

SENATE, No. 1772

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

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District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

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SYNOPSIS

Requires DOH to develop Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning emergency medical services and supplementing
2 Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. The Office of Emergency Medical Services in the
8 Department of Health shall develop a Statewide Emergency
9 Medical Services Plan that shall provide for a comprehensive,
10 coordinated, emergency medical services system in New Jersey.
11 The plan shall include both short-term and long-term goals and
12 objectives, and may incorporate the use of regional emergency
13 medical services plans tailored to the specific needs of regions
14 within the State as may be designated by the office. Regional plans,
15 if used, shall be jointly developed by each county board of health in
16 that region, in consultation with local boards of health as needed. A
17 regional plan shall be subject to approval by the office; upon
18 approval, the regional plan shall be deemed to be part of the
19 Statewide plan. The office shall review and update the Statewide
20 plan triennially, and shall make such changes to the plan as may be
21 necessary to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the State's
22 emergency medical services system of care. The department shall
23 make the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan available on
24 its Internet website.

25 b. In developing and updating the Statewide Emergency
26 Medical Services Plan pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the
27 office shall, at a minimum:

28 (1) conduct an inventory of emergency medical services
29 resources available within the State;

30 (2) conduct an assessment of the current effectiveness of the
31 emergency medical services system of care in the State;

32 (3) determine the need for changes to the current emergency
33 medical services system of care in the State, including any changes
34 as may be needed to improve access to emergency medical services
35 in a given region of the State or for a given population within the
36 State;

37 (4) develop performance metrics with regard to the delivery of
38 emergency medical services in the State, establish a schedule for
39 achieving the performance metrics, develop a method for
40 monitoring and evaluating whether the performance metrics are
41 being achieved, and prepare an estimate of costs for achieving the
42 performance metrics;

43 (5) work with professional medical organizations, hospitals, and
44 other public and private agencies to develop approaches whereby
45 individuals who presently use the existing emergency department
46 for routine, nonurgent, primary medical care will be served more
47 appropriately and economically; and

1 (6) consult with and review, with appropriate emergency
2 medical services providers and organizations, the development of
3 applications to governmental or other appropriate sources for grants
4 or other funding to support emergency medical services programs.

5 c. The Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan developed
6 pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall:

7 (1) establish a comprehensive Statewide emergency medical
8 services system, incorporating facilities, transportation, manpower,
9 communications, and other components as integral parts of a unified
10 system that will serve to improve the delivery of emergency
11 medical services and thereby decrease morbidity, hospitalization,
12 disability, and mortality;

13 (2) seek to reduce the time period between the identification of
14 an acutely ill or injured patient and the provision of definitive
15 treatment for the illness or injury;

16 (3) increase access to high quality emergency medical services
17 for all citizens of New Jersey;

18 (4) promote continuing improvement in system components,
19 including: ground, water, and air transportation; communications;
20 hospital emergency departments and other emergency medical care
21 facilities; health care provider training and health care service
22 delivery; and consumer health information and education;

23 (5) ensure performance improvement of the emergency medical
24 services system and of the emergency medical services and care
25 delivered on scene, in transit, in hospital emergency departments,
26 and within the hospital environment;

27 (6) conduct, promote, and encourage programs of education and
28 training designed to upgrade the knowledge and skills of emergency
29 medical services personnel, including expanding the availability of
30 paramedic and advanced life support training throughout the State,
31 with particular emphasis on regions underserved by emergency
32 medical services personnel having such skills and training;

33 (7) maintain a process for designating appropriate hospitals as
34 trauma centers, certified stroke centers, and specialty care centers
35 based on an applicable national evaluation system;

36 (8) maintain a comprehensive emergency medical services
37 patient care data collection and performance improvement system,
38 which shall incorporate the information reported to the department
39 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2017, c.116 (C.26:2K-67);

40 (9) collect data and information and prepare reports for the sole
41 purpose of designating and verifying trauma centers and other
42 specialty care centers, as described in paragraph (7) of this
43 subsection; provided that data and information collected and reports
44 prepared pursuant to this paragraph shall not be considered a
45 government record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.),
46 P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.), or the common law concerning
47 access to government records;

1 (10) establish and maintain a process for crisis intervention and
2 peer support services for emergency medical services personnel and
3 public safety personnel, including Statewide availability and
4 accreditation of critical incident stress management or peer support
5 teams and personnel. Such accreditation standards shall include a
6 requirement that a peer support team be headed by a clinical
7 psychologist, psychiatrist, clinical social worker, or professional
8 counselor who: (a) is licensed pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised
9 Statutes; and (b) has at least five years of experience as a mental
10 health consultant working directly with emergency medical services
11 personnel or public safety personnel;

12 (11) coordinate with the Emergency Medical Services for
13 Children Program to maintain, and update as needed, the Statewide
14 program of emergency medical services for children developed
15 pursuant to P.L.1992, c.96 (C.26:2K-48 et seq.);

16 (12) establish and support a Statewide system of health and
17 medical emergency response teams, including emergency medical
18 services disaster task forces, coordination teams, disaster medical
19 assistance teams, and other support teams that shall assist local
20 emergency medical services providers at their request during mass
21 casualty events, disasters, or whenever local resources are
22 overwhelmed;

23 (13) establish and maintain a program to improve the
24 dispatching of emergency medical services personnel and vehicles,
25 including establishing and supporting emergency medical services
26 dispatch training, accrediting 911 dispatch centers, and establishing
27 and maintaining public safety answering points; and

28 (14) identify and establish best practices for managing and
29 operating emergency medical services providers, improving and
30 managing emergency medical services response times, and
31 disseminating such information to the appropriate persons and
32 entities.

33 d. In developing the Statewide Emergency Medical Services
34 Plan, the office shall coordinate with the Emergency Medical
35 Services for Children program and the State trauma medical
36 director, which shall each revise any plans, programs, protocols, or
37 other requirements related to emergency medical services as may be
38 necessary to bring those plans, programs, protocols, or other
39 requirements into conformity with the Statewide Emergency
40 Medical Services Plan.

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42 2. This act shall take effect 180 days after the date of
43 enactment.

STATEMENT

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This bill requires the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) in the Department of Health (DOH) to develop a Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan that provides for a comprehensive, coordinated, emergency medical services (EMS) system in New Jersey. The plan is to include both short-term and long-term goals and objectives, and may incorporate the use of regional emergency medical services plans tailored to the specific needs of regions within the State as may be designated by the OEMS. If used, regional plans are to be jointly developed by each county board of health within the designated region, and will be developed in consultation with local boards of health, as needed. Regional plans will be subject to approval by the OEMS; upon receiving such approval, the regional plan will be deemed to be part of the Statewide plan. The OEMS will be required to review and update the Statewide plan triennially, and to make such changes to the plan as may be necessary to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the State's EMS system of care. The DOH will be required to make the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan available on its Internet website.

In developing and updating the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan, the OEMS will be required, at a minimum, to:

- (1) conduct an inventory of EMS resources available within the State;
- (2) conduct an assessment of the current effectiveness of the EMS system of care in the State;
- (3) determine the need for changes to the current EMS system of care, including any changes as may be needed to improve access to EMS in a given region of the State or for a given population within the State;
- (4) develop performance metrics with regard to the delivery of EMS, establish a schedule for achieving the performance metrics, develop a method for monitoring and evaluating whether the performance metrics are being achieved, and prepare a cost estimate for achieving the performance metrics;
- (5) work with professional medical organizations, hospitals, and other public and private agencies to develop approaches whereby individuals who presently use the existing emergency department for routine, nonurgent, primary medical care will be served more appropriately and economically; and
- (6) consult with and review, with appropriate EMS agencies and organizations, the development of applications to governmental or other appropriate sources for grants or other funding to support EMS programs.

The bill additionally requires the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan to:

- (1) establish a comprehensive Statewide EMS system, incorporating facilities, transportation, manpower, communications,

- 1 and other components as integral parts of a unified system that will
2 serve to improve the delivery of EMS and thereby decrease morbidity,
3 hospitalization, disability, and mortality;
- 4 (2) seek to reduce the time period between the identification of an
5 acutely ill or injured patient and the provision of definitive treatment
6 for the illness or injury;
- 7 (3) increase access to high quality EMS for all citizens of New
8 Jersey;
- 9 (4) promote continuing improvement in system components,
10 including: ground, water, and air transportation; communications;
11 hospital emergency departments and other emergency medical care
12 facilities; health care provider training and health care service
13 delivery; and consumer health information and education;
- 14 (5) ensure performance improvement of the EMS system and of
15 the emergency services and care delivered on scene, in transit, in
16 hospital emergency departments, and within the hospital environment;
- 17 (6) conduct, promote, and encourage programs of education and
18 training designed to upgrade the knowledge and skills of EMS
19 personnel, including expanding the availability of paramedic and
20 advanced life support training throughout the State, with particular
21 emphasis on regions underserved by EMS personnel having such skills
22 and training;
- 23 (7) maintain a process for designating appropriate hospitals as
24 trauma centers, certified stroke centers, and specialty care centers
25 based on an applicable national evaluation system;
- 26 (8) maintain a comprehensive EMS patient care data collection and
27 performance improvement system, which is to incorporate certain
28 EMS data currently reported to the DOH;
- 29 (9) collect data and information and prepare reports for the sole
30 purpose of designating and verifying trauma centers and other
31 specialty care centers, which data, information, and reports will not be
32 considered a government record for the purposes of open public
33 records access laws;
- 34 (10) establish and maintain a process for crisis intervention and
35 peer support services for EMS personnel and public safety personnel,
36 including Statewide availability and accreditation of critical incident
37 stress management or peer support teams and personnel. The
38 accreditation standards are to include a requirement that a peer support
39 team be headed by a clinical psychologist, psychiatrist, clinical social
40 worker, or professional counselor who: (a) is licensed pursuant to
41 Title 45 of the Revised Statutes; and (b) has at least five years of
42 experience as a mental health consultant working directly with EMS
43 personnel or public safety personnel;
- 44 (11) coordinate with the Emergency Medical Services for
45 Children Program to maintain, and update as needed, the Statewide
46 program of EMS for children developed under current law;
- 47 (12) establish and support a Statewide system of health and
48 medical emergency response teams, including EMS disaster task

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1 forces, coordination teams, disaster medical assistance teams, and
2 other support teams that will assist local EMS providers at their
3 request during mass casualty events, disasters, or whenever local
4 resources are overwhelmed;

5 (13) establish and maintain a program to improve dispatching of
6 EMS personnel and vehicles, including establishing and supporting
7 EMS dispatch training, accrediting 911 dispatch centers, and
8 establishing and maintaining public safety answering points; and

9 (14) identify and establish best practices for managing and
10 operating EMS providers, improving and managing EMS response
11 times, and disseminating such information to the appropriate persons
12 and entities.

13 In developing the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan, the
14 OEMS will be required to coordinate with the Emergency Medical
15 Services for Children program and the State trauma medical director,
16 both of which will be required to revise any plans, programs,
17 protocols, or other requirements related to EMS as may be necessary
18 to bring those plans, programs, protocols, or other requirements into
19 conformity with the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan.