

ASSEMBLY, No. 4511

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Allows for immediate transport of persons by local law enforcement officers under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/24/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning certain county and municipal law enforcement
2 officers and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. Notwithstanding any other law, rule, or regulation to the
8 contrary, a county or municipal law enforcement officer shall
9 provide a person with direct transportation to the nearest hospital if:

10 (1) the person is suffering from an injury requiring immediate
11 medical assistance;

12 (2) an emergency medical transportation vehicle is delayed or
13 unavailable; and

14 (3) there is a hospital with the necessary emergency facilities
15 within a reasonable distance.

16 b. The Attorney General, in consultation with the
17 Commissioner of Health, shall promulgate guidelines to effectuate
18 the provisions of this section. The guidelines shall include, but not
19 be limited to:

20 (1) identifying the types of injuries requiring immediate
21 transport by a county or municipal law enforcement officer when
22 emergency medical transportation is delayed or unavailable;

23 (2) a listing of hospitals in each county to which a law
24 enforcement officer may transport an injured person, including
25 accredited trauma centers;

26 (3) procedures for the transportation of injured persons
27 suspected of committing a crime or offense;

28 (4) safety precautions and best practices for avoiding exposure
29 to blood-borne pathogens and communicable diseases; and

30 (5) decontamination of vehicles in which law enforcement
31 officers have transported an injured person.

32 c. As used in this section:

33 “Accredited trauma center” means a trauma center designated as
34 a Level One or Level Two trauma center under the provisions of
35 P.L.2013, c.233 (C.26:2KK-1 et seq.) and the regulations adopted
36 pursuant thereto.

37 “Emergency medical transportation” means the prehospital
38 transportation of an ill or injured patient by a dedicated emergency
39 medical service vehicle or helicopter response unit.

40 “Hospital” means a general acute care hospital licensed pursuant
41 to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).

42

43 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
44 next following enactment, but the Attorney General and the
45 Commissioner of Health may take anticipatory administrative
46 action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of
47 this act.

STATEMENT

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

This bill requires a county or municipal law enforcement officer to provide a person with immediate transportation to the nearest hospital if:

- the person is suffering from an injury requiring immediate medical assistance;
- an emergency medical transportation vehicle is delayed or unavailable; and
- there is a hospital with the necessary emergency facilities within a reasonable distance.

The bill provides that the Attorney General, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, is to promulgate guidelines to effectuate the provisions of the bill. The guidelines are required to include, but not be limited to:

- identifying the types of injuries requiring immediate transport by a county or municipal law enforcement officer when emergency medical transportation is delayed or unavailable;
- a listing of appropriate health care facilities in each county to which a law enforcement officer may transport an injured person, including accredited trauma centers;
- procedures for transporting injured persons suspected of committing a crime or offense;
- safety precautions and best practices for avoiding exposure to blood-borne pathogens and communicable diseases; and
- decontamination of vehicles in which law enforcement officers have transported an injured person.

The bill defines “accredited trauma center” to mean a trauma center designated as a Level One or Level Two trauma center under the provisions of P.L.2013, c.233 (C.26:2KK-1 et seq.) and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto. In addition, the bill defines “emergency medical transportation” to mean the prehospital transportation of an ill or injured patient by a dedicated emergency medical service vehicle or helicopter response unit.

It is the sponsor’s view that providing law enforcement officers with the power to rapidly transport a critically ill person to the nearest appropriate hospital will shorten the time between injury and hospital care. The sponsor notes that the ability to quickly provide advanced hospital care is particularly important for persons suffering from traumatic injury. The transportation of injured persons to the hospital by law enforcement officers, also known as “scoop and run,” has not only saved lives in the communities where it has been implemented, but also improved the relationship between law enforcement officers and the communities that they serve.