
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 445

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS IN THE CUSTODY OR CONTROL OF A PEACE OFFICER.

SUMMARY

This bill gives anyone who experiences an emergency medical condition or is medically unstable while under a peace officer's custody or control the right to be provided emergency medical services.

It correspondingly requires a peace officer to immediately request emergency medical services for any such person in their custody or control. This applies whether the (1) person communicated to the officer that he or she was medically unstable or experiencing an emergency medical condition or (2) officer observed the person to be in this situation.

Under the bill, an "emergency medical condition" or being "medically unstable" can arise from a condition that is physical, behavioral, or related to a substance use or mental health disorder. An emergency medical condition causes symptoms severe enough that a prudent layperson with an average knowledge of health and medicine reasonably determines prompt medical attention is warranted to avoid serious jeopardy or impairment. A person is medically unstable if their condition could reasonably be understood to lead to an emergency.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

Peace Officers

By law, the following individuals are designated peace officers: state and local police, Division of Criminal Justice inspectors, state marshals exercising statutory powers, judicial marshals performing their duties, conservation or special conservation officers, constables who perform

criminal law enforcement duties, appointed special policemen, adult probation officers, Department of Correction officials authorized to make arrests in a correctional institution or facility, investigators in the Office of the State Treasurer, Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST)-certified motor vehicle inspectors, U.S. marshals and deputy marshals, U.S. special agents authorized to enforce federal food and drug laws, and POST-certified police officers of a law enforcement unit created and governed under a state-tribal memorandum (CGS § 53a-3(9)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39 Nay 0 (03/31/2022)