



State of Maryland
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

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Governor

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Chairman EMS Board

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director

February 16, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 159 – Emergency Medical Services – Vehicles and Ambulances – Required Supplies, Reviews, and Complaints

—LETTER OF INFORMATION—

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) respectfully submits this informational letter regarding Senate Bill 159, which would (1) require the Executive Director of MIEMSS to coordinate the minimum equipment, supplies, and medications to be available on emergency medical service vehicles; (2) require each county and municipality that operates or contracts emergency medical services (EMS) to conduct quarterly reviews of certain ambulance performance data furnished by MIEMSS and to certify completion of each review; and (3) require each county to establish and maintain a formal complaint filing system regarding ambulance quality, conduct, or compliance.

As you consider this legislation, please take into account the following:

- MIEMSS has designated Jurisdictional EMS Operational Programs (JEMSOPs) in each county, Baltimore City, Annapolis, Ocean City, and Salisbury that are responsible for providing care to 9-1-1 emergency patients. COMAR 30.03.02 et seq. They are typically fire-rescue departments or county departments of emergency services. Certain other entities, e.g., BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Fire & Rescue Department, with responsibilities to respond within discrete geographic areas, are also designated as JEMSOPs.
- Throughout Maryland, all EMS response to a 9-1-1 call is provided as part of a JEMSOP.
- MIEMSS re-designates JEMSOPs on a five-year cycle.
- Currently, the minimum equipment, supplies, and medications available on emergency medical services vehicles, including equipment, supplies, and medication needed for neonatal care, are incorporated by reference in the *Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services*, which are updated by MIEMSS on an annual basis. Further, timely review and approval of medical equipment used by JEMSOPs to implement the protocols is the responsibility of its medical director.
- Many JEMSOPs participate in the Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program (VAIP), which provides opportunities for objective verification of appropriate equipment and supply availability on Maryland ambulances.
- Each JEMSOP is required to have a quality assurance plan that includes, in part, tracking relevant data and designating a quality assurance officer who investigates and tracks customer complaints and sentinel events. The mandated quality assurance program includes reporting to MIEMSS to track significant variations or care concerns. COMAR 30.03.04 et seq.

- Each JEMSOP regularly participates in bi-monthly Jurisdictional Advisory Committee meetings, where EMS quality metrics are routinely shared and discussed.
- Should this bill become law, MIEMSS anticipates that the agency will need to hire an Administrator III (FTE) position to fulfill the requirements specified under § 13-519 (B) on pages 3–4. Such a position is currently unfunded.

I hope that this information is helpful to your committee as you consider this legislation. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,



Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director