

1 SB183
2 216490-1
3 By Senator Waggoner
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 03-FEB-22

SYNOPSIS: This bill would make findings and declarations that emergency medical services are essential public services performed for a public purpose.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to emergency medical services; to make findings and declarations that emergency medical services are essential public services performed for a public purpose.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(1) Emergency medical services are an essential public service and a part of the health care safety net for many residents of this state.

(2) It is in the public interest to assure that high quality emergency and urgent medical services are readily

1 available to the residents of this state to prevent death and
2 reduce suffering and disability which arise from severe
3 illness and injury.

4 (3) The public interest is best achieved through the
5 delivery of emergency medical services through a coordinated
6 emergency medical services system.

7 (4) The transportation of both emergency and
8 non-emergency patients is an integral part of the health care
9 delivery system in this state, and it is in the public
10 interest that the emergency medical services system serve all
11 of the following persons in this state:

12 a. Any person who requires immediate medical care to
13 address illness or injury.

14 b. Any person who needs transportation to a hospital
15 or other health care provider to receive that care.

16 c. Any person who requires medical assessment,
17 monitoring, assistance, treatment or observation during
18 transportation by trained emergency medical personnel.

19 (5) It serves the public interest if the emergency
20 medical services system is able to quickly adapt and evolve to
21 meet the needs of the resident of this state for emergency and
22 urgent medical care and to reduce the effect of illness and
23 injury.

24 (6) It serves the public interest if the emergency
25 medical services system provides community-based health
26 promotion services that are integrated with the overall health
27 care system.

1 (7) Emergency medical services should be
2 acknowledged, promoted, and supported as an essential service
3 and any eligible funding should be available for emergency
4 medical services without any distinction between the public or
5 private sectors of emergency medical services.

6 (b) Based on the foregoing, the Legislature formally
7 declares that emergency medical services delivered by both the
8 public and private sector, including ambulance services, are
9 essential services in this state for the public welfare and
10 public safety of the residents of this state and that all
11 emergency medical services are delivered for a public purpose.

12 Section 2. This act shall become effective
13 immediately following its passage and approval by the
14 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.