

**Subject** Ambulance service licensing and permits; primary service areas

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## Overview

This bill makes changes to statutes governing ambulance services. It requires the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board to adopt rules modifying the boundaries of primary service areas and requires an ambulance service to obtain a permit from a municipality in order to provide service where the municipality is located. The board and municipalities must adopt requirements for ambulance service licensure, and the process for renewal of ambulance service licenses is modified. The bill also requires the board to adopt rules establishing performance standards for ambulances and prohibits licenses from being transferred.

## Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <b>Primary service area.</b><br>Amends § 144E.001, subd. 10. Amends the definition of primary service area for statutes governing ambulance services.   |
| 2 | <b>Response time.</b><br>Adds subd. 12a to § 144E.001. Defines response time for statutes governing ambulance services.   |
| 3 | <b>Primary service areas.</b><br>Amends § 144E.06. Current law requires the EMS Regulatory Board to adopt rules defining primary service areas. This section requires the board to adopt rules modifying the boundaries of primary service areas so the boundaries correspond with either the boundaries of a special taxing district to provide emergency medical services, or the boundaries of one or more municipalities. Requires the board to notify local public safety answering point coordinators of changes in boundaries. Subdivision 1 is effective the day following final enactment. |

Section	Description
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4 **Primary service area permit.**

Adds § 144E.065. Authorizes municipalities to issue a permit to an ambulance service to provide services in the primary service area in which the municipality is located, and authorizes the board to issue permits in certain circumstances.

**Subd. 1. Permit required.** Prohibits an ambulance service from providing services in a primary service area unless the ambulance service has a permit to do so.

**Subd. 2. Local permit.** Allows a municipality to issue a permit to one ambulance service to authorize the ambulance service to provide services in the primary service area in which the municipality is located. Also allows a municipality to enter into an agreement with other municipalities to issue a joint permit to one ambulance service to provide services in the primary service area where the municipalities are located. Requires municipalities to establish requirements for issuing, revoking, and renewing permits, and allows municipalities to charge fees for permit applications, issuance of permits, and permit renewal.

**Subd. 3. Expiration; renewal.** Provides that a permit is valid for the period the ambulance service's license is valid. Requires an ambulance service to either apply for permit renewal or provide notice that it does not wish to renew its permit.

**Subd. 4. Reports.** Requires an ambulance service to notify the board when it receives a permit and when the permit expires, is renewed, or is revoked. Requires the board to notify local public safety answering point coordinators about the status of ambulance service permits.

**Subd. 5. Date certain; board issuance of permit.** By a certain date, requires the board to ensure each primary service area in the state is receiving services from one ambulance service under a permit. Requires the board to issue permits for primary service areas for which a permit has not been issued by a municipality or municipalities. Allows the board to revoke permits issued under this subdivision, and allows the board to renew a permit only if necessary to prevent a primary service area from being without services.

This section is effective July 1, 2025.

5 **Ambulance service licensing.**

Amends § 144E.10. Strikes language requiring an ambulance service to obtain a new license if it wishes to expand its primary service area, to conform with other changes in this bill. This section is effective July 1, 2025.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
6	<b>Written application.</b> Amends § 144E.11, subd. 1. Strikes language requiring an ambulance service wishing to expand a primary service area to apply to the board, to conform with other changes in this bill. This section is effective July 1, 2025.
7	<b>Application notice.</b> Amends § 144E.11, subd. 2. Strikes language requiring notice of applications for ambulance service licensure to be sent to applicable community health boards, regional emergency medical services systems, and ambulance services. Makes other changes to conform with changes in this bill. This section is effective July 1, 2025.
8	<b>Comments.</b> Amends § 144E.11, subd. 3. Strikes language authorizing community health boards and regional EMS systems to make recommendations on ambulance service applications for licensure. This section is effective July 1, 2025.
9	<b>Contested case exemption; procedure.</b> Amends § 144E.11, subd. 4. Strikes language regarding obtaining a new license if an ambulance service wishes to expand its primary service area, to conform with other changes in this bill. Strikes references to factors used to review applications; the factors are being stricken in this bill. This section is effective July 1, 2025.
10	<b>Contested case; procedure.</b> Amends § 144E.11, subd. 5. Strikes language regarding obtaining a new license if an ambulance service wishes to expand its primary service area, to conform with other changes in this bill. Strikes references to factors used to review applications; the factors are being stricken in this bill. This section is effective July 1, 2025.
11	<b>Requirements.</b> Amends § 144E.11, subd. 6. Strikes factors the board and administrative law judge must use in reviewing applications for licensure, and instead requires the board and administrative law judge to consider whether the applicant meets requirements for licensure established by the board and municipalities. This section is effective July 1, 2025.
12	<b>Licensing decision.</b> Amends § 144E.11, subd. 7. Strikes references to factors used to review applications; the factors are being stricken in this bill. This section is effective July 1, 2025.
13	<b>Renewal of ambulance service license.</b> Adds § 144E.115. Establishes a process to renew ambulance service licenses.

Section	Description
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**Subd. 1. Expiration of license; license renewal.** Provides an ambulance service license expires two years after the date of issuance. Lists information an ambulance service must submit to renew its license.

**Subd. 2. Renewal application notice.** Requires the board to send notice of applications for license renewal to the relevant counties and municipalities.

**Subd. 3. Review of performance standards; recommendation to board.** Allows county boards and municipalities that receive notice under subdivision 2 to review the performance standards of the applicant for license renewal and submit comments to the board on whether the license should be renewed. Also allows comment to be submitted by ambulance services and others.

**Subd. 4. Review by board.** Lists information the board must review before approving or denying an application for license renewal.

**Subd. 5. Decision.** Allows the board to renew an ambulance service's license if the ambulance service is operating in substantial compliance with statutes and rules, is meeting the needs of patients in its primary service area, and is providing care of acceptable quality as measured by performance standards. Allows a person aggrieved by the board's decision to seek judicial review.

This section is effective July 1, 2025.

14	<b>Performance standards.</b>
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Adds § 144E.124.

**Subd. 1. Establishment of performance standards.** Requires the board to adopt rules establishing performance standards, including quality assurance metrics, for ambulance services.

**Subd. 2. Collection and maintenance of data on performance standards.** Requires a licensee to collect and maintain data on performance standards.

**Subd. 3. Quarterly reports to municipalities.** Requires a licensee to provide quarterly reports to applicable counties and municipalities, on the licensee's compliance with performance standards. Lists information the quarterly reports must include.

**Subd. 4. Public posting of fee schedule.** Requires a municipality to post or otherwise make available the licensee's fee schedule.

Section	Description
	<p><b>Subd. 5. Biennial report.</b> As part of a licensee’s application for license renewal, requires a licensee to submit to the board a report on the licensee’s compliance with performance standards.</p> <p>Subdivision 1 is effective the day following final enactment. Subdivisions 2 to 5 are effective July 1, 2025.</p>
15	<p><b>Transfer of license or base of operations; change of ownership or provider.</b> Amends § 144E.14.</p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Transfer of license prohibited.</b> Current law allows an ambulance service license to be transferred with the board’s approval, but specifies circumstances in which an ambulance service must apply for a new license. This bill prohibits an ambulance service license from being transferred to another party.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Transfer of base of operations.</b> This subdivision, requiring a licensee that wishes to transfer its base of operations to comply with section 144E.15, is current law and the sentence is moved from subdivision 1 to this subdivision.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. License renewal; change of ownership.</b> Requires a prospective licensee to apply for renewal of an ambulance service license before operating a currently licensed ambulance service. Lists events that require the licensee to change.</p> <p><b>Subd. 4. License renewal; change of provider.</b> Requires a licensee to apply for license renewal if the licensee stops providing services in a primary service area and instead contracts with another entity for services, or changes the entity with which the licensee contracts for services.</p>
16	<p><b>Fine.</b> Amends § 144E.31, subd. 3. Strikes a reference to a statute being repealed. This section is effective July 1, 2025.</p>
17	<p><b>Transition to new primary service area.</b> Establishes a process for existing ambulance service licensees to transition to newly drawn primary service areas.</p>
18	<p><b>Repealer.</b> Repeals section 144E.07 (establishing circumstances in which ambulance services may request changes in their primary service areas) and section 144E.11, subd. 9 (establishing requirements for renewal of ambulance service licenses).</p>



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