

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 611

To establish a Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services and a Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2005

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. FEINGOLD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To establish a Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services and a Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Medical
5 Services Support Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON EMER-**
2 **GENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
4 tation and the Secretary of Homeland Security, through
5 the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Re-
6 sponse, and in consultation with the Secretary of Health
7 and Human Services, shall establish a Federal Inter-
8 agency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (re-
9 ferred to in this Act as the “Interagency Committee on
10 EMS”) to improve coordination and enhance support of
11 emergency medical services.

12 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Interagency Committee on
13 EMS shall consist of the following officials, or their des-
14 ignees:

15 (1) The Administrator of the National Highway
16 Traffic Safety Administration.

17 (2) The Director of the Office for Domestic
18 Preparedness of the Department of Homeland Secu-
19 rity.

20 (3) The Administrator of the Health Resources
21 and Services Administration of the Department of
22 Health and Human Services.

23 (4) The Director of the Centers for Disease
24 Control and Prevention of the Department of Health
25 and Human Services.

1 (5) The Administrator of the United States
2 Fire Administration of the Department of Homeland
3 Security.

4 (6) The Administrator of the Centers for Medi-
5 care & Medicaid Services of the Department of
6 Health and Human Services.

7 (7) The Undersecretary of Defense for Per-
8 sonnel and Readiness.

9 (8) The Assistant Secretary for Public Health
10 Emergency Preparedness of the Department of
11 Health and Human Services.

12 (9) The Director of the Indian Health Service
13 of the Department of Health and Human Services.

14 (10) The Bureau Chief of the Wireless Tele-
15 communications Bureau of the Federal Communica-
16 tions Commission.

17 (11) A representative of any other Federal
18 agency identified by the Secretary of Transportation
19 or the Secretary of Homeland Security, through the
20 Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and
21 Response and in consultation with the Secretary of
22 Health and Human Services, as having a significant
23 role in relation to the purposes of the Interagency
24 Committee on EMS.

1 (c) LEADERSHIP.—The members of the Interagency
2 Committee on EMS shall annually select an individual
3 from among the members of the Committee to serve as
4 chairperson of the Committee.

5 (d) ACTIVITIES.—The Interagency Committee on
6 EMS shall carry out the following activities:

7 (1) Ensuring coordination among the Federal
8 agencies represented on the Interagency Committee
9 on EMS with State, local, tribal, or regional emer-
10 gency medical services and 9–1–1 systems.

11 (2) Identifying State, local, tribal, or regional
12 emergency medical services and 9–1–1 needs.

13 (3) Ensuring that emergency medical services
14 are appropriately integrated with homeland security
15 and other emergency response programs.

16 (4) Recommending new or expanded programs,
17 including grant programs, for—

18 (A) improving State, local, tribal, or re-
19 gional emergency medical services; and

20 (B) implementing improved interoperable
21 voice and data emergency medical services and
22 communications technologies, including wireless
23 9–1–1.

1 (5) Identifying ways to streamline the process
2 through which Federal agencies support State, local,
3 tribal, or regional emergency medical services.

4 (6) Assisting State, local, tribal, or regional
5 emergency medical services in setting priorities
6 based on identified needs.

7 (7) Advising, consulting, and making rec-
8 ommendations on matters relating to the implemen-
9 tation of the coordinated State emergency medical
10 services programs.

11 (e) MEETINGS.—The Interagency Committee on
12 EMS shall meet as frequently as is determined necessary
13 by the chairperson of the Committee, but no less fre-
14 quently than quarterly.

15 (f) ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator of the Na-
16 tional Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in coopera-
17 tion with the Director of the Office for Domestic Pre-
18 paredness of the Department of Homeland Security, shall
19 provide administrative support to the Interagency Com-
20 mittee on EMS, including scheduling meetings, setting
21 agendas, keeping minutes and records, and producing re-
22 ports.

23 (g) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Interagency Committee
24 on EMS shall prepare and submit an annual report to
25 Congress on the Committee's activities, actions, and rec-

1 ommendations, and shall include in such report a descrip-
2 tion of respective Federal agency responsibility, support,
3 and coordination of emergency medical services systems.

4 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON EMER-**
5 **AGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUN-**
6 **CIL.**

7 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a Fed-
8 eral Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Serv-
9 ices Advisory Council (in this Act referred to as the “Advi-
10 sory Council”) that shall consist of not more than 13 indi-
11 viduals with an interest or expertise in emergency medical
12 services selected by the Interagency Committee on EMS.

13 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—In selecting members of the Ad-
14 visory Council, the Interagency Committee on EMS shall
15 ensure that the Advisory Council represents—

16 (1) both urban and rural areas; and

17 (2) all sectors of the emergency medical services
18 community.

19 (c) **LEADERSHIP.**—Members of the Advisory Council
20 shall annually select an individual from among the mem-
21 bers of the Council to serve as chairperson of the Advisory
22 Council.

23 (d) **ACTIVITIES.**—The Advisory Council shall make
24 recommendations to the Interagency Committee on EMS
25 on topics including the following:

1 (1) Improved coordination and support of emer-
2 gency medical services systems among Federal pro-
3 grams.

4 (2) Development of a national emergency med-
5 ical services plan.

6 (3) Standards, guidelines, benchmarks, and
7 data collection on emergency medical services.

8 (4) Guidelines for conducting needs assessments
9 for improving community-based emergency medical
10 services systems at State and local levels.

11 (5) Creation of new, or the expansion of exist-
12 ing, grants or other programs for improving commu-
13 nity-based emergency medical services.

14 (6) Consolidation or realignment of Federal
15 agency or program responsibility for emergency med-
16 ical services.

17 (7) Strengthening emergency medical services
18 systems through enhanced workforce development,
19 education, training, exercises, equipment, medical
20 oversight, and other areas.

21 (8) Issues or topics to be addressed in the an-
22 nual report of the Interagency Committee on EMS.

23 (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Before the Interagency Com-
24 mittee on EMS submits the annual report required under
25 section 2(g) to Congress, the Advisory Council shall review

1 the report and include independent information or rec-
2 ommendations for inclusion in the report, as deemed ap-
3 propriate by the Advisory Council.

4 (f) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Council—

5 (1) shall meet at the same time and place as
6 the Interagency Committee on EMS, when such
7 Committee meets; and

8 (2) may conduct independent meetings to re-
9 ceive public comment and collect data and informa-
10 tion.

11 (g) COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT.—

12 (1) COMPENSATION.—The members of the Ad-
13 visory Council shall receive no pay by reason of their
14 service as a member of the Advisory Council.

15 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the
16 Advisory Council shall be allowed travel expenses, in-
17 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates au-
18 thorized for employees of agencies under subchapter
19 1 of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
20 away from their homes or regular places of business
21 in the performance of services for the Advisory
22 Council.

23 (h) ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator of the
24 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in co-
25 operation with the Director of the Office for Domestic

1 Preparedness of the Department of Homeland Security,
2 shall provide administration support to the Advisory
3 Council.

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