



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Helena Volzer

Am. H.B. 195

132nd General Assembly
(As Passed by the House)

Reps. Ingram and Seitz, Antonio, Blessing, Brenner, Butler, Craig, Dean, Dever, Hagan, Howse, Keller, Kelly, Kent, Lepore-Hagan, Miller, Reineke, Riedel, Romanchuk, Stein, West, Wiggam, Green, Householder, Hughes, Kick, Manning, Reece, Anielski, Arndt, Ashford, Boggs, Boyd, Carfagna, Celebrezze, Conditt, Cupp, DeVitis, Duffey, Edwards, Faber, Fedor, Galonski, Gavarone, Ginter, Greenspan, Hambley, Holmes, LaTourette, Leland, O'Brien, Patterson, Perales, Ramos, Retherford, Rezabek, Roegner, Rogers, Ryan, Schaffer, Scherer, Sheehy, Slaby, R. Smith, Sprague, Sweeney, Sykes, Thompson, Young

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires persons who transport individuals who require the use of a mobility aid, in addition to individuals who require the use of a wheelchair as in current law, to be licensed by the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services.
- Exempts taxicabs and vehicles owned or operated by a transportation network company (for example, Uber) that transport individuals who require a wheelchair or mobility aid from the requirement to obtain a license from the Board.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Licensure of emergency vehicles

Background

Under current law, the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services currently licenses (1) nonemergency medical providers of ambulette¹ services, (2) emergency medical service organizations that provide basic life-support, intermediate life-support, advanced life-support, or mobile intensive care, and

¹"Ambulette" is described as a vehicle used to transport persons who require use of a wheelchair (or mobility aid as amended by the bill). R.C. 4766.01(E).

(3) air medical service organizations that provide air medical transportation. A person is prohibited from furnishing, operating, conducting, maintaining, advertising, engaging in or claiming to engage in the business or service of transporting persons who are seriously ill, injured, or otherwise incapacitated or those who require the use of a wheelchair or are confined to a wheelchair unless the person is licensed by the Board.²

Transport of persons using a mobility aid

The bill expands current law to require any person furnishing, operating, conducting, maintaining, advertising, engaging in or claiming to engage in the business or service of transporting persons who require the use of a mobility aid to obtain a license from the Board.³ The bill does not define the meaning of "mobility aid."

Taxicabs and transportation network companies

The bill exempts taxicabs, similar vehicles for hire, and vehicles owned or operated by a transportation network company or transportation network company driver (for example, Uber) that transport persons who require a wheelchair or mobility aid from the requirement to obtain a license from the Board. By exempting such vehicles, the bill permits those vehicles to transport individuals who require the use of a wheelchair or mobility aid without Board licensure.⁴

Existing exemptions from licensing requirements

Under law unchanged by the bill, certain entities are not required to be licensed by the Board to engage in the transportation activities that otherwise would require licensure. These entities include the following:

(1) A health care facility that provides ambulette services only to patients of that facility;

(2) A publicly owned or operated emergency medical service organization and the vehicles it owns or leases and operates;

(3) A publicly owned and operated fire department vehicle;

(4) An ambulance, nontransport vehicle, or other emergency medical service organization vehicle owned and operated by a municipal corporation;

² R.C. 4766.04(A).

³ R.C. 4766.01(E), (P)(1)(a), and (R) and 4766.04(A).

⁴ R.C. 4766.09(P).

(5) A motor vehicle titled in the name of a volunteer rescue organization;

(6) A fire department, rescue squad, or life squad comprised of volunteers who provide services without expectation of remuneration and do not receive payment for services other than reimbursement for expenses;

(7) A private, nonprofit emergency medical service organization when 50% or more of its personnel are volunteers;

(8) Certain transit bus operators, unless the operator provides ambulance services that are reimbursed under the state Medicaid plan;

(9) Certain entities or vehicles, to the extent ambulance services are provided, if the entity or vehicle does not provide ambulance services that are reimbursed under the state Medicaid plan.⁵

Although not required to be licensed under existing law, a county, township, joint ambulance district, or joint emergency medical services district may choose to have the Board license its emergency medical service organizations and issue permits for its vehicles.⁶

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-01-17
Reported, H. Transportation & Public Safety	05-25-17
Passed House (94-0)	06-21-17

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⁵ R.C. 4766.01(O)(2) and 4766.09.

⁶ R.C. 4766.12, not in the bill.

