

## CHAPTER 513

H.B. No. 2385

## AN ACT

relating to pediatric emergency medical services.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 773, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

## SUBCHAPTER G. PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Sec. 773.171. **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM.** (a) *The emergency medical services for children program is in the bureau of emergency management.*

(b) *The department shall provide coordination and support for a statewide pediatric emergency services system.*

(c) *The department may solicit, receive, and spend funds it receives from the federal government and public or private sources to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.*

Sec. 773.172. **PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.** (a) *The Pediatric Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee is composed of seven members appointed by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee.*

(b) *The members must include individuals who are clinical management, clinical education, and administration experts in the areas of prehospital care, emergency room care, acute care, children's hospital care, and rehabilitation of pediatric patients.*

(c) *Members are appointed for staggered six-year terms, with the terms of a portion of the members expiring August 31 of each odd-numbered year. If a vacancy occurs on the committee, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall appoint a person to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.*

(d) *The committee may adopt rules for the conduct of its activities and may elect a presiding officer from among its members. The committee shall meet in Austin at least quarterly.*

(e) *The committee shall advise the department on the emergency medical needs of pediatric patients and shall recommend for the board's consideration rules providing minimum standards and objectives to implement this subchapter. Committee members serve as pediatric experts to advise the board and to serve as liaison members for other committees associated with the bureau, including the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, the trauma technical advisory committee, and the coordinating committee on poison control.*

Sec. 773.173. **DUTIES OF BOARD; RULES.** (a) *On the recommendation of the advisory committee, the board shall adopt minimum standards and objectives to implement a pediatric emergency services system, including rules that:*

- (1) *provide guidelines for categorization of a facility's pediatric capability;*
- (2) *provide for triage, transfer, and transportation policies for pediatric care;*
- (3) *establish guidelines for:*

(A) *prehospital care management for triage and transportation of a pediatric patient;*

(B) *prehospital and hospital equipment that is necessary and appropriate for the care of a pediatric patient;*

(C) *necessary pediatric emergency equipment and training in long-term care facilities; and*

(D) *an interhospital transfer system for a critically ill or injured pediatric patient; and*

- (4) *provide for data collection and analysis.*

*(b) The board and the advisory committee shall consider guidelines endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Surgeons in recommending and adopting rules under this section.*

*(c) The bureau may grant an exception to a rule adopted under this section if it finds that compliance with the rule would not be in the best interests of persons served in the affected local pediatric emergency medical services system.*

*(d) This subchapter does not prohibit a health care facility from providing services that it is authorized to provide under a license issued to the facility by the department.*

**SECTION 2.** Two initial members appointed to the Pediatric Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee serve for terms expiring August 31, 1995, two initial members serve for terms expiring August 31, 1997, and three initial members serve for terms expiring August 31, 1999. The seven initial members shall draw lots to determine the lengths of their terms.

**SECTION 3.** The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 14, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 22, 1993: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Approved June 3, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.