

2021 General Session Legislation that Affects EMS

EMS Stakeholders,

We wanted to update EMS providers on recent legislation that affects your profession. Below is a list of bills that were enrolled and waiting for the Governor's signature. We also had a few bills that were not enrolled this session, but were supportive to our EMS system. We hope to continue to support the efforts to improve EMS for both the providers and the public.

Thanks,

Guy Dansie

H.B. 25 -- Mental Health Protections for First Responders (Rep. Kwan, K.)

General Description:

This bill extends the Mental Health Protections for First Responders Workgroup for five years.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- Extends the Mental Health Protections for First Responders Workgroup until 2025.

H.B. 248 -- Mental Health Support Program for First Responders (Rep. Kwan, K.)

General Description:

This bill relates to mental health resources for first responders.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- Defines terms; and
- Requires the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health to administer a grant program to provide mental health resources for first responders.

H.B. 303 Sixth Substitute -- Emergency Medical Services Revisions (Rep. Johnson, D.N.)

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- Defines terms;
- Requires municipalities and counties to ensure at least a minimum level of 911 ambulance services are provided within the municipality or county;
- Extends certain requirements for the selection of ambulance and paramedic providers to all other municipalities, counties, local districts, and special service districts;
- Requires the State Emergency Medical Services Committee to adopt rules establishing the minimum level of 911 ambulance services provided within municipalities and counties;
- Allows the Department of Health to align the boundaries of an ambulance or paramedic provider's exclusive geographic service area with the boundaries of a political subdivision in certain circumstances;
- Allows a political subdivision to terminate a contract with a 911 ambulance services provider in certain circumstances;
- Modifies provisions related to the Department of Health's renewal of certain licenses; and
- Makes technical and conforming changes.

S.B. 53 -- Behavioral Emergency Services Amendments (Sen. Thatcher, D.)

General Description:

This bill enacts requirements and provisions relating to behavioral emergency services technicians.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- Defines terms;
- Creates a new license for behavioral emergency services technicians and advanced behavioral emergency services technicians;

- Requires the Utah Department of Health to administer the license, including setting initial and ongoing licensure and training requirements;
- Enacts provisions relating to the new license for behavioral emergency services technicians, including certain testimonial exceptions; and
- Makes technical and corresponding changes.

S.B. 83 Third Substitute -- POLST Order Amendments (Sen. Iwamoto, J.)

General Description:

This bill amends provisions relating to POLST orders.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- Renames the life with dignity order as the POLST order;
- Applies the provisions of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act to signatures that are required on a POLST order; and
- Allows a verbal confirmation, under limited circumstances, to satisfy the requirement for a signature on a POLST order.

S.B. 109 Substitute -- Emergency Services Amendments (Sen. Harper, W.)

General Description:

This bill modifies certification provisions for emergency medical responders.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- Directs the State Emergency Medical Services Committee to establish certification requirements;
- Applies existing liability protections to individuals certified by the State Emergency Medical Services Committee;
- Amends the background check requirements for individuals certified by the State Emergency Medical Services Committee;
- Addresses the certification and accreditation authority of the Utah Fire Prevention Board; and

- Makes technical changes.

S.B. 155 Third Substitute -- 988 Mental Health Crisis Assistance (Sen. Thatcher, D.)

General Description:

This bill creates the Statewide Behavioral Health Crisis Response Account and amends provisions related to the membership and duties of the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- Creates the Statewide Behavioral Health Crisis Response Account;
- Describes the purposes for which the Statewide Behavioral Health Crisis Response Account may be used;
- Amends the membership of the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission; and
- Amends the duties of the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission.