

**§81-A. Statement of purpose**

It is the purpose of this chapter to promote and provide for a comprehensive and effective emergency medical services system to ensure optimum patient care. The Legislature finds that emergency medical services provided by an ambulance service are essential services. The Legislature finds that the provision of medical assistance in an emergency is a matter of vital concern affecting the health, safety and welfare of the public. [PL 2021, c. 749, §1 (AMD).]

It is the intent of the Legislature to designate that a central agency be responsible for the coordination and integration of all state activities concerning emergency medical services and the overall planning, evaluation, coordination, facilitation and regulation of emergency medical services systems. Further, the Legislature finds that the provision of prompt, efficient and effective emergency medical dispatch and emergency medical care, a well-coordinated trauma care system, effective communication between prehospital care providers and hospitals and the safe handling and transportation, and the treatment and nontransport under appropriate medical guidance, of the sick and injured are key elements of an emergency medical services system. This chapter is intended to promote the public health, safety and welfare by providing for the creation of a statewide emergency medical services system with standards for all providers of emergency medical services. [PL 2021, c. 159, §1 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1985, c. 730, §§3,16 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 857, §60 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 311, §2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 274, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 159, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 749, §1 (AMD).

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