

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
80R7953 YDB-D

S.B. 1033
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Health and Human Services
4/5/2007
As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

H.B. 1126 enacted by the 79th Legislature amended a portion of the law regulating ambulance providers to ensure that vehicles carrying patients on a stretcher are licensed as ambulances. The amended language contains a double negative that the Department of State Health Services finds difficult to interpret, as well as several terms that are not defined by the Health and Safety Code.

As proposed, S.B. 1033 changes the language of the statute to be clear and unambiguous.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission in SECTION 3 of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 773.004(a), Health and Safety Code, by deleting existing text providing that this chapter does not apply to a ground transfer vehicle and staff used to transport a patient who is under a physician's care between medical facilities or between a medical facility and a private residence, unless it is medically necessary to transport the patient using a stretcher.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 773.041, Health and Safety Code, by adding Subsection (a-1), to prohibit a person from transporting a patient by stretcher in a vehicle unless the person holds a license as an emergency medical services provider issued by the Department of State Health Services in accordance with this chapter.

SECTION 3. Requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to adopt the rules necessary to implement the changes in law made by this Act to Chapter 773, Health and Safety Code, not later than November 1, 2007.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2007.