

Senate Bill 515

By: Senators Hatchett of the 50th, Watson of the 1st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Williams of the 25th, Anderson of the 24th and others

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 general provisions regarding emergency medical services, so as to provide for a two-year
3 pilot program to provide additional ambulances to certain areas of this state; to provide for
4 definitions; to provide for eligibility; to provide for acquisition of the ambulances; to provide
5 for termination of the pilot program and automatic repeal of the statute; to provide for related
6 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 general
10 provisions regarding emergency medical services, is amended by adding a new Code section
11 to read as follows:

12 "31-11-13.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Ambulance' means a motor vehicle that is specially constructed and equipped and
15 is intended to be used for the emergency transportation of patients.

(2) 'Region' means a geographical district designated by the department as the local coordinating entity in accord with Code Section 31-11-3 that administers the EMSC program for each health district designated by the department.

(b) The department shall establish a pilot program to be developed and implemented by the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission and the State Office of EMS and Trauma, in collaboration with the Region 2 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and the Region 8 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, during Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026.

(c) Such pilot program shall provide for the procurement and operation of four ambulances, of which:

(1) One unit shall be dedicated to an air ambulance crew for the purpose of additional response to the air ambulance or to allow such crew to respond in the event they are unable to fly;

(2) One shall be dedicated primarily to time sensitive emergent inter-facility transfers; and

(3) One shall be assigned to Region 2 and one shall be assigned to Region 8. The primary use of each ambulance shall be to support coverage for counties that dispatch ambulances on extended time sensitive emergent patient transfers. Each ambulance shall also be used for other relief measures including nonemergency transfers, ensuring critical and specialty care transports are completed and other priorities established during the pilot program.

(d) No later than December 1, 2024, the department shall release a request for proposals on the Georgia Procurement Registry, pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 50-5-69, to identify one or more ambulance providers to fulfill the pilot program.

(e) The directors of Region 2 and Region 8 shall each submit monthly a detailed written report to the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission and the State Office of EMS and Trauma. Such reports shall contain information on the implementation and effectiveness

43 of the additional ambulances on the regions' emergency medical services system, including,
44 but not limited to, data relative to the activity and usage of the ambulances and the impact
45 on service delivery. Such reports shall be submitted on the fifteenth day of the month
46 following the first full month of service of the ambulance provided to such region under
47 this pilot program.

48 (f) The pilot program created by this Code section shall terminate June 30, 2027, and this
49 Code section shall be repealed by operation of law on such date.

50 (g) The pilot program created by this Code section is subject to appropriation.”

51 **SECTION 2.**

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