



Support New Jersey EMS Coalition

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CALL TO ACTION to NJ-ACEP Members Help us advance this important EMS overhaul legislation

S-818/A-2095 Revises requirements for emergency medical services delivery.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

In 2007, the New Jersey Legislature directed the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services to conduct a study of the New Jersey Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System. **The findings of that study indicated the New Jersey EMS system requires comprehensive overhaul and, absent change, EMS in New Jersey cannot make necessary improvements in medical care, cannot function in the most optimal and cost effective manner, and is susceptible to catastrophic failure.**

ISSUE

Recognizing the criticality of the situation, a group of diverse stakeholders comprised of the NJ EMS Council and representatives from all of New Jersey's EMS providers convened to develop consensus solutions to the EMS study recommendations. After over 8 months of meetings on the subject, the group developed detailed recommendations to advance EMS in NJ focusing on creation of a viable patient focused system able to provide every person in New Jersey 24/7/365 quality medical care. The group's recommendation served as the basis for **new legislation (S-818 and its companion A-2095)** - legislation that provides for a variety of statutory measures to enhance the scope and quality of the emergency medical services system in New Jersey and to improve its efficiency, streamline its bureaucracy and reduce its overall system cost to patients, taxpayers and the state. The bills are sponsored by Assemblyman Herbert Conaway, MD (D-Burlington) and Senator Joseph Vitale (D-Woodbridge).

On January 20, 2011, the New Jersey Assembly's Health and Senior Services Committee amended A-2095 and voted to move the bill to the floor of the General Assembly for a vote. On February 27, 2011, the General Assembly amended A-2095 on the floor of the Assembly to remove a number of fee requirements for volunteer first aid squads. On March 14, 2011, the bill passed the Assembly by a vote of 44-31-3. The Coalition needs your support to expedite this bill through the Senate, and onto the Governor's desk!

A true example of legislative responsiveness to critical community needs, the bill addresses the issues raised by the legislative mandated EMS study and the recommendations made by the EMS Council's Task Force in the following ways:

1. **Performance Standards** - Establishes a requirement to create system performance standards, clinical and operational, aimed at improving and monitoring care to the residents and visitors of New Jersey.
2. **Minimum Level of Staffing** - A minimum of one emergency medical technician (EMT) as the standard of care for every ambulance in the state. This would be a uniform standard regarding response to, and treatment and transport of, EMS patients to ensure appropriate care for all of New Jersey's citizens.
3. **Emergency Medical Care Advisory Board (EMCAB)** - It establishes, through consolidation of numerous groups, task forces and advisory boards, a governing body - the EMCAB, which will include industry leaders serving to advise the Department of Health and Senior Services on pre-hospital issues, medical care and the establishment of provider standards. Expert members from their field will serve without compensation.
4. **Statewide Medical Direction** - Identifies a Statewide Medical Director to function as the New Jersey lead physician in guiding the delivery of out-of-hospital medical care.
5. **Licensing of all EMS Providers** - This will ensure adherence to accepted medical standards of care, the ability to incorporate advances in medical treatments and consistency with the practice of every other state in the nation

6. **Statutory Recognition of the NJ EMS Task Force (EMSTF)** – Provides formal recognition of this statewide disaster and terrorism response medical capability that serves every resident and visitor of our state in times of the most severe need.

YOUR ACTION NEEDED TODAY

All EMS providers and supporters **are urged to write to and/or talk with your State Senators** in support of these measures, and ask them to sign on as a co-sponsor of the bill. Feel free to use this information as talking points in your correspondence and during your discussions. (Remember, since the bill has already passed the Assembly, we are only focusing on the STATE SENATE.)

You can find contact information for your State Senators at <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>

MORE INFORMATION? QUESTIONS?

Call the leadership of your EMS organization. It's important to keep your leadership apprised of any feedback or commitments you receive from your legislative meetings. Call NJ-ACEP at 609/392-1213 for questions.

Thank you for your efforts to improve the EMS system in the State of New Jersey!

The Following Organizations Support The Passage of S-818/A-2095:

American College of Emergency Physicians – New Jersey Chapter
New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA)
New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals (NJ COTH)
Monmouth-Ocean Hospital Service Corporation (Monoc)
New Jersey Association of Paramedic Programs
New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
Medical Transportation Association of New Jersey (MTANJ)
Prevention First
NJ OEM EMS Coordinators Committee
Cedar Knolls Fire Department
Division of Highway Traffic Safety
NJ State Police
JemSTAR Advisory Council
Virtua Health
Gloucester County Emergency Medical Service
St. Barnabas Medical Center
NJ Poison Information & Education System
NJ MICU Advisory Council
c/o Quality Medical Transport, Inc
RWJ-University Hospital
St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center, Emergency Medicine
Office of Emergency Telecommunications
Cooper University Medical Center
Morristown Memorial Hospital - Emergency Department
University Hospital-EMS
NJ Career Fire Chiefs Association
Alert
Office of Emergency Medical Services
Chilton Memorial Hospital, Mobile Intensive Care Unit
UMDNJ University Hospital EMS
NJ EMSC Advisory Council
Vineland EMS
UMDNJ-University Hospital, M234
Cherry Hill Fire Department
Emergency Nurses Association

EMT Training Fund Council
Liberty Health
Jersey City Medical Center

For more information about the Support New Jersey EMS Coalition, or to view the most recent copy of A-2095 (including amendments), please visit www.supportnjems.com.