

By: Wallace

To: Public Health and  
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 1360  
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-59-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT HOSPITALS LOCATED IN CONTIGUOUS STATES MAY BE  
3 DESIGNATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE  
4 STATEWIDE TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 41-59-5,  
5 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CONTAINS THE AUTHORITY FOR THE  
6 STATEWIDE TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 41-59-75,  
7 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ESTABLISHED THE MISSISSIPPI TRAUMA  
8 CARE SYSTEMS FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

10 SECTION 1. Section 41-59-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
11 amended as follows:[RF1]

12 41-59-3. As used in this chapter, unless the context  
13 otherwise requires, the term:

14 (a) "Ambulance" shall mean any privately or publicly  
15 owned land or air vehicle that is especially designed,  
16 constructed, modified or equipped to be used, maintained and  
17 operated upon the streets, highways or airways of this state to  
18 assist persons who are sick, injured, wounded, or otherwise  
19 incapacitated or helpless;

20 (b) "Permit" shall mean an authorization issued for an  
21 ambulance vehicle and/or a special use EMS vehicle as meeting the  
22 standards adopted pursuant to this chapter;

23 (c) "License" shall mean an authorization to any  
24 person, firm, corporation, or governmental division or agency to  
25 provide ambulance services in the State of Mississippi;

26 (d) "Emergency medical technician" shall mean an  
27 individual who possesses a valid emergency medical technician's  
28 certificate issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter;

29 (e) "Certificate" shall mean official acknowledgment

30 that an individual has successfully completed the recommended  
31 basic emergency medical technician training course referred to in  
32 this chapter which entitles that individual to perform the  
33 functions and duties of an emergency medical technician;

34 (f) "Board" shall mean the State Board of Health;

35 (g) "Department" means the Mississippi State Department  
36 of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services;

37 (h) "Executive officer" shall mean the Executive  
38 Officer of the State Board of Health or his designated  
39 representative;

40 (i) "Invalid vehicle" shall mean any privately or  
41 publicly owned land or air vehicle which is maintained, operated  
42 and used only to transport persons routinely who are convalescent  
43 or otherwise nonambulatory and do not require the service of an  
44 emergency medical technician while in transit;

45 (j) "Special use EMS vehicle" means any privately or  
46 publicly owned land, water or air emergency vehicle used to  
47 support the provision of emergency medical services. These  
48 vehicles shall not be used routinely to transport patients;

49 (k) "Trauma care system" or "trauma system" means a  
50 formally organized arrangement of health care resources that has  
51 been designated by the department by which major trauma victims  
52 are triaged, transported to and treated at trauma care facilities;

53 (l) "Trauma care facility" or "trauma center" means a  
54 hospital located in the State of Mississippi or in a state  
55 contiguous to the State of Mississippi that has been designated by  
56 the department to perform specified trauma care services within a  
57 trauma care system pursuant to standards adopted by the  
58 department. Participation in this designation by each hospital is  
59 voluntary;

60 (m) "Trauma registry" means a collection of data on  
61 patients who receive hospital care for certain types of injuries.  
62 Such data are primarily designed to ensure quality trauma care

63 and outcomes in individual institutions and trauma systems, but  
64 have the secondary purpose of providing useful data for the  
65 surveillance of injury morbidity and mortality.

66 SECTION 2. Section 41-59-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
67 brought forward as follows:[RF2]

68 41-59-5. (1) The State Board of Health shall establish and  
69 maintain a program for the improvement and regulation of emergency  
70 medical services (hereinafter EMS) in the State of Mississippi.  
71 The responsibility for implementation and conduct of this program  
72 shall be vested in the State Health Officer of the State Board of  
73 Health along with such other officers and boards as may be  
74 specified by law or regulation.

75 (2) The board shall provide for the regulation and licensing  
76 of public and private ambulance service, inspection and issuance  
77 of permits for ambulance vehicles, training and certification of  
78 EMS personnel, including drivers and attendants, the development  
79 and maintenance of a statewide EMS records program, development  
80 and adoption of EMS regulations, the coordination of an EMS  
81 communications system, and other related EMS activities.

82 (3) The board is authorized to promulgate and enforce such  
83 rules, regulations and minimum standards as needed to carry out  
84 the provisions of this chapter.

85 (4) The board is authorized to receive any funds  
86 appropriated to the board from the Emergency Medical Services  
87 Operating Fund created in Section 41-59-61 and is further  
88 authorized, with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council  
89 acting in an advisory capacity, to administer the disbursement of  
90 such funds to the counties, municipalities and organized emergency  
91 medical service districts and the utilization of such funds by the  
92 same, as provided in Section 41-59-61.

93 (5) The department acting as the lead agency, in  
94 consultation with and having solicited advice from the EMS  
95 Advisory Council, shall develop a uniform nonfragmented inclusive

96 statewide trauma care system that provides excellent patient care.  
97 It is the intent of the Legislature that the purpose of this  
98 system is to reduce death and disability resulting from traumatic  
99 injury, and in order to accomplish this goal it is necessary to  
100 assign additional responsibilities to the department. The  
101 department is assigned the responsibility for creating,  
102 implementing and managing the statewide trauma care system. The  
103 department shall be designated as the lead agency for trauma care  
104 systems development. The department shall develop and administer  
105 trauma regulations that include, but are not limited to, the  
106 Mississippi Trauma Care System Plan, trauma system standards,  
107 trauma center designations, field triage, interfacility trauma  
108 transfer, EMS aero medical transportation, trauma data collection,  
109 trauma care system evaluation and management of state trauma  
110 systems funding. The department shall take the necessary steps to  
111 develop, adopt and implement the Mississippi Trauma Care System  
112 Plan and all associated trauma care system regulations necessary  
113 to implement the Mississippi trauma care system. The department  
114 shall cause the implementation of both professional and lay trauma  
115 education programs. These trauma educational programs shall  
116 include both clinical trauma education and injury prevention. As  
117 it is recognized that rehabilitation services are essential for  
118 traumatized individuals to be returned to active, productive  
119 lives, the department shall coordinate the development of the  
120 inclusive trauma system with the Mississippi Department of  
121 Rehabilitation Services and all other appropriate rehabilitation  
122 systems.

123 (6) The State Board of Health is authorized to receive any  
124 funds appropriated to the board from the Mississippi Trauma Care  
125 System Fund created in Section 41-59-75. It is further  
126 authorized, with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council  
127 and the Mississippi Trauma Advisory Committee acting in advisory  
128 capacities, to administer the disbursements of such funds

129 according to adopted trauma care system regulations.

130 SECTION 3. Section 41-59-75, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
131 brought forward as follows:[RF3]

132 41-59-75. The Mississippi Trauma Care Systems Fund is  
133 established. Five Dollars (\$5.00) collected from each assessment  
134 of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) as provided in Section 41-59-61, and any  
135 other funds made available for funding the trauma care system,  
136 shall be deposited into the fund. Funds appropriated from the  
137 Mississippi Trauma Care Systems Fund to the State Board of Health  
138 shall be made available for department administration and  
139 implementation of the comprehensive state trauma care plan for  
140 distribution by the department to designated trauma care regions  
141 for regional administration, for the department's trauma specific  
142 public information and education plan, and to provide hospital and  
143 physician indigent trauma care block grant funding to trauma  
144 centers designated by the department. All designated trauma care  
145 hospitals are eligible to contract with the department for these  
146 funds.

147 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
148 and after July 1, 2000.