubing and rigid or semirigid pharyngeal suction tip that is
16 nonmetallic. If an oxygen powered suction is used, at least one additional tank must be
17 provided for use with this device. Bulb syringes and foot pumps are not acceptable;
- 18 (H) End Tidal Carbon Dioxide detection device;
- 19 (I) Pulse oximeter to include infant, pediatric, and adult probes;
- 20 (J) Adult nonrebreathing oxygen masks;
- 21 (K) Pediatric oxygen masks;
- 22 (L) Nasal cannulas;
- 23 (M) Oxygen supply tubing;
- 24 (N) Sterile suction catheters;
- 25 (O) Adult and pediatric laryngoscope with various size adult and pediatric blades;
- 26 (P) Magill forceps;
- 27 (Q) Endotracheal tubes to include infant, pediatric, and adult sizes; and
- 28 (R) Irrigation liquids;
- 29 (3) Bandages and dressings including the following:
- 30 (A) Universal dressings;
- 31 (B) Sterile gauze pads at least 4 inches by 4 inches;
- 32 (C) Bandages, soft roller, self-adhering type that are two inches by five yards, four
33 inches by five yards, and six inches by five yards;
- 34 (D) Elastic bandages of assorted sizes;
- 35 (E) Rolls of adhesive tape in various sizes; and
- 36 (F) Heavy duty bandage scissors;
- 37 (4) Diagnostic equipment including:

- 1 (A) Equipment suitable to determine automatically the blood pressure of an adult, a
2 pediatric, and an infant patient during flight;
- 3 (B) Adult and pediatric stethoscopes;
- 4 (C) A penlight or flashlight;
- 5 (D) A glucose monitoring device or its equivalent;
- 6 (E) A cardiac monitor or defibrillator for use on adults and children which is DC
7 battery powered, portable, with paper printout, accessories and supplies, and with
8 sufficient power supply to meet the demands of the mission; and
- 9 (F) An external cardiac pacing device for use on adults and children;
- 10 (5) Biologicals, drugs, and related equipment including:
- 11 (A) Intravenous solutions of types, quantities, and sizes as specified on a list signed by
12 the medical director;
- 13 (B) Intravenous catheters in various sizes and types;
- 14 (C) Intraosseous needles;
- 15 (D) Tourniquets;
- 16 (E) Intravenous infusion pressure bag;
- 17 (F) Intravenous infusion tubing kits;
- 18 (G) Intravenous infusion pump capable of strict mechanical control of an intravenous
19 infusion drip rate, but passive devices such as dial-a-flow are not acceptable;
- 20 (H) Needles of various sizes;
- 21 (I) Syringes of various sizes;
- 22 (J) Medication of types, quantities, and dosages as specified on a list signed by the
23 medical director and secured so as to be in compliance with all state and federal laws
24 and regulations; and
- 25 (K) A container appropriate to use for disposal of sharp devices which meets the
26 requirements of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration;
- 27 (6) Miscellaneous equipment including:
- 28 (A) Four-point soft restraints;
- 29 (B) Emesis basins or emesis bags;
- 30 (C) An obstetrical kit, if applicable, containing the following items in a container with
31 an identifying label showing the contents: a receiving blanket, a sterile bulb aspirator,
32 a wrapped sanitary napkin, sterile scissors or scalpel blade, four-inch gauze pads, one
33 pair of sterile gloves, two cord clamps, a nonporous infant insulating device, and a
34 plastic bag for the placenta; and
- 35 (D) Other specialized equipment required in medical treatment protocols or standing
36 orders.

1 31-11-101.

2 (a) A record of each request for air ambulance service shall be made on a patient care
3 report form as prescribed by the department.

4 (b) A copy of all patient care reports shall be forwarded by the air ambulance service to
5 the department no later than the tenth day of the month following the month of service.

6 (c) Training records for each employee containing pertinent information regarding
7 certification, licensure, continuing education, and other training shall be maintained by
8 each air ambulance service and shall be readily made available to the department or its
9 authorized agent, upon request, at the air ambulance service's base location.

10 (d) A dispatch record shall be maintained on all requests received for air ambulance
11 service and shall include at a minimum, when applicable, the following:

12 (1) Date and time the call was received;

13 (2) Source of the call;

14 (3) Call-back telephone number;

15 (4) Location of the patient;

16 (5) Description of the apparent problem or problems the patient is experiencing;

17 (6) Identification of the unit dispatched and the time it was dispatched;

18 (7) Time of arrival at the scene;

19 (8) Time of departure from the scene;

20 (9) Time of arrival at the emergency department;

21 (10) Name of the facility where the emergency department is located; and

22 (11) Time in service.

23 31-11-102.

24 (a) Each air ambulance shall have on board when in service a minimum of two Georgia
25 licensed or certified personnel and shall staff the air ambulance in the following manner:

26 (1) When responding to an emergency scene at least one of the personnel on board shall
27 be a registered nurse, physician's assistant, or physician; the second person must be a
28 paramedic;

29 (2) When responding for an interfacility transfer at least one of the personnel shall be a
30 registered nurse, physician's assistant, or physician; the second person may be a
31 paramedic, registered nurse, respiratory therapist, physician's assistant, or physician.

32 (b) Air medical personnel shall not be assigned nor assume the cockpit duties of the flight
33 crew members concurrent with patient care duties and responsibilities.

34 (c) All air medical personnel shall have successfully completed training specific to the
35 helicopter transport environment in general and the licensee's operation specifically.

- 1 (1) Training curriculum for air medical personnel shall be consistent with the federal
2 Department of Transportation Air Medical Crew National Standard Curriculum or an
3 equivalent program approved by the department.
- 4 (2) Qualifications of individual air medical personnel shall be documented in writing.
- 5 (3) All air medical personnel shall maintain current certification in the following courses:
- 6 (A) Advanced Cardiac Life Support;
- 7 (B) One or more of the following pediatric courses:
- 8 (i) Pediatric Advanced Life Support;
- 9 (ii) Pediatric Life Support;
- 10 (iii) Emergency Nurses Pediatric Course; or
- 11 (iv) Pediatric Emergency Preparedness Program; and
- 12 (C) One or more of the following trauma courses:
- 13 (i) Basic Trauma Life Support;
- 14 (ii) Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support;
- 15 (iii) Advanced Trauma Life Support; or
- 16 (iv) Trauma Nursing Core Course.
- 17 (4) Air medical personnel who are registered nurses are required to have the following
18 qualifications:
- 19 (A) Three years of experience in an emergency department or intensive care unit
20 environment;
- 21 (B) Current certification as an EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, or EMT-Paramedic;
- 22 (C) Certification as a nationally registered EMT-Paramedic within two years from the
23 date of employment; and
- 24 (D) One of the following certifications obtained within one year from the date of
25 employment:
- 26 (i) Certified Emergency Nurse;
- 27 (ii) Critical Care Registered Nurse; or
- 28 (iii) Certified Flight Nurse.
- 29 (5) Air medical personnel who are paramedics are required to have the following
30 qualifications:
- 31 (A) Three years of advanced life support field experience, and
- 32 (B) Certification as a flight paramedic obtained within one year from the date of
33 employment.
- 34 31-11-103.
- 35 (a) Each air ambulance service shall designate or employ a medical director with the
36 following qualifications:

- 1 (1) Currently licensed and in practice in this state;
- 2 (2) Knowledgeable and experienced in the transport of patients by air;
- 3 (3) Knowledgeable in aeromedical physiology, stresses of flight, aircraft safety, patient
- 4 care, and the resource limitations of the specific aircraft, medical staff, and equipment
- 5 used by the air ambulance service; and
- 6 (4) Has access to consultation with medical specialists for patients whose illnesses and
- 7 care needs are outside his or her practice.
- 8 (b) The medical director of an air ambulance service shall fulfill the following
- 9 responsibilities:
- 10 (1) Ensure that there is a comprehensive plan to address the selection of appropriate
- 11 aircraft, staffing, and equipment;
- 12 (2) Be involved in the selection, hiring, training, and continuing education of all medical
- 13 personnel;
- 14 (3) Oversee the development and maintenance of a continuous quality improvement
- 15 program;
- 16 (4) Ensure that there is a plan to provide medical direction of patient care to the air
- 17 medical personnel during transport by either on-line medical control using a radio or
- 18 telephone, by off-line methods including written guidelines, protocols, procedures,
- 19 patient-specific written orders, or standing orders, or by both on-line and off-line
- 20 methods;
- 21 (5) Participate in any administrative decision-making processes that affect patient care;
- 22 and
- 23 (6) Oversee the review, revision, and validation of written medical policies and protocols
- 24 at least annually.

25 31-11-104.

- 26 (a) Patients being transported by air ambulance directly from scene locations shall be taken
- 27 to the most appropriate facility within reasonable distance capable of meeting the patient's
- 28 most immediate needs as determined by on-line medical control, without regard to the
- 29 patient's ability to pay, hospital charges, county or city limits, or other factors.
- 30 (b) Patients being transported by air ambulance from one facility to another shall be
- 31 transported to the predetermined facility as arranged by the transferring facility.

32 31-11-105.

- 33 (a) Any license issued under this article may be suspended or revoked for failure to
- 34 comply and to maintain compliance with this article or rules and regulations issued under

1 this article, but only after opportunity for a hearing as provided in Article 1 of Chapter 5
2 of this title.

3 (b) Any person who has exhausted all administrative remedies available within the
4 department and who is substantially aggrieved by a final order or final action of the license
5 officer is entitled to judicial review in the manner provided by Article 1 of Chapter 5 of this
6 title and, notwithstanding Code Section 31-5-3, shall be entitled to an appeal to superior
7 court as provided in subsection (c) of Code Section 31-11-36.

8 (c) Any air ambulance service whose license is revoked for failure to comply with or to
9 maintain compliance with this article shall not be entitled to be relicensed or to be a party
10 to a similar service under any other license for a period of not less than 24 months. This
11 provision shall also be applicable to officers, directors, and stockholders of corporate
12 providers of emergency medical services."

13

SECTION 5.

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