

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: February 17, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Emergency Medical Services

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Cooper</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This committee substitute requires regional poison control centers (RPCC) and life support service licensees to develop and implement, respectively, a prehospital emergency dispatch protocol that defines toxic substances and describes the procedure by which the designated RPCC may be consulted by the life support service licensee.

This bill amends s. 395.1027 and creates s. 401.268 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida Emergency Telephone Act, s. 365.171, F.S., provides for a simplified means of procuring emergency services by the implementation and coordination of a statewide emergency telephone number "911" plan that provides citizens with rapid direct access to public safety agencies for purposes of law enforcement, fire, medical, rescue and other emergency services.

When emergency calls are received by the local "911" dispatcher, calls are routed to the appropriate emergency service provider pursuant to established protocol. Likewise, the respective emergency service provider has established protocol for responding to the forwarded call. Part III, ch. 401, F.S., contains definitions of terms used in the Emergency Medical Transportation Services Act. Pursuant to s. 401.23, F.S., a "Licensee" means any basic life support service, advanced service, or air ambulance serviced licensed by the Department of Health pursuant to part III of chapter 401. In cases involving poisons, some life support service licensees, pursuant to protocol established by the licensee's medical director, may consult with the RPCCs for assistance in determining an appropriate response to the forwarded call.

Section 395.1027, F.S., establishes three accredited RPCCs, one each in the north, central, and southern regions of the state. Each RPCC must be affiliated with and physically located in a certified Level I trauma center, and affiliated with an accredited medical school or college of pharmacy. The RPCCs are located in Jacksonville, Tampa, and Miami and are funded through the Department of Health.

RPCCs are required to provide:

- (1) toll-free access by the public for poison information;
- (2) case management of poison cases;
- (3) professional consultation to health care practitioners;
- (4) prevention education to the public; and
- (5) data collection and reporting.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 of the committee substitute amends s. 365.1027, F.S., to require each RPCC to develop a prehospital emergency dispatch protocol with any basic life support service, advanced life support service, or air ambulance service, licensed pursuant to chapter 401, F.S., in the geographic area covered by the RPCC. The protocol must be developed by the designated RPCC and the licensee's medical director. The protocol must define toxic substances and describe the procedure by which the designated RPCC may be consulted by the licensee. This provision also provides that if an emergency call is transferred to the designated RPCC pursuant to the established protocol, the RPCC assumes responsibility and liability for the call.

Section 2 of the committee substitute creates s. 401.268, F.S., to require each basic life support service, advanced life support service, or air ambulance service, licensed pursuant to chapter 401, F.S., to implement a prehospital emergency dispatch protocol with the RPCC responsible for the geographic area in which the licensee operates. The protocol must be developed by the designated RPCC and the licensee's medical director. The protocol must define toxic substances and describe the procedure by which the designated RPCC may be consulted by the licensee. This provision also provides that if an emergency call is transferred to the designated RPCC pursuant to the established protocol, the RPCC assumes responsibility and liability for the call.

Section 3 provides that the bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

Inasmuch as this bill requires some cities or counties life support service licensees to incur expenses, i.e., to implement a prehospital emergency dispatch protocol with a RPCC, the bill falls within the purview of subsection (a) of Article VII, Section 18, of the Florida Constitution, which provides that cities and counties are not bound by general laws requiring

them to spend funds or to take an action which requires the expenditure of funds unless certain specified exemptions or exceptions are met.

The bill may be exempted from subsection (a) if the bill's net aggregate fiscal impact on cities or counties does not exceed \$1.4 million. While the fiscal impact cannot be accurately determined, it is estimated to be insignificant. Therefore, the bill is exempt from subsection (a) of Article VII, Section 18, of the Florida Constitution.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

To the extent that cooperation between RPCCs and life support service licensees exist to assist health practitioners in more effectively responding to emergencies, the public should benefit by receiving improved services.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Implementation of prehospital emergency dispatch protocol by public life support service licensees and RPCCs may require additional training of public emergency medical service and RPCC staffs.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
