



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1711

ambulances; emergency medical services

Purpose

Effective January 1, 2024, requires Department of Health Services (DHS) ambulance service criteria and procedures to include a requirement that ambulances, while providing interfacility transport in any certificate of necessity (CON), be staffed by at least one ambulance attendant who is an emergency medical technician, a licensed physician or a professional nurse, as well as one who is either an emergency medical technician or an emergency medical responder.

Background

Current statute requires the DHS Director to adopt reasonable medical equipment, supply, staffing and safety standards, criteria and procedures to issue a CON to operate an ambulance. These standards, criteria and procedures must require that an ambulance service providing interfacility transportation, or serving a rural or wilderness CON area with a population of less than 10,000 persons, have at least one ambulance attendant who is an emergency medical technician, a licensed physician or a professional nurse, as well as one who is either an emergency medical technician or an emergency medical responder while transporting a patient ([A.R.S. § 36-2202](#)).

DHS issues CONs to applicants who operate ambulance services if: 1) the ambulance service has at least one ambulance registered by DHS; 2) public necessity requires the service or any part of the proposed service; 3) the applicant is fit and proper to provide the service; and 4) the appropriate fees and bonds have been paid and filed. A CON includes a description of the ambulance service area, level and type of service, hours of operation, effective and expiration date and the legal name and address of the ambulance service. DHS prescribes rules for the operation of ambulance services that include requirements for issuing, amending, transferring, suspending or revoking a CON (A.R.S. §§ [362-2201](#); [36-2232](#); and [36-2233](#)).

An *ambulance* is any publicly or privately owned surface, water or air vehicle, including a helicopter, that contains a stretcher and necessary medical equipment and supplies that is constructed or modified and equipped to be used primarily for the transport of individuals who are sick, injured or wounded or who require medical monitoring or aid ([A.R.S. § 36-2201](#)).

An *ambulance attendant* includes the following: 1) an emergency medical technician (EMT), advanced EMT or a paramedic whose primary responsibility is the care of patients in an ambulance; 2) an emergency medical responder who is employed by an ambulance operating service; 3) a licensed physician; or 4) a licensed professional nurse who meets the Arizona Board of Nursing criteria to care for patients in the prehospital care system or whose primary responsibility is the care of patients in an ambulance during an interfacility transport ([A.R.S. § 36-2201](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

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Provisions

1. Requires DHS ambulance service criteria and procedures to include a requirement that ambulances, while providing interfacility transport in any CON, be staffed by at least one ambulance attendant who is an EMT, a licensed physician or a professional nurse, as well as one who is either an emergency medical technician or an emergency medical responder.
2. Makes technical and conforming changes.
3. Becomes effective January 1, 2024.

Prepared by Senate Research

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MM/JM/slp