



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

12 VAC 5-31 – Virginia Emergency Medical Services Regulations
Virginia Department of Health
July 30, 2009

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

The State Board of Health is proposing numerous changes to its emergency medical services (EMS) regulations to incorporate new definitions, legislative changes, federal mandates, to clarify certain provisions, and to include recommended practices.

Result of Analysis

The benefits likely exceed the costs for all proposed changes.

Estimated Economic Impact

The State Board of Health is proposing numerous changes to its emergency medical services (EMS) regulations to incorporate new definitions, legislative changes, federal mandates, to clarify certain provisions, and to include recommended practices.

One of the significant proposed changes is allowing localities to develop their own emergency response agency standards. Under the proposed changes, localities would be able to set their own individual response time standards which must be met in at least 90 percent of the cases. Ability to develop individual standards will allow flexibility for localities that have relatively limited resources and may not be able to meet the standards of other localities.

The proposed regulations will also require a National Crime Information Center background check on affiliated EMS personnel. Currently, only statewide criminal background check is performed. With the proposed regulations, a nationwide background check will be performed. The department does not anticipate any additional costs as a result of this requirement since a fixed amount of funding (\$25,000) is provided to the State Police to cover the background checks will not be affected.

Another significant change is the increase in the required supply count of triage tags. The proposed language would require each EMS vehicle to have 25 triage tags on supply. Currently, the language permits EMS agencies to maintain a total supply of 75 tags in a location accessible by all agency personnel. To comply with the proposed change, some agencies may need to maintain a larger supply of triage tags. The unit cost of the tags is believed to be minimal.

Finally, the proposed changes remove the prohibition on firearms, weapons, and explosives. This change would allow for any emergency response personnel to carry any of the aforementioned artillery.

Businesses and Entities Affected

The proposed changes apply to approximately 800 EMS agencies with over 34,000 certified personnel.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed regulations apply throughout the Commonwealth.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed regulations are not anticipated to have any significant impact on employment.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed regulations are not anticipated to have any significant impact on the use and value of private property.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

The proposed regulations are not anticipated to have any significant cost and other effects on small businesses.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

The proposed regulations are not anticipated to have any significant adverse impact on small businesses.

Real Estate Development Costs

The proposed regulations are not anticipated to create any significant real estate development costs.

Legal Mandate

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.H of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 36 (06). Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.