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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1472****AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns  
on January 27, 2023)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Fowler)

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-955 of the Code of Virginia, relating to emergency medical services agencies; ordinances or resolutions; designation as emergency response agencies.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 15.2-955 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 15.2-955. Approval by local governing body for the establishment of volunteer emergency medical services agencies and firefighting organizations.**

A. No volunteer emergency medical services agency or volunteer firefighting organization shall be established in any locality on or after July 1, 1984, without the prior approval by ordinance or resolution of the governing body. *Such ordinance or resolution shall specify the geographic boundaries of the agency's primary service area within the locality.*

B. Each locality shall seek to ensure that *essential* emergency medical services are maintained throughout the entire locality.

C. *An emergency medical services agency that responds to medical emergencies for its primary service area as defined by the local emergency medical response plan shall be a designated emergency response agency and recognized as an integral and essential part of the official public safety program of the county, city, or town with responsibility for providing emergency medical response.*