

**Derrin R. Owens** proposes the following substitute bill:

**Emergency Medical Services Modifications**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens**

House Sponsor: Jefferson Moss

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses ground ambulance interfacility transport services.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- grants authority to and requires municipalities and counties to ensure that a minimum level of ground ambulance interfacility transport services are provided within the respective municipality or county;
- removes the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services Management (bureau) from involvement in the process by which a municipality or county selects emergency medical service providers, except verifying and providing notice that an applicant emergency medical service provider meets minimum requirements;
- recognizes the bureau's jurisdiction to discipline non-911 ambulance service providers;
- requires a county or municipality to:
  - offer a first right to provide interfacility transports to the current 911 ambulance service provider;
  - conduct formal reviews of 911 service providers and interfacility transport service providers;
- grants investigative authority to the bureau;
- makes it a class B misdemeanor to willfully disobey a valid subpoena or cease and desist letter from the bureau; and
- makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

29 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

30 AMENDS:

- 31 **11-48-103**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 506
- 32 **53-2d-103**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310 and
- 33 last amended by Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 307
- 34 **53-2d-505**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310
- 35 **53-2d-604**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310
- 36 **53-2d-607**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310 and
- 37 last amended by Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 307

38 ENACTS:

- 39 **53-2d-606.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

40 REPEALS:

- 41 **53-2d-505.1**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310
- 42 **53-2d-505.2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 16 and renumbered and
- 43 amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310
- 44 **53-2d-505.3**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 435 and renumbered and
- 45 amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310
- 46 **53-2d-505.4**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310 and
- 47 last amended by Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 307
- 48 **53-2d-505.5**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310
- 49 **53-2d-506**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310
- 50 **53-2d-507**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310
- 51 **53-2d-508**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310
- 52 **53-2d-509**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 147

54 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

55 Section 1. Section **11-48-103** is amended to read:

56 **11-48-103 . Provision of ambulance services in municipalities and counties.**

57 (1) The governing body of each municipality and county has exclusive authority to and  
58 shall, subject to Title 53, Chapter 2d, Part 5, Ambulance and Paramedic Providers,  
59 ensure at least a minimum level of 911 ambulance services and ground ambulance  
60 interfacility transport services are provided:

- 61 (a) within the territorial limits of the municipality or county;
- 62 (b) by a ground ambulance provider, licensed by the Bureau of Emergency Medical

63 Services under Title 53, Chapter 2d, Part 5, Ambulance and Paramedic Providers; and  
 64 (c) in accordance with rules established by the Trauma System and Emergency Medical  
 65 Services Committee under Section 53-2d-105.

66 (2) A municipality or county may:

67 (a) ~~[subject to Subsection (3),]~~ provide, maintain, and support 911 ambulance services  
 68 for the municipality's or county's own jurisdiction; or

69 (b) ~~[contract to:]~~ enter into an interlocal agreement or procurement contract with a public  
 70 or private entity to provide, receive, support, or maintain, 911 ambulance services or  
 71 ground ambulance interfacility transport services, under any arrangement and to any  
 72 extent that the municipality or county determines.

73 ~~[(i) provide 911 ambulance services to any county, municipal corporation, special~~  
 74 ~~district, special service district, interlocal entity, private corporation, nonprofit~~  
 75 ~~corporation, state agency, or federal agency;]~~

76 ~~[(ii) receive 911 ambulance services from any county, municipal corporation, special~~  
 77 ~~district, special service district, interlocal entity, private corporation, nonprofit~~  
 78 ~~corporation, state agency, or federal agency;]~~

79 ~~[(iii) jointly provide 911 ambulance services with any county, municipal corporation,~~  
 80 ~~special district, special service district, interlocal entity, private corporation,~~  
 81 ~~nonprofit corporation, state agency, or federal agency; or]~~

82 ~~[(iv) contribute toward the support of 911 ambulance services in any county,~~  
 83 ~~municipal corporation, special district, special service district, interlocal entity,~~  
 84 ~~private corporation, nonprofit corporation, state agency, or federal agency in~~  
 85 ~~return for 911 ambulance services.]~~

86 (3)(a) Subject to Subsections (3)(b) and (c), at the expiration of a license term under  
 87 Subsection 53-2d-501, a county or municipality shall offer a first right to provide  
 88 interfacility transports for an area to the current 911 ambulance service provider for  
 89 that area.

90 (b) If the first right under Subsection (3)(a) is not exercised, the county or municipality  
 91 shall ensure that 911 ambulance services are provided in accordance with this section.

92 (c) If the current 911 ambulance service provider under Subsection (3)(a) is not the  
 93 current interfacility transport provider, the current interfacility provider's license shall  
 94 remain intact through the next formal review conducted in accordance with  
 95 Subsection (4).

96 (4) A county or municipality shall conduct a formal review of 911 service providers and

97 interfacility transport service providers:

98 (a) not less than every eight years;

99 (b) in an open and public meeting in accordance with Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and  
 100 Public Meetings Act; and

101 (c) not more than three months prior to the day on which the current license will expire  
 102 under Subsection 53-2d-501(2).

103 ~~[(3)]~~ (5)~~[(a)]~~ A municipality or county that provides, maintains, and supports 911  
 104 ambulance services for the municipality's or county's own jurisdiction under  
 105 Subsection (2)(a) shall obtain a license as a ground ambulance provider from the  
 106 Bureau of Emergency Medical Services under Title 53, Chapter 2d, Part 5,  
 107 Ambulance and Paramedic Providers.

108 ~~[(b) Sections 53-2d-505 through 53-2d-505.3 do not apply to a license described in~~  
 109 ~~Subsection (3)(a).]~~

110 Section 2. Section **53-2d-103** is amended to read:

111 **53-2d-103 . Bureau duties -- Data sharing.**

112 (1) The bureau shall:

113 (a) coordinate the emergency medical services within the state;

114 (b) administer and enforce any programs and applicable rules created under this chapter;

115 (c) establish a voluntary task force representing a diversity of emergency medical  
 116 service providers to advise the bureau and the committee on rules;

117 (d) establish an emergency medical service personnel peer review board to advise the  
 118 bureau concerning discipline of emergency medical service personnel under this  
 119 chapter; and

120 (e) adopt rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative  
 121 Rulemaking Act, to:

122 (i) license ambulance providers and paramedic providers;

123 (ii) permit ambulances, emergency medical response vehicles, and nonemergency  
 124 secured behavioral health transport vehicles, including approving an emergency  
 125 vehicle operator's course in accordance with Section 53-2d-404;

126 (iii) establish:

127 (A) the qualifications for membership of the peer review board created by this  
 128 section;

129 (B) a process for placing restrictions on a license while an investigation is pending;

130 (C) the process for the investigation and recommendation by the peer review

131 board; and  
 132 (D) the process for determining the status of a license while a peer review board  
 133 investigation is pending;  
 134 (iv) establish application, submission, and procedural requirements for licenses,  
 135 designations, and permits; and  
 136 (v) establish and implement the programs, plans, and responsibilities as specified in  
 137 other sections of this chapter.

138 (2)(a) The bureau shall share data related to the bureau's duties with the Department of  
 139 Health and Human Services.

140 (b) The Department of Health and Human Services shall share data related to the  
 141 bureau's duties with the bureau.

142 (c) All data collected by the bureau under this chapter is subject to Title 26B, Chapter 8,  
 143 Part 4, Health Statistics, including data privacy protections.

144 Section 3. Section **53-2d-505** is amended to read:

145 **53-2d-505 . Ground ambulance and paramedic licenses.**

146 [(4)] If the bureau determines that the application meets the minimum requirements for  
 147 licensure under Section 53-2d-504, the bureau shall issue a notice of the approved  
 148 application to the applicant.

149 [~~(2) A current license holder responding to a request for proposal under Section 53-2d-505.2~~  
 150 ~~is considered an approved applicant for purposes of Section 53-2d-505.2 if the current~~  
 151 ~~license holder, prior to responding to the request for proposal, submits the following to~~  
 152 ~~the department:]~~

153 [~~(a) the information described in Subsections 53-2d-504(4)(a)(i) through (iii); and]~~

154 [~~(b)(i) if the license holder is a private entity, a financial statement, a pro forma~~  
 155 ~~budget and necessary letters of credit demonstrating a financial ability to expand~~  
 156 ~~service to a new service area; or]~~

157 [~~(ii) if the license holder is a governmental entity, a letter from the governmental~~  
 158 ~~entity's governing body demonstrating the governing body's willingness to~~  
 159 ~~financially support the application.]]~~

160 Section 4. Section **53-2d-604** is amended to read:

161 **53-2d-604 . Discipline of designated and licensed providers.**

162 (1) The bureau may refuse to issue a license or designation or a renewal, or revoke,  
 163 suspend, restrict, or place on probation, [an] any emergency medical service provider's  
 164 license or designation, including the license or designation of a non-911 service provider,

- 165 if the provider has:
- 166 (a) failed to abide by terms of the license or designation;
- 167 (b) violated statute or rule;
- 168 (c) failed to provide services at the level or in the exclusive geographic service area
- 169 required by the license or designation;
- 170 (d) failed to submit a renewal application in a timely fashion as required by department
- 171 rule;
- 172 (e) failed to follow operational standards established by the committee; or
- 173 (f) committed an act in the performance of a professional duty that endangered the
- 174 public or constituted gross negligence.

175 (2)(a) An action to revoke, suspend, restrict, or place a license or designation on

176 probation shall be done in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative

177 Procedures Act.

178 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a), the department may issue a cease and desist

179 order under Section 53-2d-607 to immediately suspend a license or designation

180 pending an administrative proceeding to be held within 30 days if there is evidence to

181 show that the provider or facility poses a clear, immediate, and unjustifiable threat or

182 potential threat to the public health, safety, or welfare.

183 Section 5. Section **53-2d-606.5** is enacted to read:

184 **53-2d-606.5 . Investigative authority of the bureau -- Subpoenas -- Criminal**

185 **penalty.**

186 (1) In connection with conducting a formal investigation or any matters pending before the

187 peer review board, the bureau may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena

188 witnesses, take evidence, and require by subpoena duces tecum the production of

189 relevant papers, records, or other documents or information.

190 (2) A person who willfully disobeys a valid subpoena issued by the bureau is guilty of a

191 class B misdemeanor.

192 Section 6. Section **53-2d-607** is amended to read:

193 **53-2d-607 . Cease and desist letters -- Criminal penalty.**

194 (1) The bureau may issue a cease and desist order to any person who:

195 [(1)] (a) may be disciplined under Section 53-2d-603 or 53-2d-604; or

196 [(2)] (b) otherwise violates this chapter or any rules adopted under this chapter.

197 (2) An individual who willfully disobeys a valid cease and desist letter issued by the bureau

198 is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

199           Section 7. **Repealer.**  
200           This bill repeals:  
201           Section **53-2d-505.1, Selection of provider by political subdivision.**  
202           Section **53-2d-505.2, Selection of provider -- Request for competitive sealed proposal --**  
203 **Public convenience and necessity.**  
204           Section **53-2d-505.3, Use of competitive sealed proposals -- Procedure -- Appeal rights.**  
205           Section **53-2d-505.4, Non-911 provider -- Finding of meritorious complaint -- Request**  
206 **for proposals.**  
207           Section **53-2d-505.5, Use of competitive sealed proposals -- Procedure -- Appeal rights.**  
208           Section **53-2d-506, Ground ambulance and paramedic licenses -- Parties.**  
209           Section **53-2d-507, Ground ambulance and paramedic licenses -- Proceedings.**  
210           Section **53-2d-508, Criteria for determining public convenience and necessity.**  
211           Section **53-2d-509, Ground ambulance and paramedic licenses -- Hearing and presiding**  
212 **officers.**  
213           Section 8. **Effective Date.**  
214           This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.