

HCS SCS SB 1039 -- EMERGENCY SERVICES

SPONSOR: Clemens (Weter)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Government Affairs by a vote of 7 to 0.

Currently, certain counties are required to have at least one licensed emergency medical technician (EMT), registered nurse, or physician with a patient in the patient compartment of an ambulance when transporting a patient. At all other times when an ambulance is in use as an ambulance, there must be a minimum of one EMT and one other crew member. This substitute repeals the reference to specific counties and specifies that when a licensed ambulance is used as an ambulance and staffed with volunteers, the other crew member required in addition to the EMT may be a licensed EMT, registered nurse, physician, or certified first responder.

Christian County, upon voter approval of a county sales tax for central dispatching of emergency services, is required to appoint a seven-member board including the heads of any of the county's fire protection districts, any of the county's ambulance districts, any of the police departments in the county, any of the county's emergency management organizations, and the county sheriff, or their respective designee, to administer the funds and oversee the provision of emergency services.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that volunteer ambulance districts do not have enough EMTs to meet the minimum staffing requirements. The bill will allow volunteers to ride in the ambulances to meet those requirements. There are two separate 911 call centers in Christian County which creates a lot of operational confusion and is unnecessarily costly. The bill will eliminate the confusion and extra costs and reconstituting the board with persons already in the emergency services field only makes sense.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Clemens.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.