

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 176

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H.P. 109

House of Representatives, January 14, 2025

**An Act to Establish a Regional Ambulance Service in Southern  
Penobscot County**

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

1           **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2           **Sec. 1. Establishment; membership.** The Southern Penobscot County Regional  
3           Ambulance Service Authority, referred to in this Act as "the authority," is established to  
4           facilitate the provision of emergency medical services to the residents of towns in southern  
5           Penobscot County that vote to join the authority, referred to in this Act as "the member  
6           towns." Any town in southern Penobscot County may join the authority by a majority vote  
7           of the municipal officers of the town.

8           For the purposes of this Act, "municipal officers" has the same meaning as in the Maine  
9           Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 2001, subsection 10.

10          **Sec. 2. Board of directors.** The authority is governed by a board of directors,  
11          referred to in this Act as "the board." The board consists of one member from each member  
12          town appointed by the municipal officers of that town.

13          The municipal officers of each member town shall appoint an alternate who may serve  
14          in the absence of the appointed member for that town.

15          The members of the board are appointed for terms of 2 years, except that the first 3  
16          members appointed are appointed for an initial term of 3 years and the 2nd 3 members  
17          appointed are appointed for an initial term of one year. The members may be reappointed  
18          at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

19          **Sec. 3. Powers; funding.** The authority may:

20                 1. Make and enter into contracts and agreements and, pursuant to the bylaws of the  
21                 authority, purchase or lease all vehicles and equipment necessary to provide emergency  
22                 medical services to member towns;

23                 2. Hold public hearings and sponsor public forums;

24                 3. Sue and be sued in its own name;

25                 4. Accept funds, grants and services from federal, state, county and municipal  
26                 governments, or any agency thereof, gifts and stipends from its member towns and private  
27                 gifts from individuals and entities;

28                 5. Apply for and accept loans and allocate and disburse funds received to carry out the  
29                 purposes of the authority;

30                 6. Require payment of funding from each member town on a per capita basis or based  
31                 on service call volume, as determined by the board. A member town through its governing  
32                 body may authorize a property tax levy to support the authority, with the levy amount based  
33                 on service needs;

34                 7. Establish a schedule of fees for emergency medical services provided to individuals  
35                 who are not residents of a member town or for specific types of services not covered by  
36                 insurance;

37                 8. Apply for and accept county, state or federal grants designated for emergency  
38                 medical services and shared service operations; and

39                 9. Negotiate agreements with local hospitals or health care facilities to share costs for  
40                 high-demand services.

1 Debts of the authority authorized under this Act do not constitute or create any debt or  
2 liability on behalf of the State. Debts incurred under this Act do not directly, indirectly or  
3 contingently obligate the State to levy or to pledge any form of taxation or to make any  
4 appropriation for their payment. This section may not be construed to prevent the authority  
5 from pledging its full faith and credit to the payment of loans or other debts authorized  
6 pursuant to this Act.

7 **Sec. 4. Duties.** The authority shall:

8 1. Employ or contract with licensed emergency medical services personnel as described  
9 in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 83, which may include employment of  
10 technical or support staff as needed. All personnel must meet license requirements pursuant  
11 to the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982, including initial training and  
12 ongoing professional development;

13 2. Prioritize emergency medical services coverage within member towns, with  
14 availability for mutual aid assistance to neighboring towns that are not member towns in  
15 emergency cases as approved by the board;

16 3. Establish and enforce standards for ambulances, medical equipment and dispatch  
17 operations, ensuring alignment with state emergency medical services laws and rules;

18 4. Provide an annual report to member towns, detailing service response times,  
19 financial status and other relevant performance metrics;

20 5. Prepare an annual budget and require an annual audit, which must be made available  
21 for public inspection;

22 6. Establish minimum annual training hours to ensure employed emergency medical  
23 services personnel are up to date with the latest emergency medical services standards.  
24 Salaries, benefits and employment conditions must be set by the board, ensuring  
25 competitive rates to attract qualified personnel; and

26 7. Follow uniform standards provided in the Maine Revised Statutes insofar as they  
27 relate to Department of Public Safety rules.

28 **Sec. 5. Organization; conduct of business.** The board must be organized and its  
29 business must be conducted in accordance with the following.

30 1. The board shall elect a chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer from among its  
31 members.

32 2. The secretary shall keep a record of the board's meetings. These records are public  
33 records as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 402, subsection 3.

34 3. The treasurer shall keep records of the board's transactions. These records are public  
35 records as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 402, subsection 3.

36 4. The treasurer must be bonded in an amount to be determined by the board.

37 5. A quorum of the board must be established in the bylaws of the authority and must  
38 include the chair or vice-chair and the secretary or treasurer.

39 6. The board shall adopt such bylaws and mission statements as are necessary for the  
40 legal operation and proper management of the authority. The board shall oversee service

1 operations, establish policies, approve budgets, set training requirements and manage  
2 personnel.

3 7. Decisions must be made by majority vote of the board, with each member entitled  
4 to one vote.

5 **Sec. 6. Meetings.** The bylaws must establish the annual meeting of the board.  
6 Additional meetings may be scheduled at the call of the chair or at the written request of  
7 any 4 members of the board.

8 A member who fails to attend board meetings 5 consecutive times may be replaced by  
9 the municipal officers of the town the member represents. Notification of such absences  
10 from the secretary of the board to the municipal officers is sufficient to trigger the  
11 appointment of a replacement board member by the municipal officers.

12 **Sec. 7. Member withdrawal.** Any member town whose municipal officers by  
13 majority vote opt to withdraw from the authority shall provide written notice to the board  
14 at least one year prior to the proposed date of withdrawal. Upon receiving a withdrawal  
15 request, the board shall evaluate the financial and operational impact of the withdrawal. If  
16 the withdrawal is approved, the departing member town shall settle any outstanding  
17 financial obligations to the authority by the withdrawal date.

18 A town that withdraws from the authority may rejoin the authority by a majority vote  
19 of its municipal officers and acceptance by the board, subject to any reentry conditions the  
20 board may require.

## 21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill establishes the Southern Penobscot County Regional Ambulance Service  
23 Authority to facilitate the provision of emergency medical services to residents of southern  
24 Penobscot County.