

IDAHO CODE RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PHYSICIAN COMMISSION

TITLE 56 - PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND WELFARE CHAPTER 10 – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

56-1011. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES -- STATEMENT OF INTENT. It is the purpose of the legislature of the state of Idaho in the adoption of sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, to recognize the importance of the delivery of emergency medical services and to provide reasonable regulation of the same. For this purpose, the provisions of section 54-1804, Idaho Code, shall not be so construed as to prohibit or penalize emergency medical services rendered by a person authorized to render emergency medical services by sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, if such emergency medical service is rendered under the responsible supervision and control of a licensed physician.

56-1012. DEFINITIONS. As used in sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code:

(1) "Advanced emergency medical technician" means a person who has met the qualifications for licensure as set forth in sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, is licensed by the EMS bureau under sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, carries out the practice of emergency care within the scope of practice determined by the commission and practices under the supervision of an Idaho licensed physician.

(2) "Agency" means any organization licensed by the EMS bureau that operates an air medical service, ambulance service or nontransport service.

(3) "Air ambulance" means any privately or publicly owned fixed wing aircraft or rotary wing aircraft used for, or intended to be used for, the transportation of persons experiencing physiological or psychological illness or injury who may need medical attention during transport. This may include dual or multipurpose vehicles which otherwise comply with sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, and specifications established by board rule.

(4) "Air medical service" means an agency licensed by the EMS bureau that responds to requests for patient care and transportation from hospitals and EMS agencies using a fixed wing aircraft or rotary wing aircraft.

(5) "Ambulance" means any privately or publicly owned motor vehicle, or nautical vessel used for, or intended to be used for, the transportation of sick or injured persons who may need medical attention during transport. This may include dual or multipurpose vehicles which otherwise comply with sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, and specifications established by board rules.

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(6) "Ambulance service" means an agency licensed by the EMS bureau operated with the intent to provide personnel and equipment for medical treatment at an emergency scene, during transportation or during transfer of persons experiencing physiological or psychological illness or injury who may need medical attention during transport.

(7) "Applicant" means any organization that is requesting an agency license under this chapter and includes the following:

(a) An organization seeking a new license;

(b) An existing agency that intends to change the level of licensed personnel it utilizes;

(c) An existing agency that intends to change its geographic coverage area, except by agency annexation;

(d) An existing nontransport service that intends to provide ambulance service;

(e) An existing ambulance service that intends to discontinue transport and become a nontransport service.

(8) "Board" means the Idaho board of health and welfare.

(9) "Commission" means the Idaho emergency medical services physician commission.

(10) "Department" means the Idaho department of health and welfare.

(11) "Emergency medical responder" means a person who has met the qualifications for licensure as set forth in sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, is licensed by the EMS bureau under sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, carries out the practice of emergency care within the scope of practice determined by the commission and practices under the supervision of an Idaho licensed physician.

(12) "Emergency medical services" or "EMS" means the system utilized in responding to a perceived individual need for immediate care in order to prevent loss of life or aggravation of physiological or psychological illness or injury.

(13) "EMS bureau" means the bureau of emergency medical services of the department.

(14) "Emergency medical technician" means a person who has met the qualifications for licensure as set forth in sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, is licensed by the EMS bureau under sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, carries out the practice of emergency care within the scope of practice determined by the commission and practices under the supervision of an Idaho licensed physician.

(15) "Licensed personnel" means those individuals who are emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

(16) "National emergency medical services information system technical assistance center" means an organization that validates software for compliance with the EMS data set defined by the United States department of transportation national highway traffic safety administration.

(17) "Nontransport service" means an agency licensed by the EMS bureau, operated with the intent to provide personnel or equipment for medical stabilization at an emergency scene, but not intended to be the service that will actually transport sick or injured persons.

(18) "Nontransport vehicle" means any vehicle operated by an agency with the intent to provide personnel or equipment for medical stabilization at an emergency scene, but not intended as the vehicle that will actually transport sick or injured persons.

(19) "Paramedic" means a person who has met the qualifications for licensure as set forth in sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, is licensed by the EMS bureau under sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, carries out the practice of emergency care within the scope of practice determined by the commission and practices under the supervision of an Idaho licensed physician.

(20) "Supervision" means the medical direction by a licensed physician of activities provided by licensed personnel affiliated with a licensed ambulance, air medical or nontransport service, including, but not limited to: establishing standing orders and protocols, reviewing performance of licensed personnel, providing instructions for patient care via radio or telephone, and other oversight.

(21) "Transfer" means the transportation of a patient from one (1) medical care facility to another.

56-1013. AUTHORIZED ACTIONS. Persons licensed by the EMS bureau shall be authorized to perform such acts under written or oral authorization of a licensed physician as shall be established by rules of the commission, including, but not limited to, administration of intravenous solutions and drugs, cardiac defibrillation, airway management, endotracheal intubation, and other patient care.

56-1013A. IDAHO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PHYSICIAN COMMISSION – TERMS AND OPERATION.

(1) There is hereby created in the department an Idaho emergency medical services physician commission for the purpose of establishing standards for scope of practice and medical supervision for licensed personnel and agencies licensed by the EMS Bureau, and for making disciplinary action recommendations to the EMS Bureau against licensed personnel. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the commission shall exercise its powers and duties in accordance with the provisions of sections 56-1011 through 56-1023, Idaho Code, relative to scope of practice and medical supervision of licensed personnel.

(2) The commission shall be composed of eleven (11) voting members appointed by the governor upon assurance of equitable geographic and rural representation. Six (6) members shall be physicians currently licensed in Idaho and appointed as follows: one (1) member representing the Idaho board of medicine as provided in chapter 18, title 54, Idaho Code, one (1) member representing the Idaho medical association, one (1) member representing the EMS bureau, one (1) member representing the Idaho chapter of the American college of emergency physicians, one (1) member representing the Idaho chapter of the American academy of pediatrics and one (1) member representing the Idaho chapter of the American college of surgeons committee on trauma. Three (3) members shall be physicians currently licensed in Idaho and practicing as an EMS medical director representing the following associations: one (1) member representing the Idaho association of counties, one (1) member representing the Idaho fire chiefs association and one (1) member representing the Idaho hospital association. Two (2) members shall be Idaho citizens representing the public interest.

(3) Except as provided in this subsection, members of the commission shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. The following four (4) members shall be appointed to an initial term of two (2) years: the member representing the board of medicine, the member representing the Idaho chapter of the American college of emergency physicians, the member representing the Idaho chapter of the American college of surgeons committee on trauma and the member representing the Idaho fire chiefs association. The remaining seven (7) members shall be appointed for an initial term of three (3) years. Thereafter, all terms shall be for a period of three (3) years.

(4) The commission shall elect a chair and such officers as it may deem necessary and appropriate. The commission shall meet at least annually and at the call of the chair. Members of the commission shall be compensated as provided in section 59-509(b), Idaho Code.

(5) Prior to the expiration of the regular term of a member of the commission or upon the occurrence or declaration of a vacancy in the membership of the commission, the EMS bureau shall notify the represented entity of that fact in writing and the represented entity shall, within sixty (60) days thereafter, nominate at least three (3) persons to fill the vacancy in a manner as shall be determined by the rules and bylaws of the represented entity and shall forward the nominations to the governor, who shall appoint from among the nominees a person to be a member of the commission to fill the vacancy. Persons nominated for a seat held by a physician must be licensed by the state of Idaho to practice medicine.

(6) Moneys collected pursuant to rules promulgated by the board for initial applications and renewal of EMS personnel licenses are hereby continuously appropriated and shall be utilized exclusively for the purposes set forth in this section as determined by the commission.

(7) The commission shall prepare a budget on an annual basis indicating that portion of the funds necessary for the continuous operation of the commission to achieve the purposes of this section.

56-1023. RULES.

(1) The commission is authorized and directed to adopt appropriate rules defining the allowable scope of practice and acts and duties which can be performed by persons licensed by the EMS bureau and the required level of supervision by a licensed physician.

(2) The board is authorized and directed to adopt appropriate rules and standards concerning the administration of sections 56-1011 through 56-1022 and this section, Idaho Code, including criteria for educational programs, certification and licensure of personnel, certification of EMS instructors, licensure of ambulance, air medical and nontransport services, manufacturing standards for ambulances and nontransport vehicles, criteria for the use of air medical services by licensed EMS personnel at emergency scenes, establishment of fees for training, inspections and licensure, appropriate requirements for renewal of licensure of personnel and agencies and the management of complaints, investigations and license actions against licensed EMS personnel and agencies. The rules of the board must be consistent with the rules adopted by the commission.

(3) Additionally, the department shall develop guidelines, standards and procedures for reducing exposure to pathogens from human blood, tissue or fluids. Such guidelines, standards and procedures shall be made available to all law enforcement personnel, all emergency medical services personnel and agencies, and such other emergency personnel as request such information.