

CHAPTER 376

S.B. No. 184

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of certain air transfer vehicles and staff as emergency medical services vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 773.004, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) This chapter does not apply to:

(1) a ground ~~[or air]~~ transfer vehicle and staff used to transport a patient who is under a physician's care between medical facilities or between a medical facility and a private residence;

(2) ground or air transfer that does not advertise as an ambulance service and that is not licensed by the department;

(3) the use of ground or air transfer vehicles to transport sick or injured persons in a casualty situation that exceeds the basic vehicular capacity or capability of emergency medical services providers in the area;

(4) an industrial ambulance; or

(5) a physician, registered nurse, or other health care practitioner licensed by this state unless the health care practitioner staffs an emergency medical services vehicle regularly.

SECTION 2. Section 773.045, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 773.045. SPECIALIZED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES VEHICLE QUALIFICATIONS. (a) A vehicle, including a helicopter, boat, fixed-wing aircraft, or ground vehicle, qualifies as a specialized emergency medical services vehicle if it:

(1) is designed for transporting the sick or injured by air, water, or ground transportation; and

~~(2) [is not a basic or advanced life support emergency medical services vehicle or a mobile intensive care unit; and~~

~~[(3)]~~ has sufficient equipment and supplies to provide for the specialized needs of the patient transported.

*(b) A fixed-wing aircraft and staff used to transport a patient by stretcher and that advertises as an air ambulance service is required to be licensed by the department.*

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 1993. However, a person is not required to obtain a license required under this Act until January 1, 1994.

SECTION 4. 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.

Passed the Senate on April 29, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; passed the House on May 21, 1993, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 2, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.