

1 HB269  
2 204385-1  
3 By Representative Sells  
4 RFD: Health  
5 First Read: 18-FEB-20

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, emergency medical services personnel are subject to regulation by the State Board of Health.

This bill would authorize the State Board of Health to establish and administer a community paramedicine program that authorizes paramedics to provide certain services to patients in certain circumstances.

This bill would require the State Board of Health to adopt rules.

This bill would also revise definitions, including definitions for services provided by emergency medical services personnel.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to emergency medical services; to amend Section 22-18-1, Code of Alabama 1975, and to add Section

1 22-18-10 to the Code of Alabama 1975; to authorize the State  
2 Board of Health to establish and administer a community  
3 paramedicine program that allows paramedics to provide certain  
4 services to patients; to authorize rulemaking; and to revise  
5 definitions.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

7 Section 1. Section 22-18-1, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "§22-18-1.

10 "For the purposes of this article, the following  
11 terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by  
12 this section:

13 "(1) ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN. Any  
14 ~~person~~ individual 18 years of age or older who satisfies all  
15 of the following:

16 "a. Has successfully completed the advanced  
17 emergency medical technician course of instruction, or its  
18 equivalent, as approved by the ~~State Board of Health~~ board.

19 "b. Has passed the state Advanced EMT examination,  
20 as well as having met the requirements for becoming a licensed  
21 emergency medical technician.

22 "c. Has been granted a license by the ~~State Board of~~  
23 ~~Health~~ board.

24 "(2) ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS). The treatment of  
25 potentially life-threatening medical emergencies through the  
26 use of invasive medical techniques specified as advanced life  
27 support techniques by the ~~Board of Health~~ board, which

1 ordinarily would be performed or provided by licensed  
2 physicians, but which may be performed by emergency medical  
3 service personnel during emergencies under constraints  
4 specified by rule of the board.

5 "(3) AIR AMBULANCE. An aircraft that is intended to  
6 be used for and is maintained or operated for transportation  
7 to a medical care facility of persons who are sick or injured.  
8 For the purposes of this chapter, fixed-wing aircraft that do  
9 not conduct scene flights shall not be considered air  
10 ambulances.

11 "(4) BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS). Prehospital care  
12 involving non-invasive life support measures as specified by  
13 the board.

14 "(5) BOARD or BOARD OF HEALTH. The State Board of  
15 Health.

16 "(6) COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC. An individual 18 years of  
17 age or older who satisfies all of the following:

18 "a. Is currently licensed as a paramedic.

19 "b. Has two years of full-time service as a  
20 paramedic.

21 "c. Has successfully completed a community paramedic  
22 training program from an accredited college or university  
23 approved by the board.

24 "d. Has passed the state community paramedic  
25 examination, as well as having met the requirements for  
26 becoming a licensed community paramedic.

27 "e. Has been granted a license by the board.

1           "(7) COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM. The provision  
2 of certain medical services, as determined by rule, that a  
3 community paramedic may provide.

4           ~~"(6)(8)~~ DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Public  
5 Health.

6           ~~"(7)(9) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS). A system~~  
7 ~~of coordinated response to provide prehospital emergency aid~~  
8 ~~and medical assistance from primary response to definitive~~  
9 ~~care, involving personnel trained in the rescue,~~  
10 ~~stabilization, transportation, and treatment of sick or~~  
11 ~~injured persons~~ A system that consists of all of the  
12 following:

13           "a. The transportation and medical care provided to  
14 sick or injured individuals before arrival at a medical  
15 facility by licensed emergency medical services personnel.

16           "b. Continuation of care within a medical facility  
17 subject to the approval of the medical staff and governing  
18 board of that facility.

19           "c. Integrated medical care in emergency and  
20 nonurgent settings with the oversight of a physician.

21           ~~(8)(10) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL (EMSP).~~  
22 ~~The collective term used to refer to licensed emergency~~  
23 ~~medical technicians, emergency medical technicians~~  
24 ~~intermediate, advanced emergency medical technicians,~~  
25 ~~paramedics, and any level of licensure as recognized by the~~  
26 ~~National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for individuals~~  
27 ~~who provide emergency medical services or who initiate~~

1 ~~immediate lifesaving care~~ An individual licensed by the board  
2 at any level established by law or by rules adopted by the  
3 board under this article and authorized to perform these  
4 limited services set forth in the rules.

5 ~~"(9) (11)~~ EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT). ~~Any~~  
6 ~~person~~ An individual 18 years of age or older who satisfies  
7 all of the following:

8 "a. Has successfully completed the basic emergency  
9 medical technician course of instruction, or its equivalent,  
10 as approved by the ~~Board of Health~~ board.

11 "b. Has passed the state EMT examination.

12 "c. Has been granted a license by the ~~Board of~~  
13 ~~Health~~ board.

14 ~~"(10) (12)~~ GROUND AMBULANCE. A motor vehicle that is  
15 intended to be used for and is maintained or operated for  
16 transportation to a medical care facility of ~~persons~~  
17 individuals who are sick or injured.

18 ~~"(11) (13)~~ LICENSED EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
19 TECHNICIAN-INTERMEDIATE. ~~Any person~~ An individual 18 years of  
20 age or older who, prior to December 31, 2002, satisfies all of  
21 the following:

22 "a. Has successfully completed the intermediate  
23 emergency medical technician course of instruction, or its  
24 equivalent, as approved by the ~~Board of Health~~ board.

25 "b. Has passed the state EMT Intermediate  
26 examination, as well as having met the requirements for  
27 becoming a licensed emergency medical technician.

1 "c. has been granted a license by the ~~Board of~~  
2 ~~Health~~ board.

3 "(14) MEDICAL FACILITY. Any hospital, medical  
4 clinic, physician's office, nursing home, or other health care  
5 facility.

6 "~~(12)~~ (15) NON-TRANSPORT VEHICLE. A vehicle operated  
7 with the intent to provide BLS or ALS stabilization on scene,  
8 but not intended to transport a patient to a medical care  
9 facility.

10 "~~(13)~~ (16) PARAMEDIC. Any ~~person~~ individual 18 years  
11 of age or older who has successfully completed the paramedic  
12 course of instruction, or its equivalent, as approved by the  
13 ~~Board of Health~~ board, and passed the state ~~EMT~~-paramedic  
14 examination, and who has been granted a license by the ~~Board~~  
15 ~~of Health~~ board.

16 "~~(14)~~ (17) PATIENT. An individual who receives or  
17 requests medical care, or for whom medical care is requested,  
18 because the individual is sick or injured.

19 "~~(15)~~ (18) PHYSICIAN. An individual licensed to  
20 practice medicine by the Medical Licensure Commission of  
21 Alabama.

22 "~~(16)~~ (19) PROVIDER SERVICE. An organization, whether  
23 public or private, which provides transport or non-transport  
24 emergency medical services.

25 "~~(17)~~ (20) SCENE FLIGHT. The flight of an air  
26 ambulance to the physical location of a sick or injured ~~person~~  
27 individual.

1                   "~~(18)~~ (21) TRANSPORT VEHICLE. An air or ground  
2 ambulance."

3                   Section 2. Section 22-18-10 is added to the Code of  
4 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

5                   §22-18-10.

6                   (a) The board may establish and administer a  
7 community paramedicine program to authorize paramedics to  
8 provide community paramedic services, as further provided in  
9 this section.

10                  (b) An individual is eligible as a patient for a  
11 community paramedicine program if the individual meets any of  
12 the following criteria:

13                   (1) The individual has been discharged from a  
14 medical facility, and has declined or is not eligible for home  
15 health or hospice services.

16                   (2) The individual has been identified by his or her  
17 treating physician as an individual for whom community  
18 paramedic services would likely prevent admission or  
19 readmission to, or allow discharge from, a medical facility.

20                   (3) The individual has been referred to the  
21 community paramedicine program to receive preventive services.

22                   (c) Community paramedic services are limited to all  
23 of the following:

24                   (1) Coordination of community services.

25                   (2) Chronic disease monitoring and education.

26                   (3) Health assessment.

27                   (4) Hospital discharge follow-up care.

1                   (5) Laboratory specimen collection.  
2                   (6) Medication compliance.  
3                   (7) Continuation of care within a medical facility.  
4                   (8) Integrated medical care with the oversight of a  
5 physician.

6                   (d) A community paramedic shall document all  
7 community paramedic services provided, and shall forward a  
8 copy of the documentation to the attending or treating  
9 physician, as prescribed by rules adopted by the board.

10                  (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
11 allow a community paramedic to make a diagnosis or prescribe  
12 drugs.

13                  (f) The board shall adopt rules to implement this  
14 section, including, but not limited to, the length of time  
15 after discharge a patient is eligible for community paramedic  
16 services.

17                  Section 3. This act shall become effective on the  
18 first day of the third month following its passage and  
19 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.