

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 32.1-111.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the statewide emergency*
3 *medical care system.*

4 [S 1034]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 32.1-111.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 32.1-111.3. Statewide emergency medical care system.

9 A. The Board of Health shall develop a comprehensive, coordinated, emergency medical care system
10 in the Commonwealth and prepare a Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan, which shall
11 incorporate, but not be limited to, the plans prepared by the regional emergency medical services
12 councils. The Board shall review the Plan triennially and make such revisions as may be necessary. The
13 objectives of such Plan and the system shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

14 1. Establish a comprehensive statewide emergency medical care system, incorporating facilities,
15 transportation, manpower, communications, and other components as integral parts of a unified system
16 that will serve to improve the delivery of emergency medical services and thereby decrease morbidity,
17 hospitalization, disability, and mortality;

18 2. Reduce the time period between the identification of an acutely ill or injured patient and the
19 definitive treatment;

20 3. Increase the accessibility of high quality emergency medical services to all citizens of Virginia;

21 4. Promote continuing improvement in system components including ground, water and air
22 transportation, communications, hospital emergency departments and other emergency medical care
23 facilities, consumer health information and education, and health manpower and manpower training;

24 5. Improve the quality of emergency medical care delivered on site, in transit, in hospital emergency
25 departments and within the hospital environment;

26 6. Work with medical societies, hospitals, and other public and private agencies in developing
27 approaches whereby the many persons who are presently using the existing emergency department for
28 routine, nonurgent, primary medical care will be served more appropriately and economically;

29 7. Conduct, promote, and encourage programs of education and training designed to upgrade the
30 knowledge and skills of health manpower involved in emergency medical services;

31 8. Consult with and review, with agencies and organizations, the development of applications to
32 governmental or other sources for grants or other funding to support emergency medical services
33 programs;

34 9. Establish a statewide air medical evacuation system which shall be developed by the Department
35 of Health in coordination with the Department of State Police and other appropriate state agencies;

36 10. Establish and maintain a process for designation of appropriate hospitals as trauma centers and
37 specialty care centers based on an applicable national evaluation system;

38 11. Establish a comprehensive emergency medical services patient care data collection and evaluation
39 system pursuant to Article 3.1 (§ 32.1-116.1 et seq.) of this chapter; and

40 12. Collect data and information and prepare reports for the sole purpose of the designation and
41 verification of trauma centers and other specialty care centers pursuant to this section. All data and
42 information collected shall remain confidential and shall be exempt from the provisions of the Virginia
43 Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.1-340 et seq.).

44 B. The Board of Health shall also promulgate regulations to establish a statewide prehospital and
45 interhospital trauma triage plan which (i) sets standards and criteria for triage and for trauma center
46 designations and (ii) is designed to provide quality improvement monitoring and to ensure that trauma
47 patients receive rapid access to appropriate, organized trauma care. The first set of such regulations
48 shall be effective in 280 days or less from enactment of this provision.

49 C. Whenever any state-owned aircraft, vehicle, or other form of conveyance is utilized under the
50 provisions of this section, an appropriate amount not to exceed the actual costs of operation may be
51 charged by the agency having administrative control of such aircraft, vehicle or other form of
52 conveyance.