

By: Representative Hughes

To: Judiciary B; Public
Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 386

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 21-21-5 AND 21-21-9, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO DEFINE THE TERM LAW ENFORCEMENT DOG AND TO
3 AUTHORIZE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS TO TRANSPORT LAW
4 ENFORCEMENT DOGS INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY TO A VETERINARY
5 CLINIC OR SIMILAR FACILITY; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 41-59-3,
6 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS;
7 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 21-21-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 21-21-5. The governing authorities of any municipality in
12 the state are hereby authorized and empowered, in their
13 discretion, to purchase by negotiation or otherwise, any breed of
14 dogs suitable for law enforcement purposes, and pay for same out
15 of the proceeds derived from tax levies made for their support and
16 maintenance. * * * The dogs may be furnished to the police or
17 police department of * * * the municipality to be used by them in
18 the enforcement of the laws of * * * the municipality and the
19 State of Mississippi. The governing authorities may also
20 appropriate and pay monthly such amounts as may be necessary to



21 maintain and care for * * * the law enforcement dogs. For the
22 purposes of this chapter, "law enforcement dog" means a dog owned
23 or used by a police enforcement or governing agency of a county or
24 municipality in the course of the department or agency's work,
25 including a search and rescue dog, service dog, accelerant
26 detection canine or other dog that is in use by a county,
27 municipal or state law enforcement agency.

28 **SECTION 2.** Section 21-21-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
29 amended as follows:

30 21-21-9. (1) In all municipalities of this state
31 maintaining a police department, the personnel of which department
32 is actively and exclusively engaged in police duty, including law
33 enforcement dogs, the governing authorities of * * * the
34 municipality may pay out of the general fund of * * * the
35 municipality reasonable hospital and medical expenses for any
36 member of * * * the police department or reasonable veterinary
37 expenses for any law enforcement dog on account of any
38 occupational disease contracted or for any accident or injury
39 sustained by * * * the member by reason of his service or
40 discharge of his duty in * * * the department. The governing
41 authorities of * * * the city shall be the sole judge as to
42 whether * * * the illness or * * * the injury was contracted or
43 sustained in the line of duty of any * * * employee, and the
44 reasonableness of * * * those expenses.



(2) In addition to providing emergency medical services and transportation to human personnel, an emergency medical technician, as defined in Section 41-59-3, may transport a law enforcement dog injured in the line of duty to a veterinary clinic or similar facility if there are no persons requiring medical attention or transport at that time.

SECTION 3. Section 41-59-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

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

(b) "Permit" means an authorization issued for an ambulance vehicle and/or a special use EMS vehicle as meeting the standards adopted under this chapter;

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

(d) "Emergency medical technician" means an individual who possesses a valid emergency medical technician's certificate issued under the provisions of this chapter or who has a privilege



to practice under the Emergency Medical Services Personnel
Licensure Interstate Compact;

(e) "Certificate" means official acknowledgment that an individual has successfully completed (i) the recommended basic emergency medical technician training course referred to in this chapter which entitles that individual to perform the functions and duties of an emergency medical technician, or (ii) the recommended medical first responder training course referred to in this chapter which entitles that individual to perform the functions and duties of a medical first responder;

(f) "Board" means the State Board of Health;

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

(h) "Executive officer" means the Executive Officer of the State Board of Health, or his designated representative;

(i) "First responder" means a person who uses a limited amount of equipment to perform the initial assessment of and intervention with sick, wounded or otherwise incapacitated persons;

(j) "Medical first responder" means a person who uses a limited amount of equipment to perform the initial assessment of and intervention with sick, wounded or otherwise incapacitated persons who (i) is trained to assist other EMS personnel by successfully completing, and remaining current in refresher training in accordance with, an approved "First Responder:



95 National Standard Curriculum" training program, as developed and
96 promulgated by the United States Department of Transportation;
97 (ii) is nationally registered as a first responder by the National
98 Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians; and (iii) is certified
99 as a medical first responder by the State Department of Health,
100 Division of Emergency Medical Services;

101 (k) "Invalid vehicle" means any privately or publicly
102 owned land or air vehicle that is maintained, operated and used
103 only to transport persons routinely who are convalescent or
104 otherwise nonambulatory and do not require the service of an
105 emergency medical technician while in transit;

106 (l) "Special use EMS vehicle" means any privately or
107 publicly owned land, water or air emergency vehicle used to
108 support the provision of emergency medical services. These
109 vehicles shall not be used routinely to transport patients;

110 (m) "Trauma care system" or "trauma system" means a
111 formally organized arrangement of health care resources that has
112 been designated by the department by which major trauma victims
113 are triaged, transported to and treated at trauma care facilities;

114 (n) "Trauma care facility" or "trauma center" means a
115 hospital located in the State of Mississippi or a Level I trauma
116 care facility or center located in a state contiguous to the State
117 of Mississippi that has been designated by the department to
118 perform specified trauma care services within a trauma care system
119 pursuant to standards adopted by the department;



120 (o) "Trauma registry" means a collection of data on
121 patients who receive hospital care for certain types of injuries.
122 Such data are primarily designed to ensure quality trauma care and
123 outcomes in individual institutions and trauma systems, but have
124 the secondary purpose of providing useful data for the
125 surveillance of injury morbidity and mortality;

126 (p) "Emergency medical condition" means a medical
127 condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient
128 severity, including severe pain, psychiatric disturbances and/or
129 symptoms of substance abuse, such that a prudent layperson who
130 possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine could
131 reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to
132 result in placing the health of the individual (or, with respect
133 to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child)
134 in serious jeopardy, serious impairment to bodily functions, or
135 serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part;

136 (q) "Emergency medical call" means a situation that is
137 presumptively classified at time of dispatch to have a high index
138 of probability that an emergency medical condition or other
139 situation exists that requires medical intervention as soon as
140 possible to reduce the seriousness of the situation, or when the
141 exact circumstances are unknown, but the nature of the request is
142 suggestive of a true emergency where a patient may be at risk;

143 (r) "Emergency response" means responding immediately
144 at the basic life support or advanced life support level of



145 service to an emergency medical call. An immediate response is
146 one in which the ambulance supplier begins as quickly as possible
147 to take the steps necessary to respond to the call;

148 (s) "Emergency mode" means an ambulance or special use
149 EMS vehicle operating with emergency lights and warning siren (or
150 warning siren and air horn) while engaged in an emergency medical
151 call.

152 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
153 and after July 1, 2018.

