

2026 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE BILL NO. 156

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 7, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-111.4 and 32.1-111.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to emergency medical services personnel; requirements for personnel without commercial driver's license.

Patron—McDougle

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 32.1-111.4 and 32.1-111.6 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-111.4. Regulations; emergency medical services personnel and vehicles; response times; enforcement provisions; civil penalties.

A. The Board shall prescribe by regulation:

1. Requirements for recordkeeping, supplies, operating procedures, and other emergency medical services agency operations;

2. Requirements for the sanitation and maintenance of emergency medical services vehicles and their medical supplies and equipment;

3. Procedures, including the requirements for forms, to authorize qualified emergency medical services personnel to follow Do Not Resuscitate Orders pursuant to § 54.1-2987.1;

4. Requirements for the composition, administration, duties, and responsibilities of the Advisory Board;

5. Requirements, developed in consultation with the Advisory Board, governing the training, certification, and recertification of emergency medical services personnel. Such requirements shall include provisions that any personnel who administer patient care or who operate emergency medical services vehicles without a commercial driver's license shall comply with the provisions of 49 C.F.R. § 382.213;

6. Requirements for written notification to the Advisory Board, the Office of Emergency Medical Services, and the Financial Assistance and Review Committee of the Board's action, and the reasons therefor, on requests and recommendations of the Advisory Board, the Office of Emergency Medical Services, or the Financial Assistance and Review Committee, no later than five business days after reaching its decision, specifying whether the Board has approved, denied, or not acted on such requests and recommendations;

7. Authorization procedures, developed in consultation with the Advisory Board, that allow the possession and administration of epinephrine or a medically accepted equivalent for emergency cases of anaphylactic shock by certain levels of certified emergency medical services personnel as authorized by § 54.1-3408 and authorization procedures that allow the possession and administration of oxygen with the authority of the local operational medical director and an emergency medical services agency that holds a valid license issued by the Commissioner;

8. A uniform definition of "response time" and requirements, developed in consultation with the Advisory Board, for each emergency medical services agency to measure response times starting from the time a call for emergency medical services is received until the time (i) appropriate emergency medical services personnel are responding and (ii) appropriate emergency medical services personnel arrive on the scene, and requirements for emergency medical services agencies to collect and report such data to the Director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services, who shall compile such information and make it available to the public, upon request;

9. Enforcement provisions, including, but not limited to, civil penalties that the Commissioner may assess against any emergency medical services agency or other entity found to be in violation of any of the provisions of this article or any regulation promulgated under this article. All amounts paid as civil penalties for violations of this article or regulations promulgated pursuant thereto shall be paid into the state treasury and shall be deposited in the emergency medical services special fund established pursuant to § 46.2-694, to be used only for emergency medical services purposes; and

10. Procedures for when emergency medical services agencies in medically underserved areas as defined by the Board may transport patients to 24-hour urgent care facilities or appropriate medical care facilities other than hospitals. The regulations shall include provisions for what constitutes a medically underserved area, cases appropriate for transferring a patient to a medical facility other than a hospital, and other information deemed relevant by the Board.

B. The Board shall classify emergency medical services agencies and emergency medical services vehicles by type of service rendered and shall specify the medical equipment, the supplies, the vehicle specifications, and the emergency medical services personnel required for each classification.

C. In formulating its regulations, the Board shall consider the current Minimal Equipment List for

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59 Ambulances adopted by the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons.

60 **§ 32.1-111.6. Emergency medical services agency license; emergency medical services vehicle**
61 **permits.**

62 A. No person shall operate, conduct, maintain, or profess to be an emergency medical services agency
63 without a valid license issued by the Commissioner for such emergency medical services agency and a valid
64 permit for each emergency medical services vehicle used by such emergency medical services agency.

65 B. The Commissioner shall issue an original or renewal license for an emergency medical services agency
66 or renewal permit for an emergency medical services vehicle that meets all requirements set forth in this
67 article and in the regulations of the Board, upon application, on forms and according to procedures
68 established by the Board. Licenses and permits shall be valid for a period specified by the Board, not to
69 exceed two years.

70 C. The Commissioner may issue (i) temporary licenses for emergency medical services agencies not
71 meeting required standards, valid for a period not to exceed 60 days, and (ii) temporary permits for
72 emergency medical services vehicles not meeting required standards, valid for a period of 90 days from the
73 end of the month of issue, when the public interest will be served thereby.

74 D. The issuance of a license or permit in accordance with this section shall not be construed to authorize
75 any emergency medical services agency to operate any emergency medical services vehicle without a
76 franchise, license, or permit in any county or municipality that has enacted an ordinance pursuant to
77 § 32.1-111.14 making it unlawful to do so.

78 E. *When issuing any license or permit in accordance with this section, the Commissioner shall require*
79 *that any personnel of the emergency medical services agency who administer patient care or who operate*
80 *emergency medical services vehicles without a commercial driver's license comply with the provisions of 49*
81 *C.F.R. § 382.213.*

82 F. The word "ambulance" shall not appear on any vehicle, vessel, or aircraft that does not hold a valid
83 permit as an emergency medical services vehicle.