

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Title)
New Draft of H. P. 521, L. D. 639

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1748

H. P. 1523

House of Representatives, May 4, 1977

Reported by Mr. Goodwin from the Committee on Health and Institutional Services and printed under Joint Rules No. 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Amending the Ambulance Service Law.

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 such aircraft is in addition to the registration by the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics. For purposes of this chapter, no aircraft of the Maine Army National Guard or the Armed Forces of the United States Government shall be considered air ambulances.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA § 72, sub-§ 3, last 2 sentences, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 698, § 1, are amended to read: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 person or persons or any organization which is or which holds itself out to be a provider of air transportation for ill or injured persons. For purposes of this

chapter, the Maine Army National Guard and the Armed Forces of the United States Government shall not be considered air ambulance services.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA § 72, sub-§ 5, as amended by PL 1975, c. 293, § 4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place: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 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

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

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA § 73, sub-§ 1, as amended by PL 1975, c. 293, § 4, is further amended by adding after the 3rd sentence 2 new sentences to read:

One member shall be an attorney. One member shall be a professional or a practical nurse.

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA § 73, sub-§ 2, as enacted by PL 1971, c. 544, § 113, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Terms. The term of office of the members shall be 3 years, provided that of the members first appointed, 4 shall be appointed for terms of one year, 4 for terms of 2 years and 4 for terms of 3 years. A member shall not be appointed for more than 2 consecutive full terms. Each member of the board shall be reimbursed for all appropriate travel and incidental expenses in carrying out his official duties.

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA § 73, sub-§ 5, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 417, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

5. Duties. 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. In advising on and setting these standards, the board and commissioner shall, among other factors, take into consideration the various economic conditions existing in the diverse areas of the State of Maine and the fact that many ambulance services in rural areas rely wholly on volunteers to carry out their purposes.

Sec. 9. 32 MRSA § 73, sub-§ 6, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 698, § 3, is amended by adding after the 2nd sentence a new sentence to read:

Successful completion of the cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses offered by the American Red Cross or the Maine Heart Association shall be considered as equivalent qualifications for purposes of fulfilling any training requirements as ambulance personnel.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this new draft is to :

1. Require the licensing of air ambulances ;
2. Permit physicians' assistants to be personnel for purposes of providing care in an ambulance ;
3. Add 2 additional public members to the Ambulance Services Advisory Board ; and
4. Declare that the cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses offered by the American Red Cross and the Maine Heart Association are to be considered as equivalent for purposes of satisfying training requirements for ambulance personnel.