

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 639

H. P. 521

House of Representatives, February 24, 1977

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Pertaining to Ambulance Service.

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA § 72, sub-§ 1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Air ambulance. "Air ambulance" means any aircraft that is designed or constructed or used or intended to be used for the transportation of patients. The licensing of the aircraft is in addition to the registration by the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA § 72, sub-§ 3, last 2 sentences, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 698, § 1, are amended to read:

All ambulances shall carry at least one licensed personnel or a physician or an osteopathic physician or a certified registered physician assistant under the direction of his supervisory physician or a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse. The licensed personnel, physician, osteopathic physician, certified registered physician assistant, registered nurse or licensed practical nurse must at all times be physically present in that section of the ambulance where the patient is placed.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA § 72, sub-§ 4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Air ambulance service. "Air ambulance service" means any organization or any person or persons who routinely provide air transportation for ill or injured persons.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA § 72, sub-§ 5, as amended by PL 1975, c. 293, § 4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

5. **Board.** "Board" means the advisory board to the Department of Human Services for licensure of ambulance services and air ambulance services, vehicles, aircraft or ambulances, ambulance and air ambulance personnel.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA § 73, sub-§ 1, 1st sentence, as amended by PL 1975, c. 293, § 4, is further amended to read:

There shall be an advisory board to the Department of Human Services for licensure of ambulance services and air ambulance services, vehicles, aircraft and personnel, consisting of ~~10~~ 12 members appointed by the Governor.

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA § 73, sub-§ 5, 1st sentence, as amended by PL 1975, c. 293, § 4, is further amended to read:

The board shall advise the Commissioner of Human Services on: Standards and procedures for the licensing of the operation of ambulance services and air ambulance services, requirements for the training, experience and qualifications of ambulance and air ambulance personnel and procedures for the licensing of such personnel, standards and procedures for the licensing of ambulance vehicles and air ambulance aircraft, and standards and procedures for the issuance, revocation, refusal to renew and suspension of licenses and for the investigation of complaints filed with the Department of Human Services and establishment of licensure fees, except that no licensure fees shall be established for ambulance personnel.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The certified registered physician assistant is an important part of the rural health program and is a highly trained individual. At the time this law was written there were no physician assistants in the State of Maine. This addition will enhance emergency patient care in those areas where ambulance services may utilize the certified registered physician assistant under the direction of his supervisory physician.

This bill also provides for the inclusion of air ambulances under the regulatory provisions of Title 32, chapter 2-A. Whereas, generally air ambulances are poorly equipped and emergency situations do arise while in flight, it is necessary to have on hand equipment and trained personnel in order to detect patient deterioration. To assist in preventing this deterioration and prolonged recovery time or death of the patient, it is necessary to promulgate regulations to this effect.

The advisory board to the Department of Human Services can better accomplish its responsibilities with the addition of 2 members.