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HOUSE BILL NO. 542

Offered January 14, 2004

Prefiled January 13, 2004

A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-111.14 of the Code of Virginia, relating to emergency medical services vehicles.

 Patron—May

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 32.1-111.14 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 32.1-111.14. Powers of governing bodies of counties, cities and towns.

A. Upon finding as fact, after notice and public hearing, that exercise of the powers enumerated below is necessary to assure the provision of adequate and continuing emergency services and to preserve, protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare, the governing body of any county or city is empowered to:

1. Enact an ordinance making it unlawful to operate emergency medical services vehicles or any class thereof established by the Board in such county or city without having been granted a franchise or permit to do so;

2. Grant franchises or permits to agencies based within or outside the county or city; however, any agency in operation in any county or city on June 28, 1968, that continues to operate as such, up to and including the effective date of any ordinance adopted pursuant to this section, and that submits to the governing body of the county or city satisfactory evidence of such continuing operation, shall be granted a franchise or permit by such governing body to serve at least that part of the county or city in which the agency has continuously operated if all other requirements of this article are met;

3. Limit the number of emergency medical services vehicles to be operated within the county or city and by any agency;

4. Determine and prescribe areas of franchised or permitted service within the county or city;

5. Fix and change from time to time reasonable charges for franchised or permitted services;

6. Set minimum limits of liability insurance coverage for emergency medical services vehicles;

7. Contract with franchised or permitted agencies for transportation to be rendered upon call of a county or municipal agency or department and for transportation of bona fide indigents or persons certified by the local board of social services to be public assistance or social services recipients; and

8. Establish other necessary regulations consistent with statutes or regulations of the Board relating to operation of emergency medical services vehicles.

B. In addition to the powers set forth above, the governing body of any county or city is authorized to provide, or cause to be provided, services of emergency medical services vehicles; to own, operate and maintain emergency medical services vehicles; to make reasonable charges for use of emergency medical services vehicles; and to contract with any agency for the services of its emergency medical services vehicles.

C. Any incorporated town may exercise, within its corporate limits only, all those powers enumerated in subsections A and B either upon the request of a town to the governing body of the county wherein the town lies and upon the adoption by the county governing body of a resolution permitting such exercise, or after 180 days' written notice to the governing body of the county if the county is not exercising such powers at the end of such 180-day period.

D. No county ordinance enacted, or other county action taken, pursuant to powers granted herein shall be effective within an incorporated town in such county which is at the time exercising such powers until 180 days after written notice to the governing body of the town.

E. Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize any county to regulate in any manner emergency medical services vehicles owned and operated by a town or to authorize any town to regulate in any manner emergency medical services vehicles owned and operated by a county.

F. Any emergency medical services vehicles operated by a county, city or town under authority of this section shall be subject to the provisions of this article and to the regulations of the Board adopted thereunder.

G. Any locality that has granted authority or approval for the operation of emergency medical services vehicles to any governmental agencies or any agencies operating independent volunteer fire and rescue companies, or both, may combine such agencies under one consolidated agency for permitting purposes. Unless directed otherwise by the consolidated agency, such governmental or independently

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59 *operated fire and rescue companies shall continue to operate under their own name, which shall serve*
60 *as the emergency medical services agency name required by regulation to appear on both sides of the*
61 *vehicle body in reflective lettering.*