

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0232.01 Josh Schultz x5486

HOUSE BILL 26-1069

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Feret and Stewart K., Bacon, Boesenecker, Bradley, Brown, Camacho, Carter, Duran, Flanell, Gonzalez R., Hamrick, Jackson, Johnson, Joseph, Keltie, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Marshall, McCluskie, McCormick, Nguyen, Paschal, Phillips, Rutinel, Slaugh, Smith, Stewart R., Titone

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Mullica and Simpson,

House Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

Senate Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF EMERGENCY**
102 **MEDICAL SERVICES.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill clarifies that "emergency services" includes transportation of an individual to an appropriate location other than a hospital or community integrated health-care service agency (agency).

The use of telemedicine when an insured person has encountered an ambulance service or agency to prevent the need to transport the person to an emergency department is included in the definition of

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
May 5, 2026

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 9, 2026

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 6, 2026

"emergency services", which services are required to be made available to insured persons 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

The bill defines "first responder" to include:

- A peace officer;
- A firefighter;
- A volunteer firefighter;
- An emergency medical service provider; or
- A mental health professional who responds in a professional capacity to a justifiable medical emergency.

The bill requires the executive director of the department of public health and environment to adopt rules by June 1, 2027, authorizing an emergency medical service provider with a community paramedic endorsement who is employed by, volunteering for, or contracting with a licensed agency to provide for the inventory, compliance, and administration of, or to directly administer, medications, procedures, or diagnostic testing.

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill requires the department of health care policy and financing to reimburse the following entities under the "Colorado Medical Assistance Act":

- An ambulance service or an agency for transportation by an ambulance or other vehicle to a hospital or other destination as deemed appropriate by the ambulance service's or agency's medical director;
- An ambulance service or an agency for treatment on the scene of a medical emergency, which treatment does not result in transportation; and
- A qualified provider, an ambulance service, or an agency for evaluation by telemedicine of a person being treated by an ambulance service or an agency for the purpose of preventing the need to transport the person to a hospital.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*



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4 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-1-119, **add** (19)

5 as follows:

6 **24-1-119. Department of public health and environment -**

7 **creation.**

8 (19) **THE STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND TRAUMA SERVICES**

1 ~~ADVISORY COUNCIL, CREATED IN SECTION 25-3.5-104 (1), IS A TYPE 2~~
2 ~~ENTITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-1-105.~~

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-3.5-103, **amend**
4 (8.5), (8.6), (8.7), (8.8), and (9); and **add** (9.5) as follows:

5 **25-3.5-103. Definitions.**

6 As used in this article 3.5, unless the context otherwise requires:

7 (8.5) ~~"Health information organization network" means an~~
8 ~~organization that oversees and governs the exchange of health-related~~
9 ~~information among organizations according to nationally recognized~~
10 ~~standards.~~ "FIRST RESPONDER" MEANS:

- 11 (a) A PEACE OFFICER, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-2.5-101;
12 (b) A FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 29-5-203 (10);
13 (c) A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
14 31-30-1102 (9)(a);
15 (d) AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER; AND
16 (e) A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WHO RESPONDS IN A
17 PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY TO A JUSTIFIABLE MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

18 (8.6) ~~"Justifiable medical emergency" means an underlying~~
19 ~~medical, traumatic, or psychiatric condition posing an immediate safety~~
20 ~~risk to the individual, emergency medical service provider, or public.~~
21 ~~Excited delirium, any subsequent term for excited delirium, or any acute~~
22 ~~psychiatric diagnosis not recognized in the most recent edition of the~~
23 ~~diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders is not a justifiable~~
24 ~~medical emergency~~ "HEALTH INFORMATION ORGANIZATION NETWORK"
25 MEANS AN ORGANIZATION THAT OVERSEES AND GOVERNS THE EXCHANGE
26 OF HEALTH-RELATED INFORMATION AMONG ORGANIZATIONS ACCORDING
27 TO NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDS.

1 (8.7) ~~"Local licensing authority" means the governing body of a~~
2 ~~city and county or the board of county commissioners in a county in the~~
3 ~~state~~ "JUSTIFIABLE MEDICAL EMERGENCY" MEANS AN UNDERLYING
4 MEDICAL, TRAUMATIC, OR PSYCHIATRIC CONDITION POSING AN IMMEDIATE
5 SAFETY RISK TO THE INDIVIDUAL, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
6 PROVIDER, OR PUBLIC. EXCITED DELIRIUM, ANY SUBSEQUENT TERM FOR
7 EXCITED DELIRIUM, OR ANY ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS NOT
8 RECOGNIZED IN THE MOST RECENT EDITION OF THE DIAGNOSTIC AND
9 STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS IS NOT A JUSTIFIABLE
10 MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

11 (8.8) ~~"Medical direction" includes, but is not limited to, the~~
12 ~~following:~~ "LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY" MEANS THE GOVERNING BODY
13 OF A CITY AND COUNTY OR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN A
14 COUNTY IN THE STATE.

15 ~~(a) Approval of the medical components of treatment protocols~~
16 ~~and appropriate prearrival instructions;~~

17 ~~(b) Routine review of program performance and maintenance of~~
18 ~~active involvement in quality improvement activities, including access to~~
19 ~~dispatch tapes as necessary for the evaluation of procedures;~~

20 ~~(c) Authority to recommend appropriate changes to protocols for~~
21 ~~the improvement of patient care; and~~

22 ~~(d) Provision of oversight for the ongoing education, training, and~~
23 ~~quality assurance for providers of emergency care.~~

24 (9) ~~"Patient" means any individual who is sick, injured, or~~
25 ~~otherwise incapacitated or helpless.~~ "MEDICAL DIRECTION" INCLUDES, BUT
26 IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

27 (a) APPROVAL OF THE MEDICAL COMPONENTS OF TREATMENT

1 PROTOCOLS AND APPROPRIATE PREARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS;

2 (b) ROUTINE REVIEW OF PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND
3 MAINTENANCE OF ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
4 ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ACCESS TO DISPATCH TAPES AS NECESSARY FOR
5 THE EVALUATION OF PROCEDURES;

6 (c) AUTHORITY TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO
7 PROTOCOLS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PATIENT CARE; AND

8 (d) PROVISION OF OVERSIGHT FOR THE ONGOING EDUCATION,
9 TRAINING, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR PROVIDERS OF EMERGENCY
10 CARE.

11 (9.5) "PATIENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SICK, INJURED, OR
12 OTHERWISE INCAPACITATED OR HELPLESS.

13 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-3.5-104, **amend**
14 **(4)(d)** as follows:

15 **25-3.5-104. Emergency medical and trauma services advisory**
16 **council - creation - duties.**

17 (4) The council shall:

18 (d) Review and ~~approve~~ **MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS** TO APPROVE
19 OR DENY **new rules CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND TRAUMA**
20 **SERVICES and modifications to rules CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL**
21 **AND TRAUMA SERVICES existing prior to July 1, 2000, prior to the**
22 **adoption of such rules or modifications by the state board of health;**

23

24 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25.5-4-436 as
25 follows:

26 **25.5-4-436. Transportation by ambulance or other vehicle -**
27 **treatment on scene of a medical emergency - evaluation by**

1 **telemedicine - definitions.**

2 (1) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2027, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
3 SHALL REIMBURSE:

4 (a) AN AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR GROUND TRANSPORTATION BY
5 AN AMBULANCE OR OTHER APPROPRIATELY SITUATED VEHICLE TO A
6 HOSPITAL OR OTHER DESTINATION AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE
7 AMBULANCE SERVICE'S MEDICAL DIRECTOR;

8 (b) AN AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR TREATMENT ON THE SCENE
9 OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, WHICH TREATMENT DOES NOT RESULT IN
10 GROUND TRANSPORTATION; AND

11 (c) A QUALIFIED PROVIDER, AN AMBULANCE SERVICE, OR AN
12 AGENCY PROVIDING OUT-OF-HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR EVALUATION BY
13 TELEMEDICINE OF A PERSON BEING TREATED BY AN AMBULANCE SERVICE
14 OR AN AGENCY PROVIDING OUT-OF-HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE
15 OF PREVENTING THE NEED TO TRANSPORT THE PERSON TO A HOSPITAL.
16 TELEMEDICINE SHALL BE BILLED USING AN OFFICE OR OTHER OUTPATIENT
17 SERVICES RATE AND NOT USING AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RATE. AN
18 AMBULANCE SERVICE OR AN AGENCY PROVIDING OUT-OF-HOSPITAL
19 SERVICES IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROCURE TELEMEDICINE FOR A COVERED
20 PERSON AS A CONDITION OF PAYMENT.

21 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
22 REQUIRES:

23 (a) "AMBULANCE SERVICE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
24 SECTION 25-3.5-103 (3).

25 (b) (I) "OUT-OF-HOSPITAL SERVICES" MEANS FURNISHING ANY
26 NECESSARY GOODS AND SERVICES OUTSIDE OF A HOSPITAL SETTING FOR
27 THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING, ALLEVIATING, CURING, OR HEALING HUMAN

1 ILLNESS, A PHYSICAL DISABILITY, A PHYSICAL INJURY, OR A SUBSTANCE
2 USE DISORDER WHILE RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY OR OTHER
3 HEALTH-CARE CONDITION.

4 (II) "OUT-OF-HOSPITAL SERVICES" DOES NOT INCLUDE
5 PREHOSPITAL SETTING TRANSPORTS.

6 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-404, **amend**
7 (7)(b) as follows:

8 **12-280-404. Program operation - access - rules - definitions.**

9 (7) (b) The board may, within existing funds available for
10 operation of the program, provide a means of sharing prescription
11 information and electronic health records through a board-approved
12 vendor and method with the health information organization network, as
13 defined in ~~section 25-3.5-103 (8.5)~~ SECTION 25-3.5-103 (8.6), in order to
14 work collaboratively with the statewide health information exchanges
15 designated by the department of health care policy and financing. Use of
16 the information made available pursuant to this subsection (7)(b) is
17 subject to privacy and security protections in state law and the federal
18 "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996",
19 Pub.L.104-191, as amended, and any implementing regulations.

20 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-54-101, **amend**
21 (4) as follows:

22 **25-54-101. Definitions.**

23 As used in this article 54, unless the context otherwise requires:

24 (4) "Health information organization network" ~~means a Colorado~~
25 ~~organization that has experience in overseeing and governing the~~
26 ~~exchange of health-related information among organizations according~~
27 ~~to Colorado law and nationally recognized standards including but not~~

1 ~~limited to the federal "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability~~
2 ~~Act of 1996", Pub.L. 104-191, as amended HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH~~
3 ~~IN SECTION 25-3.5-103 (8.6).~~

4 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-50-101, **amend**
5 (14) as follows:

6 **27-50-101. Definitions.**

7 As used in this article 50, unless the context otherwise requires:

8 (14) "Health information organization network" has the same
9 meaning as defined in ~~section 25-3.5-103 (8.5)~~ SECTION 25-3.5-103 (8.6).

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11 **SECTION 8. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
12 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
13 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
14 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
15 institutions.