



2025 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 77

Introduced by: **Senator Davis**

1 **An Act to update terminology related to ambulance operators.**

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

3 **Section 1. That § 32-17-42 be AMENDED:**

4 **32-17-42.** Any A motor vehicle authorized may be equipped with blue lights if it
5 is:

6 (1) Authorized by the Department of Transportation, a;

7 (2) A tow truck or wrecker as defined in § 32-17-10, i; or a vehicle operated

8 (3) Operated by a:

9 (a) A member of an organized a fire department or organized search and rescue
10 unit or by a person who is an; or

11 (b) An ambulance driver, attendant, or emergency medical technician affiliated
12 with a licensed ambulance service may be equipped with blue lights
13 operator certified in accordance with chapter 36-4B.

14 This provision does not relieve the driver of the vehicle from the duty to drive with
15 due regard for the safety of all persons using the street, nor does it protect the driver
16 from the consequence of a reckless disregard ~~of~~ for the safety of others.

17 No person may use a blue light unless the person is authorized by this chapter and
18 is operating a Department of Transportation vehicle or a county highway vehicle in
19 performance of winter highway maintenance duties, or the person is actually en route to
20 the scene of a fire or other emergency requiring the person's services and the person has
21 been authorized in writing to ~~se~~ use a blue light. Authorization for use of a blue light in
22 accordance with this chapter may be given by the Department of Transportation, the
23 highway patrol, a county highway superintendent, the chief of a fire department, the
24 coordinator of a search and rescue unit, or operator or ambulance service the director of
25 an ambulance service, and only to members of the department or service who are in good
26 standing.

1 The use of a blue light in violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

2 **Section 2. That § 32-31-4 be AMENDED:**

3 **32-31-4.** The speed ~~limit~~ limits set ~~out~~ forth in §§ 32-25-1.1 to 32-25-17,
4 inclusive, ~~does do~~ not apply to any authorized emergency vehicle responding to an
5 emergency call if the driver sounds an audible siren or air horn, or both, or displays
6 flashing, oscillating, or rotating beams of red light, or combinations of red, blue, or white
7 light, visible one hundred eighty degrees to the front of the vehicle. The lights must be
8 capable of warning the public of the presence of an emergency vehicle under normal
9 atmospheric conditions.

10 The speed ~~limit~~ limits set ~~out~~ forth in §§ 32-25-1.1 to 32-25-17, inclusive, ~~does do~~
11 not apply to authorized emergency vehicles operated by law enforcement officers who are
12 measuring the speed of other vehicles by use of the emergency vehicle speedometer.

13 An ambulance ~~driver who is operator~~ certified pursuant to chapter 36-4B may
14 operate an ambulance in excess of the speed limit without audible signals while operating
15 outside the city limits of a municipality.

16 **Section 3. That § 34-11-12 be AMENDED:**

17 **34-11-12.** Each ambulance run must include:

- 18 (1) One emergency medical technician or one advanced life support personnel,
19 licensed pursuant to chapter 36-4B; and
20 (2) One ~~driver~~ ambulance operator certified in accordance with chapter 36-4B.

21 **Section 4. That § 34-20A-100 be AMENDED:**

22 **34-20A-100.** For the purposes of §§ 34-20A-98 to 34-20A-103, inclusive, ~~the~~
23 ~~term, "first responder, includes"~~ means:

- 24 (1) A law enforcement officer as defined by ~~subdivision 22-1-2(22)~~ § 22-1-2;
25 (2) ~~A driver and attendant~~ An individual responding to an emergency call as part of an
26 ambulance service licensed pursuant to chapter 34-11; ~~and or~~
27 (3) A firefighter.

28 **Section 5. That § 36-4B-1 be AMENDED:**

29 **36-4B-1.** Terms used in this chapter mean:

- 1 (1) "Advanced life support," a level of emergency care consisting of basic life support
2 procedures and definitive therapy;
- 3 (2) "Advanced life support personnel," a person licensed by the board as:
4 (a) An emergency medical technician-intermediate/85;
5 (b) An emergency medical technician-intermediate/99;
6 (c) An advanced emergency medical technician; or
7 (d) A paramedic;
- 8 (3) "Basic life support personnel," a person:
9 (a) Certified by the board as an ambulance-~~driver~~ operator;
10 (b) Licensed by the board as an emergency medical responder; or
11 (c) Licensed by the board as an emergency medical technician;
- 12 (4) "Board," the State Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners;
- 13 (5) "Direct control," real-time communications during an ambulance run between
14 emergency medical services personnel and a physician, physician assistant, or
15 nurse practitioner, licensed in this state;
- 16 (6) "Emergency medical services," health care provided to a patient by emergency
17 medical services personnel;
- 18 (7) "Emergency medical services personnel," a person licensed by the board as:
19 (a) An emergency medical responder;
20 (b) An emergency medical technician;
21 (c) An emergency medical technician-intermediate/85;
22 (d) An emergency medical technician-intermediate/99;
23 (e) An advanced emergency medical technician; or
24 (f) A paramedic; and
- 25 (8) "Indirect control," the establishment and implementation of guidelines, policies, and
26 protocols approved by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner,
27 licensed in this state.

28 **Section 6. That § 36-4B-35 be AMENDED:**

- 29 **36-4B-35.** The board shall promulgate rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, to:
- 30 (1) Provide for an application form and process for the licensure of emergency medical
31 services personnel and the certification of ambulance-~~drivers~~ operators;
- 32 (2) Set forth criteria for educational and training program approval, including
33 instructor qualifications, student acceptance, and clinical requirements;

- 1 (3) Establish the educational and training requirements, and the National Registry of
2 Emergency Medical Technicians requirements, for applicants seeking licensure as
3 emergency medical services personnel;
- 4 (4) Provide for the renewal of ambulance-~~driver~~ operator certification and continuing
5 education requirements;
- 6 (5) Establish procedures for the administration of the emergency medical services
7 personnel program;
- 8 (6) Regulate the professional conduct of emergency medical services personnel and
9 ambulance-~~drivers~~ operators;
- 10 (7) Establish the educational and training requirements, and conditions for issuance of
11 a critical care endorsement, as provided for in § 36-4B-18.1;
- 12 (8) Establish the:
 - 13 (a) Educational and training requirements and conditions for issuance of a
14 community paramedic endorsement; and
 - 15 (b) Practice protocols and supervisory requirements for a person with a
16 community paramedic endorsement; and
- 17 (9) Establish the allowable skills and techniques performed by emergency medical
18 services personnel under direct and indirect control.

19 **Section 7. That § 36-4B-41 be AMENDED:**

- 20 **36-4B-41.** The board may issue a certification as an ambulance-~~driver~~ operator to
21 a person who:
- 22 (1) Completes an emergency care course approved by the board; and
 - 23 (2) Applies on a form prescribed by the board.