



# House of Representatives

**File No. 820**

General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**(Reprint of File No. 378)**

House Bill No. 6599  
As Amended by House  
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 24, 2009

## **AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT SAFETY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 19a-180 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2009*):

4 (a) No person shall operate any ambulance service, rescue service or  
5 management service or otherwise transport in a motor vehicle a  
6 patient on a stretcher without either a license or a certificate issued by  
7 the commissioner. No person shall operate a commercial ambulance  
8 service or commercial rescue service or a management service without  
9 a license issued by the commissioner. A certificate shall be issued to  
10 any volunteer or municipal ambulance service which shows proof  
11 satisfactory to the commissioner that it meets the minimum standards  
12 of the commissioner in the areas of training, equipment and personnel.  
13 No license or certificate shall be issued to any volunteer, municipal or  
14 commercial ambulance service, rescue service or management service,  
15 as defined in subdivision (19) of section 19a-175, as amended by this

16 act, unless it meets the requirements of subsection (e) of section 14-  
17 100a. Applicants for a license shall use the forms prescribed by the  
18 commissioner and shall submit such application to the commissioner  
19 accompanied by an annual fee of one hundred dollars. In considering  
20 requests for approval of permits for new or expanded emergency  
21 medical services in any region, the commissioner shall consult with the  
22 Office of Emergency Medical Services and the emergency medical  
23 services council of such region and shall hold a public hearing to  
24 determine the necessity for such services. Written notice of such  
25 hearing shall be given to current providers in the geographic region  
26 where such new or expanded services would be implemented,  
27 provided, any volunteer ambulance service which elects not to levy  
28 charges for services rendered under this chapter shall be exempt from  
29 the provisions concerning requests for approval of permits for new or  
30 expanded emergency medical services set forth in this subsection. A  
31 primary service area responder in a municipality in which the  
32 applicant operates or proposes to operate shall, upon request, be  
33 granted intervenor status with opportunity for cross-examination.  
34 Each applicant for licensure shall furnish proof of financial  
35 responsibility which the commissioner deems sufficient to satisfy any  
36 claim. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with  
37 the provisions of chapter 54, to establish satisfactory kinds of coverage  
38 and limits of insurance for each applicant for either licensure or  
39 certification. Until such regulations are adopted, the following shall be  
40 the required limits for licensure: (1) For damages by reason of personal  
41 injury to, or the death of, one person on account of any accident, at  
42 least five hundred thousand dollars, and more than one person on  
43 account of any accident, at least one million dollars, (2) for damage to  
44 property at least fifty thousand dollars, and (3) for malpractice in the  
45 care of one passenger at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars, and  
46 for more than one passenger at least five hundred thousand dollars. In  
47 lieu of the limits set forth in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this  
48 subsection, a single limit of liability shall be allowed as follows: (A) For  
49 damages by reason of personal injury to, or death of, one or more  
50 persons and damage to property, at least one million dollars; and (B)

51 for malpractice in the care of one or more passengers, at least five  
52 hundred thousand dollars. A certificate of such proof shall be filed  
53 with the commissioner. Upon determination by the commissioner that  
54 an applicant is financially responsible, properly certified and otherwise  
55 qualified to operate a commercial ambulance service, rescue service or  
56 management service, the commissioner shall issue the appropriate  
57 license effective for one year to such applicant. If the commissioner  
58 determines that an applicant for either a certificate or license is not so  
59 qualified, the commissioner shall notify such applicant of the denial of  
60 the application with a statement of the reasons for such denial. Such  
61 applicant shall have thirty days to request a hearing on the denial of  
62 the application.

63 Sec. 2. Section 19a-175 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
64 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

65 As used in this chapter and section 3 of this act, unless the context  
66 otherwise requires:

67 (1) "Emergency medical service system" means a system which  
68 provides for the arrangement of personnel, facilities and equipment for  
69 the efficient, effective and coordinated delivery of health care services  
70 under emergency conditions;

71 (2) "Patient" means an injured, ill, crippled or physically  
72 handicapped person requiring assistance and transportation;

73 (3) "Ambulance" means a motor vehicle specifically designed to  
74 carry patients;

75 (4) "Ambulance service" means an organization which transports  
76 patients;

77 (5) "Emergency medical technician" means an individual who has  
78 successfully completed the training requirements established by the  
79 commissioner and has been certified by the Department of Public  
80 Health;

81 (6) "Ambulance driver" means a person whose primary function is  
82 driving an ambulance;

83 (7) "Emergency medical technician instructor" means a person who  
84 is certified by the Department of Public Health to teach courses, the  
85 completion of which is required in order to become an emergency  
86 medical technician;

87 (8) "Communications facility" means any facility housing the  
88 personnel and equipment for handling the emergency communications  
89 needs of a particular geographic area;

90 (9) "Life saving equipment" means equipment used by emergency  
91 medical personnel for the stabilization and treatment of patients;

92 (10) "Emergency medical service organization" means any  
93 organization whether public, private or voluntary which offers  
94 transportation or treatment services to patients under emergency  
95 conditions;

96 (11) "Invalid coach" means a vehicle used exclusively for the  
97 transportation of nonambulatory patients, who are not confined to  
98 stretchers, to or from either a medical facility or the patient's home in  
99 nonemergency situations or utilized in emergency situations as a  
100 backup vehicle when insufficient emergency vehicles exist;

101 (12) "Rescue service" means any organization, whether profit or  
102 nonprofit, whose primary purpose is to search for persons who have  
103 become lost or to render emergency service to persons who are in  
104 dangerous or perilous circumstances;

105 (13) "Provider" means any person, corporation or organization,  
106 whether profit or nonprofit, whose primary purpose is to deliver  
107 medical care or services, including such related medical care services  
108 as ambulance transportation;

109 (14) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

110 (15) "Paramedic" means a person licensed pursuant to section 20-  
111 206ll;

112 (16) "Commercial ambulance service" means an ambulance service  
113 which primarily operates for profit;

114 (17) "Licensed ambulance service" means a commercial ambulance  
115 service or a volunteer or municipal ambulance service issued a license  
116 by the commissioner;

117 (18) "Certified ambulance service" means a municipal or volunteer  
118 ambulance service issued a certificate by the commissioner;

119 (19) "Management service" means an employment organization that  
120 does not own or lease ambulances or other emergency medical  
121 vehicles and that provides emergency medical technicians or  
122 paramedics to an emergency medical service organization;

123 (20) "Automatic external defibrillator" means a device that: (A) Is  
124 used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart;  
125 (B) contains internal decision-making electronics, microcomputers or  
126 special software that allows it to interpret physiologic signals, make  
127 medical diagnosis and, if necessary, apply therapy; (C) guides the user  
128 through the process of using the device by audible or visual prompts;  
129 and (D) does not require the user to employ any discretion or  
130 judgment in its use;

131 (21) "Mutual aid call" means a call for emergency medical services  
132 that, pursuant to the terms of a written agreement, is responded to by a  
133 secondary or alternate emergency medical services provider if the  
134 primary or designated emergency medical services provider is unable  
135 to respond because such primary or designated provider is responding  
136 to another call for emergency medical services or the ambulance or  
137 nontransport emergency vehicle operated by such primary or  
138 designated provider is out of service. For purposes of this subdivision,  
139 "nontransport emergency vehicle" means a vehicle used by emergency  
140 medical technicians or paramedics in responding to emergency calls

141 that is not used to carry patients;

142 (22) "Municipality" means the legislative body of a municipality or  
143 the board of selectmen in the case of a municipality in which the  
144 legislative body is a town meeting;

145 (23) "Primary service area" means a specific geographic area to  
146 which one designated emergency medical services provider is  
147 assigned for each category of emergency medical response services;  
148 [and]

149 (24) "Primary service area responder" means an emergency medical  
150 services provider who is designated to respond to a victim of sudden  
151 illness or injury in a primary service area; and

152 (25) "Interfacility critical care transport" means the interfacility  
153 transport of a patient between licensed hospitals.

154 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Any ambulance used for  
155 interfacility critical care transport shall meet the requirements for a  
156 basic level ambulance, as prescribed in regulations adopted pursuant  
157 to section 19a-179 of the general statutes, including requirements  
158 concerning medically necessary supplies and services, and may be  
159 supplemented by a licensed registered nurse, advanced practice  
160 registered nurse, physician assistant or respiratory care practitioner,  
161 provided such licensed professionals shall have current training and  
162 certification in pediatric or adult advanced life support, or from the  
163 Neonatal Resuscitation Program of the American Academy of  
164 Pediatrics, as appropriate, based on the patient's condition.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	19a-180(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	19a-175
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill as amended does not result in a fiscal impact. It expands prohibitions on unlicensed individuals transporting a patient on a stretcher beyond transportation in an ambulance or rescue vehicle to include any motor vehicle, defines "interfacility critical care transport," and establishes a requirement that any ambulance used as such meet certain medical supply and service levels.

House "A" does not alter the underlying bills' absence of fiscal impact. It adds a definition of "interfacility critical care transport" and a requirement that any ambulance used as such meet certain medical supply and service levels.

**The Out Years**

None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6599 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT SAFETY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill permits only licensed or certified ambulance and rescue services to transport patients on stretchers in motor vehicles. The Public Health Department licenses commercial ambulance and rescue services and issues certificates to volunteer and municipal ambulance services. By law, anyone who wilfully violates an emergency medical services law can be fined up to \$250, imprisoned for up to three months, or both (CGS § 19a-180(d)(5)).

The bill requires any ambulance used to transport patients between hospitals to meet state regulatory requirements for basic ambulance service, including those concerning medically necessary supplies and services. These regulations require, among other things, one medical response technician and one emergency medical technician in the ambulance, the latter who must attend the patient at all times.

The bill permits a licensed registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or respiratory care practitioner to supplement the ambulance transport if he or she has current training and certification (1) in pediatric or adult advance life support or (2) from the American Academy of Pediatrics' neonatal resuscitation program, as appropriate and based on the patient's condition.

\*House Amendment "A" adds the provisions on ambulance transport between hospitals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for interhospital transport; October 1, 2009 for stretcher transport.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/13/2009)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 42 Nay 1 (04/14/2009)