

# SENATE BILL 159

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6lr1428

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senator A. Washington**

Requested: October 29, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Emergency Medical Services – Vehicles and Ambulances – Required Supplies,**  
3 **~~Reviews, and Complaints~~**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for  
5 Emergency Medical Services Systems to coordinate the minimum equipment,  
6 supplies, and medications to be available on emergency medical services vehicles;  
7 ~~requiring each county and municipality that operates or contracts emergency~~  
8 ~~medical services to conduct quarterly reviews of certain data and to certify~~  
9 ~~completion of each review; requiring each county to establish and maintain a formal~~  
10 ~~complaint filing system regarding ambulance quality, conduct, or compliance;~~ and  
11 generally relating to emergency medical services vehicles and ambulances.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Education  
14 Section 13–501(a), (f), and (g)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Education  
19 Section 13–510  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



~~BY adding to~~  
~~Article – Education~~  
~~Section 13–519~~  
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
~~(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Education**

13–501.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(f) “EMS Board” means the State Emergency Medical Services Board.

(g) “Institute” means the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

13–510.

In accordance with the Emergency Medical System plan and other relevant policies adopted by the EMS Board, the Executive Director shall:

(1) Coordinate a statewide system of emergency medical services;

(2) Coordinate the five emergency medical service regions in this State;

(3) Coordinate the planning and operation of emergency medical services with the federal, State, and county governments;

(4) Coordinate the training of all personnel in the Emergency Medical Services System and develop the necessary standards for their certification or licensure;

(5) Coordinate programs of research and education that relate to emergency medical services;

(6) Coordinate the development of centers for treating emergency injuries and illnesses;

(7) Coordinate the development of specialty referral centers for resuscitation, treatment, and rehabilitation of the critically ill and injured;

**(8) COORDINATE THE MINIMUM EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, AND MEDICATIONS, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, AND MEDICATIONS NEEDED FOR**

1 NEONATAL CARE, TO BE AVAILABLE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES VEHICLES  
2 WITH THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS;

3 [(8)] (9) Work closely with the public and private agencies, health care  
4 institutions and universities involved with emergency medical services, the Emergency  
5 Medical Services Advisory Council, and the Medical Management Consultant Group;

6 [(9)] (10) Administer State and federal funds for emergency medical  
7 services in this State;

8 [(10)] (11) Work closely with the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, which  
9 is responsible for basic training for emergency medical technicians;

10 [(11)] (12) Assure continued improvement of transportation for emergency,  
11 critically ill, and injured patients by supporting the goals of career and volunteer systems  
12 throughout this State; and

13 [(12)] (13) Implement all programmatic, operational, and administrative  
14 components of the Institute.

15 ~~13-519.~~

16 ~~(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, "AMBULANCE" MEANS ANY CONVEYANCE  
17 DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED OR MODIFIED AND EQUIPPED TO BE USED,  
18 MAINTAINED, OR OPERATED TO TRANSPORT SICK, INJURED, WOUNDED, OR  
19 OTHERWISE INCAPACITATED INDIVIDUALS.~~

20 ~~(2) "AMBULANCE" INCLUDES A CONVEYANCE DESIGNED AND  
21 CONSTRUCTED OR MODIFIED AND EQUIPPED FOR AEROMEDICAL TRANSPORT.~~

22 ~~(B) (1) EACH COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY THAT OPERATES OR  
23 CONTRACTS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SHALL:~~

24 ~~(i) CONDUCT QUARTERLY REVIEWS OF AMBULANCE  
25 PERFORMANCE DATA PUBLISHED BY THE INSTITUTE;~~

26 ~~(ii) CERTIFY COMPLETION OF EACH REVIEW; AND~~

27 ~~(iii) SUBMIT A SUMMARY OF EACH REVIEW TO THE INSTITUTE.~~

28 ~~(2) A REVIEW CONDUCTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(i) OF THIS  
29 SUBSECTION SHALL:~~

30 ~~(i) ASSESS:~~

1

~~1. RESPONSE TIMES;~~

2

~~2. SERVICE QUALITY; AND~~

3

~~3. COMPLIANCE WITH INSTITUTE STANDARDS;~~

4

~~(H) IDENTIFY TRENDS AND DEFICIENCIES IN SERVICES; AND~~

5

~~(HH) ALLOW A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY TO ADOPT~~

6

~~CORRECTIVE MEASURES AND MAKE OPERATIONAL ADJUSTMENTS.~~

7

~~(C) (1) EACH COUNTY SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A FORMAL~~

8

~~COMPLAINT FILING SYSTEM TO RECEIVE, INVESTIGATE, AND RESOLVE COMPLAINTS~~

9

~~REGARDING AMBULANCE QUALITY, CONDUCT, OR COMPLIANCE.~~

10

~~(2) THE FORMAL COMPLAINT FILING SYSTEM SHALL:~~

11

~~(I) BE ACCESSIBLE ONLINE AND IN PERSON;~~

12

~~(H) INCLUDE TRACKING, INVESTIGATION TIMELINES, AND~~

13

~~NOTIFICATIONS; AND~~

14

~~(HH) REPORT COMPLAINT DATA AND RESOLUTIONS QUARTERLY~~

15

~~TO THE INSTITUTE.~~

16

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July

17

1, 2026.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.