

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1229

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

Vote Date: 3/27/2023

Vote Action: JOINT FAVORABLE

PH Date: 3/22/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill focuses on gathering more data regarding emergency medical services (EMS) operations with the goal of improving the level of service provided to all the residents of our state, including those living in rural areas. The bill requires:

- The EMS quarterly report to the Department of Public health (DPH) to provide a list, not only of the calls, including 9-1-1 calls, but the reasons for the calls.
- Changes to the CT EMS Advisory Board (CEMSAB) to include a representative of an EMS agency or organization.
- The EMS Advisory Board to study annually the state's EMS services, to include analyzing the DPH report, evaluate risk trends and identifying areas of the state likely to experience response delays.
- The EMS Advisory Board to study and make recommendations to address the shortage of EMS personnel in the state and report its findings to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2024.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Greg Allard, President, Association of CT Ambulance Providers:

Mr. Allard states that he is in full support of data collection enhancement but noted that the epidemiologist employed by the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) already collects most, if not all, the data referenced in the bill. There is a sub-committee of the CT

EMS Advisory Board (CEMSAB) responsible for data collection. Mr. Allard suggests adding new members to this very active committee to provide new ideas for increased data collection.

Robert Glaspy, Jr, BSP, NRP:

Mr. Glaspy believes SB 1229 is good legislation as it adds a person from the EMS field operators to the CEMSAB ensuring that the EMS providers are represented. The CT Association of EMTs and Paramedics (CAPE) is the state's first professional organization for EMTs, and Paramedics and its goal is to grow and improve the EMS profession.

Bruce Baxter, President, CT EMS Chiefs Association (CEMSCA):

CEMSCA supports the intent of the bill and urges the Public Health Committee to ensure that DPH-OEMS has adequate fiscal and physical resources to achieve the data reporting goals in this bill. OEMS has recently made significant progress in upgrading its IT infrastructure and is currently working to develop a data dictionary to help standardize EMS response services throughout the state.

Others Testimony in Support of This Bill:

Ben Zura, Director of Innovation, CAPE
Kayla Bertussi
Mike Muszynski, CT Conference of Municipalities

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Kim Aroh, President, Aetna Ambulance and Ambulance Service of Manchester (ASM):

ASM believes that OEMS has a robust depository of all relevant data from all ambulance services in the state. We suggest that the Public Health Committee, rather than mandating all these new data collection efforts, analyzes the OEMS to ensure it has adequate personnel to achieve the data goals expressed in this bill. There is no need to develop a new method of collecting data as the system in place works very well.

Reported by: Dave Rackliffe

Date: April 3,2023