

AN ACT

To amend sections 4766.01, 4766.04, and 4766.09 of the Revised Code to modify the law governing the transport of persons who require the use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid in nonemergency circumstances.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That sections 4766.01, 4766.04, and 4766.09 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4766.01. As used in this chapter:

(A) "Advanced life support" means treatment described in section 4765.39 of the Revised Code that a paramedic is certified to perform.

(B) "Air medical service organization" means an organization that furnishes, conducts, maintains, advertises, promotes, or otherwise engages in providing medical services with a rotorcraft air ambulance or fixed wing air ambulance.

(C) "Air medical transportation" means the transporting of a patient by rotorcraft air ambulance or fixed wing air ambulance with appropriately licensed and certified medical personnel.

(D) "Ambulance" means any motor vehicle that is specifically designed, constructed, or modified and equipped and is intended to be used to provide basic life support, intermediate life support, advanced life support, or mobile intensive care unit services and transportation upon the streets or highways of this state of persons who are seriously ill, injured, wounded, or otherwise incapacitated or helpless. "Ambulance" does not include air medical transportation or a vehicle designed and used solely for the transportation of nonstretcher-bound persons, whether hospitalized or handicapped or whether ambulatory or confined to a wheelchair.

(E) "Ambulette" means a motor vehicle that is specifically designed, constructed, or modified and equipped and is intended to be used for transportation upon the streets or highways of this state of persons who require use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid.

(F) "Basic life support" means treatment described in section 4765.37 of the Revised Code that an EMT is certified to perform.

(G) "Disaster situation" means any condition or situation described by rule of the state board of emergency medical, fire, and transportation services as a mass casualty, major emergency, natural disaster, or national emergency.

(H) "Emergency medical service organization" means an organization that uses EMTs, AEMTs, or paramedics, or a combination of EMTs, AEMTs, and paramedics, to provide medical care to victims of illness or injury. An emergency medical service organization includes, but is not limited to, a commercial ambulance service organization, a hospital, and a funeral home.

(I) "EMT," "AEMT," and "paramedic" have the same meanings as in sections 4765.01 and

4765.011 of the Revised Code.

(J) "Fixed wing air ambulance" means a fixed wing aircraft that is specifically designed, constructed, or modified and equipped and is intended to be used as a means of air medical transportation.

(K) "Health care practitioner" has the same meaning as in section 3701.74 of the Revised Code.

(L) "Health care services" has the same meaning as in section 3922.01 of the Revised Code.

(M) "Intermediate life support" means treatment described in section 4765.38 of the Revised Code that an AEMT is certified to perform.

~~(L)~~(N) "Major emergency" means any emergency event that cannot be resolved through the use of locally available emergency resources.

~~(M)~~(O) "Mass casualty" means an emergency event that results in ten or more persons being injured, incapacitated, made ill, or killed.

~~(N)~~(P) "Medical emergency" means an unforeseen event affecting an individual in such a manner that a need for immediate care is created.

~~(O)~~(Q) "Mobile intensive care unit" means an ambulance used only for maintaining specialized or intensive care treatment and used primarily for interhospital transports of patients whose conditions require care beyond the scope of a paramedic as provided in section 4765.39 of the Revised Code.

~~(P)~~(R)(1) "Nonemergency medical service organization" means a person that does both of the following:

(a) Provides services to the public on a regular basis for the purpose of transporting individuals who require the use of a wheelchair ~~or are confined to a wheelchair~~ other mobility aid to receive health care services ~~at health care facilities or health care practitioners' offices~~ in nonemergency circumstances;

(b) Provides the services for a fee, regardless of whether the fee is paid by the person being transported, a third party payer, as defined in section 3702.51 of the Revised Code, or any other person or government entity.

(2) "Nonemergency medical service organization" does not include a health care facility, as defined in section 1751.01 of the Revised Code, that provides ambulette services only to patients of that facility.

~~(Q)~~(S) "Nontransport vehicle" means a motor vehicle operated by a licensed emergency medical service organization not as an ambulance, but as a vehicle for providing services in conjunction with the ambulances operated by the organization or other emergency medical service organizations.

~~(R)~~(T) "Patient" means any individual who as a result of illness or injury needs medical attention, whose physical or mental condition is such that there is imminent danger of loss of life or significant health impairment, or who may be otherwise incapacitated or helpless as a result of a physical or mental condition, or any individual whose physical condition requires the use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid.

~~(S)~~(U) "Rotorcraft air ambulance" means a helicopter or other aircraft capable of vertical takeoffs, vertical landings, and hovering that is specifically designed, constructed, or modified and

equipped and is intended to be used as a means of air medical transportation.

(V) "Taxicab" means a taxicab vehicle operated by a taxicab service company, provided the company is not a nonemergency medical service organization.

(W) "Transportation network company driver" has the same meaning as in section 3942.01 of the Revised Code.

(X) "Transportation network company services" has the same meaning as in section 3942.01 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 4766.04. (A)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, unless a person is an emergency medical service organization licensed under division (B) or an air medical service organization licensed under division (D) of this section, no person shall furnish, operate, conduct, maintain, advertise, engage in, or propose or profess to engage in, the business or service in this state of transporting persons providing emergency medical transportation to an individual who are seriously ill, injured, or otherwise incapacitated or is experiencing a medical emergency.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, unless a person is a nonemergency medical service organization licensed under division (C) of this section, no person shall engage in, or profess to engage in, the business or service of providing nonemergency medical transportation to an individual who require requires the use of a wheelchair or are confined to a wheelchair unless the person is licensed pursuant to this section other mobility aid, and who is not experiencing a medical emergency, between any of the following locations:

(a) A hospital;

(b) An emergency department;

(c) A dialysis center;

(d) A long-term care facility, including a nursing home;

(e) A surgical facility;

(f) An inpatient rehabilitation facility;

(g) A memory care center;

(h) A health care practitioner's office;

(i) Any other licensed inpatient facility.

(B) To qualify for a license as a basic life-support, intermediate life-support, advanced life-support, or mobile intensive care unit organization, an emergency medical service organization shall do all of the following:

(1) Apply for a permit for each ambulance and nontransport vehicle owned or leased as provided in section 4766.07 of the Revised Code;

(2) Meet all requirements established in rules adopted by the state board of emergency medical, fire, and transportation services regarding ambulances and nontransport vehicles, including requirements pertaining to equipment, communications systems, staffing, and level of care the particular organization is permitted to render;

(3) Maintain the appropriate type and amount of insurance as specified in section 4766.06 of the Revised Code;

(4) Meet all other requirements established under rules adopted by the board for the particular license.

(C) To qualify for a license to provide ambulette service, a nonemergency medical service

organization shall do all of the following:

(1) Apply for a permit for each ambulette owned or leased as provided in section 4766.07 of the Revised Code;

(2) Meet all requirements established in rules adopted by the state board of emergency medical, fire, and transportation services regarding ambulances, including requirements pertaining to equipment, communication systems, staffing, and level of care the organization is permitted to render;

(3) Maintain the appropriate type and amount of insurance as specified in section 4766.06 of the Revised Code;

(4) Meet all other requirements established under rules adopted by the board for the license.

(D) To qualify for a license to provide air medical transportation, an air medical service organization shall do all of the following:

(1) Apply for a permit for each rotorcraft air ambulance and fixed wing air ambulance owned or leased as provided in section 4766.07 of the Revised Code;

(2) Meet all requirements established in rules adopted by the state board of emergency medical, fire, and transportation services regarding rotorcraft air ambulances and fixed wing air ambulances, including requirements pertaining to equipment, communication systems, staffing, and level of care the organization is permitted to render;

(3) Maintain the appropriate type and amount of insurance as specified in section 4766.06 of the Revised Code;

(4) Meet all other requirements established under rules adopted by the board for the license.

(E) An emergency medical service organization that applies for a license as a basic life-support, intermediate life-support, advanced life-support, or mobile intensive care unit organization; a nonemergency medical service organization that applies for a license to provide ambulette service; or an air medical service organization that applies for a license to provide air medical transportation shall submit a completed application to the board, on a form provided by the board for each particular license, together with the appropriate fees established under section 4766.05 of the Revised Code. The application form shall include all of the following:

(1) The name and business address of the operator of the organization for which licensure is sought;

(2) The name under which the applicant will operate the organization;

(3) A list of the names and addresses of all officers and directors of the organization;

(4) For emergency medical service organizations and nonemergency medical service organizations, a description of each vehicle to be used, including the make, model, year of manufacture, mileage, vehicle identification number, and the color scheme, insignia, name, monogram, or other distinguishing characteristics to be used to designate the applicant's vehicle;

(5) For air medical service organizations using fixed wing air ambulances, a description of each aircraft to be used, including the make, model, year of manufacture, and aircraft hours on airframe;

(6) For air medical service organizations using rotorcraft air ambulances, a description of each aircraft to be used, including the make, model, year of manufacture, aircraft hours on airframe, aircraft identification number, and the color scheme, insignia, name, monogram, or other

distinguishing characteristics to be used to designate the applicant's rotorcraft air ambulance;

(7) The location and description of each place from which the organization will operate;

(8) A description of the geographic area to be served by the applicant;

(9) Any other information the board, by rule, determines necessary.

(F) Within sixty days after receiving a completed application for licensure as a basic life-support, intermediate life-support, advanced life-support, or mobile intensive care unit organization; an ambulette service; or an air medical service organization, the board shall approve or deny the application. The board shall deny an application if it determines that the applicant does not meet the requirements of this chapter or any rules adopted under it. The board shall send notice of the denial of an application by certified mail to the applicant. The applicant may request a hearing within ten days after receipt of the notice. If the board receives a timely request, it shall hold a hearing in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(G) If an applicant or licensee operates or plans to operate an organization in more than one location under the same or different identities, the applicant or licensee shall apply for and meet all requirements for licensure or renewal of a license, other than payment of a license fee or renewal fee, for operating the organization at each separate location. An applicant or licensee that operates or plans to operate under the same organization identity in separate locations shall pay only a single license fee.

(H) An emergency medical service organization that wishes to provide ambulette services to the public must apply for a separate license under division (C) of this section.

(I) Each license issued under this section and each permit issued under section 4766.07 of the Revised Code expires one year after the date of issuance and may be renewed in accordance with the standard renewal procedures of Chapter 4745. of the Revised Code. An application for renewal shall include the license or permit renewal fee established under section 4766.05 of the Revised Code. An applicant for renewal of a permit also shall submit to the board proof of an annual inspection of the vehicle or aircraft for which permit renewal is sought. The board shall renew a license if the applicant meets the requirements for licensure and shall renew a permit if the applicant and vehicle or aircraft meet the requirements to maintain a permit for that vehicle or aircraft.

(J) Each licensee shall maintain accurate records of all service responses conducted. The records shall be maintained on forms prescribed by the board and shall contain information as specified by rule by the board.

Sec. 4766.09. This chapter does not apply to any of the following:

(A) A person rendering services with an ambulance in the event of a disaster situation when licensees' vehicles based in the locality of the disaster situation are incapacitated or insufficient in number to render the services needed;

(B) Any person operating an ambulance, ambulette, rotorcraft air ambulance, or fixed wing air ambulance outside this state unless receiving a person within this state for transport to a location within this state;

(C) A publicly owned or operated emergency medical service organization and the vehicles it owns or leases and operates, except as provided in section 307.051, division (G) of section 307.055, division (F) of section 505.37, division (B) of section 505.375, and division (B)(3) of section 505.72 of the Revised Code;

(D) An ambulance, ambulette, rotorcraft air ambulance, fixed wing air ambulance, or nontransport vehicle owned or leased and operated by the federal government;

(E) A publicly owned and operated fire department vehicle;

(F) Emergency vehicles owned by a corporation and operating only on the corporation's premises, for the sole use by that corporation;

(G) An ambulance, nontransport vehicle, or other emergency medical service organization vehicle owned and operated by a municipal corporation;

(H) A motor vehicle titled in the name of a volunteer rescue service organization, as defined in section 4503.172 of the Revised Code;

(I) A public emergency medical service organization;

(J) A fire department, rescue squad, or life squad comprised of volunteers who provide services without expectation of remuneration and do not receive payment for services other than reimbursement for expenses;

(K) A private, nonprofit emergency medical service organization when fifty per cent or more of its personnel are volunteers, as defined in section 4765.01 of the Revised Code;

(L) Emergency medical service personnel who are regulated by the state board of emergency medical, fire, and transportation services under Chapter 4765. of the Revised Code;

(M) Any of the following that operates a transit bus, as that term is defined in division (Q) of section 5735.01 of the Revised Code, unless the entity provides ambulette services that are reimbursed under the state medicaid plan:

(1) A public nonemergency medical service organization;

(2) An urban or rural public transit system;

(3) A private nonprofit organization that receives grants under section 5501.07 of the Revised Code.

(N)(1) An entity, to the extent it provides ambulette services, if the entity meets all of the following conditions:

(a) The entity is certified by the department of aging or the department's designee in accordance with section 173.391 of the Revised Code or operates under a contract or grant agreement with the department or the department's designee in accordance with section 173.392 of the Revised Code.

(b) The entity meets the requirements of section 4766.14 of the Revised Code.

(c) The entity does not provide ambulette services that are reimbursed under the state medicaid plan.

(2) A vehicle, to the extent it is used to provide ambulette services, if the vehicle meets both of the following conditions:

(a) The vehicle is owned by an entity that meets the conditions specified in division (N)(1) of this section.

(b) The vehicle does not provide ambulette services that are reimbursed under the state medicaid plan.

(O) A vehicle that meets both of the following criteria, unless the vehicle provides services that are reimbursed under the state medicaid plan:

(1) The vehicle was purchased with funds from a grant made by the United States secretary

of transportation under 49 U.S.C. 5310;

(2) The department of transportation holds a lien on the vehicle.

(P) A taxicab or a vehicle providing transportation network company services that is operated by a transportation network company driver, unless transporting a person under the conditions requiring licensure specified in division (A) of section 4766.04 of the Revised Code.

(Q) A vehicle providing transportation services for a private adult day habilitation services company, unless transporting a person under the conditions requiring licensure specified in division (A) of section 4766.04 of the Revised Code. As used in division (Q) of this section, "adult day habilitation services" has the same meaning as in section 5126.01 of the Revised Code.

SECTION 2. That existing sections 4766.01, 4766.04, and 4766.09 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

Speaker _____ *of the House of Representatives.*

President _____ *of the Senate.*

Passed _____, 20____

Approved _____, 20____

Governor.

The section numbering of law of a general and permanent nature is complete and in conformity with the Revised Code.

Director, Legislative Service Commission.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the ____ day of _____, A. D. 20 ____.

Secretary of State.

File No. _____ Effective Date _____