

Senate Engrossed

ambulances; emergency medical services

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

**CHAPTER 165**  
**SENATE BILL 1711**

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 36-2201, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2022, CHAPTER 381, SECTION 1; AMENDING SECTION 36-2202, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2022, CHAPTER 381, SECTION 2; RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 36-2201, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by  
3 Laws 2022, chapter 381, section 1, is amended to read:

4 36-2201. Definitions

5 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 1. "Administrative medical direction" means supervision of  
7 emergency medical care technicians by a base hospital medical director,  
8 administrative medical director or basic life support medical director.  
9 For the purposes of this paragraph, "administrative medical director"  
10 means a physician who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13 or 17  
11 and who provides direction within the emergency medical services and  
12 trauma system.

13 2. "Advanced emergency medical technician" means a person who has  
14 been trained in an advanced emergency medical technician program certified  
15 by the director or in an equivalent training program and who is certified  
16 by the director to render services pursuant to section 36-2205.

17 3. "Advanced life support" means the level of assessment and care  
18 identified in the scope of practice approved by the director for the  
19 advanced emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician I-99  
20 and paramedic.

21 4. "Advanced life support base hospital" means a health care  
22 institution that offers general medical and surgical services, that is  
23 certified by the director as an advanced life support base hospital and  
24 that is affiliated by written agreement with a licensed ambulance service,  
25 municipal rescue service, fire department, fire district or health  
26 services district for medical direction, evaluation and control of  
27 emergency medical care technicians.

28 5. "Ambulance":

29 (a) Means any publicly or privately owned surface, water or air  
30 vehicle, including a helicopter, that contains a stretcher and necessary  
31 medical equipment and supplies pursuant to section 36-2202 and that is  
32 especially designed and constructed or modified and equipped to be used,  
33 maintained or operated primarily to transport individuals who are sick,  
34 injured or wounded or who require medical monitoring or aid.

35 (b) Does not include a surface vehicle that is owned and operated  
36 by a private sole proprietor, partnership, private corporation or  
37 municipal corporation for the emergency transportation and in-transit care  
38 of its employees or a vehicle that is operated to accommodate an  
39 incapacitated person or person with a disability who does not require  
40 medical monitoring, care or treatment during transport and that is not  
41 advertised as having medical equipment and supplies or ambulance  
42 attendants.

- 1           6. "Ambulance attendant" means any of the following:  
2           (a) An emergency medical technician, an advanced emergency medical  
3 technician, an emergency medical technician I-99 or a paramedic whose  
4 primary responsibility is the care of patients in an ambulance and who  
5 meets the standards and criteria adopted pursuant to section 36-2204.  
6           (b) An emergency medical responder who is employed by an ambulance  
7 service operating under section 36-2202 and whose primary responsibility  
8 is driving an ambulance.  
9           (c) A physician who is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13  
10 or 17.  
11           (d) A professional nurse who is licensed pursuant to title 32,  
12 chapter 15 and who meets the state board of nursing criteria to care for  
13 patients in the prehospital care system.  
14           (e) A professional nurse who is licensed pursuant to title 32,  
15 chapter 15 and whose primary responsibility is the care of patients in an  
16 ambulance during an interfacility transport.  
17           7. "Ambulance service" means a person who owns and operates one or  
18 more ambulances.  
19           8. "Basic life support" means the level of assessment and care  
20 identified in the scope of practice approved by the director for the  
21 emergency medical responder and emergency medical technician.  
22           9. "Bureau" means the bureau of emergency medical services and  
23 trauma system in the department.  
24           10. "Centralized medical direction communications center" means a  
25 facility that is housed within a hospital, medical center or trauma center  
26 or a freestanding communication center that meets the following criteria:  
27           (a) Has the ability to communicate with ambulance services and  
28 emergency medical services providers rendering patient care outside of the  
29 hospital setting via radio and telephone.  
30           (b) Is staffed twenty-four hours a day seven days a week by at  
31 least a physician licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13 or 17.  
32           11. "Certificate of necessity" means a certificate that is issued to  
33 an ambulance service by the department and that describes the following:  
34           (a) The service area.  
35           (b) The level of service.  
36           (c) The type of service.  
37           (d) The hours of operation.  
38           (e) The effective date.  
39           (f) The expiration date.  
40           (g) The legal name and address of the ambulance service.  
41           (h) The any limiting or special provisions the director prescribes.  
42           12. "Council" means the emergency medical services council.  
43           13. "Department" means the department of health services.  
44           14. "Director" means the director of the department of health  
45 services.

1           15. "Emergency medical care technician" means an individual who has  
2 been certified by the department as an emergency medical technician, an  
3 advanced emergency medical technician, an emergency medical technician  
4 I-99 or a paramedic.

5           16. "Emergency medical responder" as an ambulance attendant, whose  
6 primary responsibility is driving an ambulance, means a person who has  
7 successfully completed training in an emergency medical responder program  
8 that is certified by the director or IS APPROVED BY THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
9 SERVICES PROVIDER'S ADMINISTRATIVE MEDICAL DIRECTOR ON FILE WITH THE  
10 DEPARTMENT OR in an equivalent training program ~~or who is approved by the~~  
11 ~~emergency medical services provider's administrative medical director on~~  
12 ~~file with the department.~~

13           17. "Emergency medical responder program" means a program that  
14 includes at least the following:

- 15           (a) Emergency vehicle driver training.
- 16           (b) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification.
- 17           (c) Automated external defibrillator training.
- 18           (d) Training in the use of noninvasive diagnostic devices,  
19 including blood glucose monitors and pulse oximeters.
- 20           (e) Training on obtaining a patient's vital signs, including blood  
21 pressure, pulse and respiratory rate.

22           18. "Emergency medical services" means those services required  
23 following an accident or an emergency medical situation:

- 24           (a) For on-site emergency medical care.
- 25           (b) To transport the sick or injured by a licensed ground or air  
26 ambulance.
- 27           (c) In using emergency communications media.
- 28           (d) In using emergency receiving facilities.
- 29           (e) In administering initial care and preliminary treatment  
30 procedures by emergency medical care technicians.

31           19. "Emergency medical services provider" means any governmental  
32 entity, quasi-governmental entity or corporation whether public or private  
33 that renders emergency medical services in this state.

34           20. "Emergency medical technician" means a person who has been  
35 trained in an emergency medical technician program certified by the  
36 director or in an equivalent training program and who is certified by the  
37 director as qualified to render services pursuant to section 36-2205.

38           21. "Emergency receiving facility" means a licensed health care  
39 institution that offers emergency medical services, is staffed twenty-four  
40 hours a day and has a physician on call.

41           22. "Fit and proper" means that the director determines that an  
42 applicant for a certificate of necessity or a certificate holder has the  
43 expertise, integrity, fiscal competence and resources to provide ambulance  
44 service in the service area.

1           23. "Medical record" means any patient record, including clinical  
2 records, prehospital care records, medical reports, laboratory reports and  
3 statements, any file, film, record or report or oral statements relating  
4 to diagnostic findings, treatment or outcome of patients, whether written,  
5 electronic or recorded, and any information from which a patient or the  
6 patient's family might be identified.

7           24. "National certification organization" means a national  
8 organization that tests and certifies the ability of an emergency medical  
9 care technician and whose tests are based on national education standards.

10          25. "National education standards" means the emergency medical  
11 services education standards of the United States department of  
12 transportation or other similar emergency medical services education  
13 standards developed by that department or its successor agency.

14          26. "Paramedic" means a person who has been trained in a paramedic  
15 program certified by the director or in an equivalent training program and  
16 who is certified by the director to render services pursuant to section  
17 36-2205.

18          27. "Physician" means any person licensed pursuant to title 32,  
19 chapter 13 or 17.

20          28. "Stretcher van" means a vehicle that contains a stretcher and  
21 that is operated to accommodate an incapacitated person or person with a  
22 disability who does not require medical monitoring, aid, care or treatment  
23 during transport.

24          29. "Suboperation station" means a physical facility or location at  
25 which an ambulance service conducts operations for the dispatch of  
26 ambulances and personnel and that may be staffed twenty-four hours a day  
27 or less as determined by system use.

28          30. "Trauma center" means any acute care hospital that provides  
29 in-house twenty-four-hour daily dedicated trauma surgical services that is  
30 designated pursuant to section 36-2225.

31          31. "Trauma registry" means data collected by the department on  
32 trauma patients and on the incidence, causes, severity, outcomes and  
33 operation of a trauma system and its components.

34          32. "Trauma system" means an integrated and organized arrangement  
35 of health care resources having the specific capability to perform triage,  
36 transport and provide care.

37          33. "Validated testing procedure" means a testing procedure that  
38 includes practical skills, or attests practical skills proficiency on a  
39 form developed by the department by the educational training program,  
40 identified pursuant to section 36-2204, paragraph 2, that is certified as  
41 valid by an organization capable of determining testing procedure and  
42 testing content validity and that is recommended by the medical direction  
43 commission and the emergency medical services council before the  
44 director's approval.

1           34. "Wheelchair van" means a vehicle that contains or that is  
2 designed and constructed or modified to contain a wheelchair and that is  
3 operated to accommodate an incapacitated person or person with a  
4 disability who does not require medical monitoring, aid, care or treatment  
5 during transport.

6           Sec. 2. Section 36-2202, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by  
7 Laws 2022, chapter 381, section 2, is amended to read:

8           36-2202. Duties of the director; qualifications of medical  
9                                   director

10          A. The director shall:

11           1. Appoint a medical director of the emergency medical services and  
12 trauma system.

13           2. Adopt standards and criteria for the denial or granting of  
14 certification and recertification of emergency medical care technicians.  
15 These standards shall allow the department to certify qualified emergency  
16 medical care technicians who have completed statewide standardized  
17 training required under section 36-2204, paragraph 1 and a standardized  
18 certification test required under section 36-2204, paragraph 2 or who hold  
19 valid certification with a national certification organization. Before  
20 the director may consider approving a statewide standardized training or a  
21 standardized certification test, or both, each of these must first be  
22 recommended by the medical direction commission and the emergency medical  
23 services council to ensure that the standardized training content is  
24 consistent with national education standards and that the standardized  
25 certification test examines comparable material to that examined in the  
26 tests of a national certification organization.

27           3. Adopt standards and criteria that pertain to the quality of  
28 emergency care pursuant to section 36-2204.

29           4. Adopt rules necessary to carry out this chapter. Each rule  
30 shall identify all sections and subsections of this chapter under which  
31 the rule was formulated.

32           5. Adopt reasonable medical equipment, supply, staffing and safety  
33 standards, criteria and procedures to issue a certificate of registration  
34 to operate an ambulance.

35           6. Maintain a state system for recertifying emergency medical care  
36 technicians, except as otherwise provided by section 36-2202.01, that is  
37 independent from any national certification organization recertification  
38 process. This system shall allow emergency medical care technicians to  
39 choose to be recertified under the state or the national certification  
40 organization recertification system subject to subsection H of this  
41 section.

42          B. Emergency medical technicians who choose the state  
43 recertification process shall recertify in one of the following ways:

44           1. Successfully completing an emergency medical technician  
45 refresher course approved by the department.

1           2. Successfully completing an emergency medical technician  
2 challenge course approved by the department.

3           3. For emergency medical care technicians who are currently  
4 certified at the emergency medical technician level by the department,  
5 attesting on a form provided by the department that the applicant holds a  
6 valid and current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification, has and  
7 will maintain documented proof of a minimum of twenty-four hours of  
8 continuing medical education within the last two years consistent with  
9 department rules and has functioned in the capacity of an emergency  
10 medical technician for at least two hundred forty hours during the last  
11 two years.

12           C. After consultation with the emergency medical services council,  
13 the director may authorize pilot programs designed to improve the safety  
14 and efficiency of ambulance inspections for governmental or  
15 quasi-governmental entities that provide emergency medical services in  
16 this state.

17           D. The rules, standards and criteria adopted by the director  
18 pursuant to subsection A, paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this section shall  
19 be adopted in accordance with title 41, chapter 6, except that the  
20 director may adopt on an emergency basis pursuant to section 41-1026 rules  
21 relating to the regulation of ambulance services in this state necessary  
22 to protect the public peace, health and safety in advance of adopting  
23 rules, standards and criteria as otherwise provided by this subsection.

24           E. The director may waive the requirement for compliance with a  
25 protocol adopted pursuant to section 36-2205 if the director determines  
26 that the techniques, drug formularies or training makes the protocol  
27 inconsistent with contemporary medical practices.

28           F. The director may suspend a protocol adopted pursuant to  
29 section 36-2205 if the director does all of the following:

- 30           1. Determines that the rule is not in the public's best interest.  
31           2. Initiates procedures pursuant to title 41, chapter 6 to repeal  
32 the rule.

33           3. Notifies all interested parties in writing of the director's  
34 action and the reasons for that action. Parties interested in receiving  
35 notification shall submit a written request to the director.

36           G. To be eligible for appointment as the medical director of the  
37 emergency medical services and trauma system, the person shall be  
38 qualified in emergency medicine and shall be licensed as a physician in  
39 one of the states of the United States.

40           H. Applicants for certification shall apply to the director for  
41 certification. Emergency medical care technicians shall apply for  
42 recertification to the director every two years. The director may extend  
43 the expiration date of an emergency medical care technician's certificate  
44 for thirty days. The department shall establish a fee for this extension  
45 by rule. Emergency medical care technicians shall pass an examination

1 administered by the department as a condition for recertification only if  
2 required to do so by the advanced life support base hospital's medical  
3 director or the emergency medical care technician's medical director.

4 I. The medical director of the emergency medical services and  
5 trauma system is exempt from title 41, chapter 4, articles 5 and 6 and is  
6 entitled to receive compensation pursuant to section 38-611, subsection A.

7 J. The standards, criteria and procedures adopted by the director  
8 pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 5 of this section shall require that  
9 ambulance services:

10 1. Providing interfacility transportation ~~OR~~ IN ANY CERTIFICATE OF  
11 NECESSITY AREA OF THIS STATE HAVE AT LEAST ONE AMBULANCE ATTENDANT AS  
12 DEFINED IN SECTION 36-2201, PARAGRAPH 6, SUBDIVISION (a), (c), (d) OR (e)  
13 AND ONE AMBULANCE ATTENDANT AS DEFINED IN SECTION 36-2201, PARAGRAPH 6,  
14 SUBDIVISION (a) OR (b) STAFFING AN AMBULANCE WHILE TRANSPORTING A PATIENT.

15 2. Serving a rural or wilderness certificate of necessity area with  
16 a population of less than ten thousand persons have at least one ambulance  
17 attendant as defined in section 36-2201, paragraph 6, subdivision (a),  
18 (c), (d) OR (e) and one ambulance attendant as defined in section 36-2201,  
19 paragraph 6, subdivision (a) OR (b) staffing an ambulance while  
20 transporting a patient. ~~and that ambulance services providing~~  
21 ~~interfacility transportation or~~

22 3. Serving a population of ten thousand persons or more have at  
23 least one ambulance attendant as defined in section 36-2201, paragraph 6,  
24 subdivision (a) and one ambulance attendant as defined in section 36-2201,  
25 paragraph 6, subdivision (a), (c), (d) or (e) staffing an ambulance while  
26 transporting a patient.

27 K. If the department determines there is not a qualified  
28 administrative medical director, the department shall ensure the provision  
29 of administrative medical direction for an emergency medical technician if  
30 the emergency medical technician meets all of the following criteria:

31 1. Is employed by a nonprofit or governmental provider employing  
32 less than twelve full-time emergency medical technicians.

33 2. Stipulates to the inability to secure a physician who is willing  
34 to provide administrative medical direction.

35 3. Stipulates that the provider agency does not provide  
36 administrative medical direction for its employees.

37 Sec. 3. Effective date

38 This act is effective from and after December 31, 2023.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR JUNE 5, 2023.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE JUNE 5, 2023.