



# 2024 South Dakota Legislature

## Senate Bill 63

SENATE ENGROSSED

*Introduced by: The Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services at the request of the Department of Health*

1 **An Act to revise provisions related to the licensure and regulation of ambulance**  
2 **services.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That § 32-31-4 be AMENDED:**

5 **32-31-4.** The speed limit set out in §§ 32-25-1.1 to 32-25-17, inclusive, does not  
6 apply to any authorized emergency vehicle responding to an emergency call if the driver  
7 sounds an audible siren or air horn or both or displays flashing, oscillating, or rotating  
8 beams of red light or combinations of red, blue, or white light visible one hundred eighty  
9 degrees to the front of the vehicle. The lights ~~shall~~ must be capable of warning the public  
10 of the presence of an emergency vehicle under normal atmospheric conditions. The speed  
11 limit set out in §§ 32-25-1.1 to 32-25-17, inclusive, does not apply to authorized  
12 emergency vehicles operated by law enforcement officers who are measuring the speed  
13 of other vehicles by use of the emergency vehicle speedometer. ~~Moreover, the An~~  
14 ~~ambulance driver of an ambulance who has been is~~ certified pursuant to § 34-11-6 chapter  
15 36-4B may operate the emergency vehicle an ambulance in excess of the speed limit  
16 without audible signals while operating outside the city limits of a municipality.

17 **Section 2. That § 34-11-1 be AMENDED:**

18 **34-11-1.** ~~Any A county or municipality may provide ambulance service and enter~~  
19 ~~into agreements with other governmental subdivisions and with other persons for such~~  
20 ~~services. Any county or municipality may appropriate funds for such purposes:~~  
21 (1) Provide or contract for the provision of ambulance services; and may enter into an  
22 agreement with such other governmental  
23 (2) Contract with another political subdivision or any competent other person to furnish  
24 funds for such purposes on an annual basis as may mutually be agreed upon. The  
25 funds shall be paid to such person or political subdivision when a claim has been

~~duly filed, audited, and allowed by the county or municipality. Any county or municipality may license and regulate persons providing such services for the provision of moneys to support ambulance services.~~

**Section 3. That § 34-11-2 be AMENDED:**

**34-11-2.** Terms used in this chapter mean:

- (1) ~~"Air ambulance," an aircraft, fixed wing, or helicopter, that is designated or can be quickly modified to provide transportation of wounded, injured, sick, invalid, or incapacitated human beings or expectant mothers;~~
- (2) ~~"Ambulance," a vehicle for emergency care with that has a driver compartment and a patient compartment, carrying all and carries the equipment and supplies needed to provide emergency medical technician basic level emergency for the provision of emergency care, by personnel licensed or certified in accordance with chapter 36-4B, at the scene and of and enroute to an appropriate medical facility from an emergency;~~
- (2) ~~"Ambulance service," any person or organization that is licensed by the department to provide emergency;~~
  - (a) ~~Emergency medical services and at the scene of and enroute from an emergency;~~
  - (b) ~~Transportation of a patient transport from a medical facility to another medical facility;~~
  - (c) ~~Transportation of a patient from a medical facility to a non-medical facility; and~~
  - (d) ~~Transportation of a patient from a non-medical facility to a medical facility;~~
- (4) ~~"Emergency medical responder," any person certified by the Department of Health trained to provide simple, noninvasive care focused on lifesaving interventions for critical patients. The emergency medical responder renders on-site emergency care while awaiting additional emergency medical services response from an emergency medical technician or higher level personnel. An emergency medical responder may not make decisions independently regarding the appropriate disposition of a patient;~~
- (5) ~~"Emergency medical technician" any person trained in emergency medical care in accordance with standards prescribed by rules promulgated pursuant to this chapter, who provides emergency medical services, including automated external~~

1           ~~defibrillation under indirect medical control, in accordance with the person's level~~  
2           ~~of training;~~  
3           ~~(6) "License," the permit to provide ambulance service;~~  
4           ~~(7) "Licensing agency,"~~ (3) "Department," the Department of Health; and  
5           ~~(8)~~(3) "Medical director," a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 36-4 who is responsible  
6           for providing medical supervision and direction to an ambulance service; and  
7           ~~(9) "Operator," any person or entity who has a license from the licensing agency to~~  
8           ~~provide ambulance service;~~  
9           (4) "Program director," a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 36-4B, or a  
10           nurse practitioner licensed pursuant to chapter 36-9A, who is authorized by section  
11           6 of this Act and is responsible for providing supervision and direction to an  
12           ambulance service in place of a medical director.

13   **Section 4. That § 34-11-3 be AMENDED:**

14           **34-11-3.** ~~No~~ Before an ambulance service shall may be operated in this state  
15           ~~unless the ambulance service has a currently valid license from the licensing agency to~~  
16           ~~provide such, the service must be licensed by the department. In order to obtain licensure,~~  
17           the ambulance service must:

- 18           (1) Complete and submit an application developed by the department; and  
19           (2) Submit a licensure fee established by the department, in rule, pursuant to chapter  
20           1-26, but not exceeding twenty-five dollars.

21           A license issued in accordance with this section may only be renewed on or before  
22           June thirtieth in each even-numbered year.

23   **Section 5. That chapter 34-11 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

24           An ambulance service licensed pursuant to this chapter must have a medical  
25           director, unless the ambulance service is granted a hardship exemption pursuant to  
26           section 6 of this Act.

27   **Section 6. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 34-11:**

28           If no physician licensed pursuant to chapter 36-4 is available and willing to serve  
29           as the medical director, the ambulance service may request a hardship exemption from  
30           the department that authorizes the ambulance service to have a program director.

1        To request a hardship exemption, an ambulance service must file an application  
2        with the department that documents the efforts made to obtain a medical director. The  
3        department shall grant the hardship exemption if the ambulance service demonstrates, to  
4        the satisfaction of the department, that no physician is available and willing to serve as  
5        the medical director.

6        A hardship exemption is valid for one year from the date of issuance. An ambulance  
7        service may renew a hardship exemption upon application to the department.

8        The granting or denial of a hardship exemption may be appealed to circuit court as  
9        provided by chapter 1-26.

10       The department shall promulgate rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, to establish:

11       (1) The application form for a hardship exemption; and

12       (2) The standards used to evaluate a request for a hardship exemption.

13       The department shall post on its website a list of ambulance services granted a  
14       hardship exemption under this section.

15       **Section 7. That § 34-11-5 be AMENDED:**

16       ~~34-11-5. The Department of Health may adopt~~ department shall promulgate rules,  
17       pursuant to chapter 1-26, relating to the licensure and operation of ~~an ambulance services~~  
18       ~~including patient care, personnel, medical and maintenance~~ service. The rules must  
19       include:

20       (1) The medical equipment and supplies that must be on board each ambulance;

21       (2) The maintenance requirements for medical equipment, sanitary conditions, and  
22       necessary supplies;

23       (3) Sanitary requirements;

24       (4) Licensure fees, not to exceed twenty-five dollars; and

25       (5) Quality assurance program standards.

26       **Section 8. That § 34-11-5.1 be AMENDED:**

27       ~~34-11-5.1. Any patient information identifying the~~ obtained by the staff of an  
28       ambulance service that contains a patient's name, address, diagnosis, or treatment  
29       ~~received by an ambulance service under the authority of this chapter is not a public record~~  
30       ~~and, or other personally identifiable information~~ is confidential, except for official purposes  
31       as authorized by law, and may not be published or disclosed without authorization from  
32       the patient or the patient's designee.

**Section 9. That § 34-11-7 be AMENDED:**

~~34-11-7. Each operator shall record each trip on forms designated by the licensing agency and copies submitted to the department monthly. These records shall be maintained for a period of four years and upon request be made available to the department for inspection.~~ ambulance service shall provide electronic trip records to the department, at the time and in the manner directed by the department. The department shall set forth the required content for these records in rules promulgated in accordance with chapter 1-26. The content must be statistical in nature and may not include any information that is confidential, as referenced in § 34-11-5.1.

**Section 10. That § 34-11-8 be AMENDED:**

~~34-11-8. No provision of §§ 34-11-2 to 34-11-10, inclusive, nor any regulation adopted pursuant to said sections shall be construed as limiting any other provision of law delegating to the Department of Health the authority to regulate and~~ The department may inspect the warning lights, siren, brakes, and mechanical adequacy and safety of ambulances an ambulance service for compliance with this chapter.

**Section 11. That chapter 34-11 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

The department may deny the issuance or renewal of a license issued under this chapter, and may suspend, revoke, or impose probation on a license issued under this chapter, for a violation of any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted thereunder.

**Section 12. That chapter 34-11 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

Any party aggrieved by any act, ruling, or decision of the department acting pursuant to section 11 of this Act may appeal the act, ruling, or decision under the provisions of chapter 1-26.

**Section 13. That § 34-11-9 be AMENDED:**

~~34-11-9. The following are exempt from the provisions of §§ 34-11-2 to 34-11-10~~ 34-11-8, inclusive:

(1) The occasional use of a privately owned vehicle or aircraft, not ordinarily used in the business of providing ambulance service or operating under the provisions of § 32-34-3;

- (2) ~~A vehicle rendering services as an~~ that provides ~~ambulance in case of major catastrophe services following a disaster or emergency when ambulance services,~~  
~~if ambulances~~ based in the ~~localities of the catastrophe or emergency area~~ are  
~~insufficient or unavailable~~ unable to ~~render~~ provide the necessary services  
required;
- (3) ~~Ambulance services~~ ~~An ambulance service~~ based outside ~~the~~ of this state, ~~except~~  
that ~~any such ambulance unless the service is~~ receiving a patient ~~within~~ in this  
state ~~for transport and providing medical transportation to a another location within~~  
in this state ~~shall comply with §§ 34-11-2 to 34-11-10, inclusive, unless such~~  
transport is a medical emergency;
- (4) ~~Vehicles~~ A vehicle owned and operated by ~~a rescue squads which are~~ squad,  
provided the vehicle is not regularly used as ~~ambulances except as part an~~  
ambulance outside of rescue operations;
- (5) ~~Ambulances~~ An ambulance owned and operated by ~~agencies of the United States~~  
federal government; and
- (6) ~~Coach services engaged~~ A vehicle used to provide coach service, by prior  
appointment ~~in the transportation of infirm or disabled individuals not requiring~~  
emergency, for persons who require non-emergency medical ~~care in transit~~  
transportation.

**Section 14. That § 34-11-11 be AMENDED:**

**34-11-11.** Any ambulance service that provides advanced life support, as defined  
in § 36-4B-1, shall ~~conduct~~ implement a quality assurance program. ~~The quality assurance~~  
~~program shall include, at a minimum, a review of the appropriate use of oxygen therapy,~~  
~~the appropriate use of intravenous therapy, medication administration, and the~~  
~~appropriate use of cardiac monitors. The Department of Health shall develop a quality~~  
~~assurance program that meets the requirements of this section. The ambulance service~~  
~~may use the program developed by the department or the ambulance service may develop~~  
~~its own quality assurance program. The ambulance service shall compile the quality~~  
~~assurance reviews into an annual report, which shall be kept on file for at least three years~~  
~~and made available to the Department of Health upon request~~ that provides for chart  
review of all patient care provided by the ambulance service.

**Section 15. That § 34-11-12 be AMENDED:**

1           **34-11-12.** ~~The minimum personnel required on each~~ Each ambulance run includes  
2       must include:

- 3       (1)    One emergency medical technician ~~certified by the Department of Health or an~~ one  
4            advanced life support personnel, licensed pursuant to chapter 36-4B; and  
5       (2)    One driver ~~who meets the requirements established by the Department of Health~~  
6            pursuant to rules promulgated pursuant to § 34-11-5 certified in accordance with  
7            chapter 36-4B.

8       **Section 16. That § 34-11-4 be REPEALED:**

9            ~~The licensing agency shall provide application forms for the providing of ambulance~~  
10          ~~service. A fee of not more than twenty five dollars shall accompany each application,~~  
11          ~~except for applications from state agencies. The licensing agency shall issue a license to~~  
12          ~~any ambulance service which makes application to the agency providing such service~~  
13          ~~complies with §§ 34-11-2 to 34-11-10, inclusive. A license shall be valid for a period of~~  
14          ~~not more than two years.~~

15       **Section 17. That § 34-11-5.2 be REPEALED:**

16           ~~No person may practice as an emergency medical responder or represent oneself~~  
17          ~~as an emergency medical responder unless the person possesses a certification from the~~  
18          ~~department or holds a privilege to practice. The department shall promulgate rules,~~  
19          ~~pursuant to chapter 1-26, for the application, qualifications, issuance, and renewal of a~~  
20          ~~certification of an emergency medical responder. A certification issued under this section~~  
21          ~~shall be renewed every two years.~~

22       **Section 18. That § 34-11-6 be REPEALED:**

23           ~~No operator may provide ambulance service unless both the driver of the~~  
24          ~~ambulance and the attendant on duty in the ambulance possess certification of completing~~  
25          ~~an emergency care course approved by the Department of Health.~~

26       **Section 19. That § 34-11-6.1 be REPEALED:**

27           ~~The Department of Health may deny the issuance or renewal of a certification or~~  
28          ~~suspend or revoke the certification of any driver or attendant certified pursuant to § 34-~~  
29          ~~11-6 upon satisfactory proof of the person's gross incompetence, or unprofessional or~~  
30          ~~dishonorable conduct, including acts of gross incompetence, or unprofessional or~~

1       dishonorable conduct occurring before July 1, 2006. For the purposes of this section, the  
2       Department of Health shall define, in rules pursuant to chapter 1-26, the terms, gross  
3       incompetence, unprofessional conduct, and dishonorable conduct.

4       **Section 20. That § 34-11-6.2 be REPEALED:**

5               Any party feeling aggrieved by any act, ruling, or decision of the Department of  
6       Health acting pursuant to § 34-11-6.1 may appeal such act, ruling, or decision under the  
7       provisions of chapter 1-26.

8       **Section 21. That § 34-11-6.3 be REPEALED:**

9               If a person holding a certification pursuant to § 34-11-6 is adjudged to be mentally  
10       incompetent by final order or adjudication of a court of competent jurisdiction, the  
11       Department of Health shall suspend such person's certification pursuant to chapter 1-26.  
12       The suspension shall continue until the person holding the certification is found or  
13       adjudged by such court to be restored to reason. The Department of Health may establish,  
14       by rules promulgated pursuant to chapter 1-26, probationary conditions that it deems  
15       necessary for the best interest of the person holding the certification.

16       **Section 22. That § 34-11-6.4 be REPEALED:**

17               Upon application, the Department of Health may reissue a certification issued  
18       pursuant to § 34-11-6 that has been cancelled, suspended, or revoked. A reissuance of a  
19       certification that has been cancelled, suspended, or revoked may not be made prior to  
20       one year after the cancellation, suspension, or revocation. The Department of Health may,  
21       by rules promulgated pursuant to chapter 1-26, provide for the manner, form, and  
22       condition for the reissuance of any certification pursuant to this section.

23       **Section 23. That § 34-11-6.5 be REPEALED:**

24               In addition to the requirements of § 34-11-6, each applicant for emergency medical  
25       technician certification must submit to a state and federal criminal background check. The  
26       applicant must submit a full set of the applicant's fingerprints to the department in a form  
27       and manner prescribed by the department. The department shall submit the applicant's  
28       fingerprints to the Division of Criminal Investigation to conduct a criminal background  
29       check by the division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The applicant must sign a

1 ~~release of information to the department, and pay any fee charged for the cost of~~  
2 ~~fingerprinting or conducting the background check.~~

3 ~~Upon completion of the background check, the division shall deliver to the~~  
4 ~~department all criminal history record information regarding the applicant, and the~~  
5 ~~department shall consider this information in its determination to issue a certification to~~  
6 ~~the applicant. The department may not issue a certification to an applicant before receiving~~  
7 ~~this information. The department may only disseminate an applicant's information to a~~  
8 ~~person employed by the department.~~

9 ~~The department may require any certified emergency medical technician who is~~  
10 ~~the subject of a disciplinary investigation to submit to a state and federal background~~  
11 ~~check. The department may deny the issuance of, suspend, or revoke a certification for~~  
12 ~~failure to submit to or cooperate with a background check.~~

13 **Section 24. That § 34-11-10 be REPEALED:**

14 ~~Any person violating the provisions of §§ 34-11-2 to 34-11-9, inclusive, or the~~  
15 ~~regulations adopted pursuant thereto is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. A violation is~~  
16 ~~also grounds, upon hearing held pursuant to chapter 1-26, for suspension or revocation~~  
17 ~~of any prior authorized license.~~

18 **Section 25. That § 34-11-13 be REPEALED:**

19 ~~Any ambulance service licensed pursuant to this chapter may be equipped with~~  
20 ~~single dose epinephrine. The department shall adopt statewide protocols for the~~  
21 ~~administration of epinephrine. A copy of the protocols, signed by the medical director of~~  
22 ~~the ambulance service, must be carried in any ambulance equipped with epinephrine. Any~~  
23 ~~emergency medical technician who has received training approved by the department~~  
24 ~~may, pursuant to the protocols, administer epinephrine.~~

25 **Section 26. That § 34-11-14 be REPEALED:**

26 ~~Any ambulance service licensed pursuant to this chapter may be equipped with a~~  
27 ~~supraglottic airway device. The department shall adopt statewide protocols for the use of~~  
28 ~~supraglottic airway devices. A copy of the protocols, signed by the medical director of the~~  
29 ~~ambulance service, must be carried in any ambulance equipped with a supraglottic airway~~  
30 ~~device. Any emergency medical technician who has received training approved by the~~  
31 ~~department may, pursuant to the protocols, utilize a supraglottic airway device.~~