

Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary

Bill No.	H2473/S1604
Title:	<i>An Act relative to emergency medical services oversight</i>
Sponsor:	Representative Kathleen R. LaNatra/Senator Patrick M. O'Connor
Committee:	Public Health
Hearing Date:	June 25, 2025
Similar Matters:	S1604
Prior History:	Refile of S2739 of 23-24; Reported from Public Health; New draft of S1367 and H2176; Reported favorably and referred to Health Care Financing; Accompanied a study order.
Reporting Deadline:	August 24, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 111C** pertains to the state EMS system.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 111C § 3** pertains to the powers and duties of the Department of Public Health as they relate to the state EMS system.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 111C § 4** pertains to regional EMS councils.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 111C § 5** pertains to contracts between the Department of Public Health and regional EMS councils.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 111C § 14** pertains to the procedures for the making and investigation of complaints against any person certified, licensed, designated or otherwise approved by the Department of Public Health within the EMS system.

Summary:

This bill requires regional EMS councils to prepare and submit to DPH a regional EMS services and support plan outlining each council's planned efforts to meet and advance the regional council's roles and responsibilities. This legislation also requires DPH to establish and implement procedures for the making and investigation of complaints against EMS system personnel. This bill creates an emergency medical services peer licensure advisory committee to advise DPH on the complaint resolution process and disciplinary actions related to any complaints received.

SECTION 1 amends M.G.L. Chapter 111C Section 3 by requiring that the state EMS plan developed by DPH include guidelines for clear and streamlined communication between the regional EMS councils and DPH.

SECTION 2 amends M.G.L. Chapter 111C Section 4 by requiring each regional EMS council to establish mechanisms for receiving input from and communicating with local EMS providers,

basic life support and advanced life support pre-hospital providers and hospital providers, cities and towns, and consumers in its decisions fairly and equitably.

SECTION 3 further amends M.G.L. Chapter 111C Section 4 by adding a new subsection, subsection (d).

Subsection (d) requires each regional EMS council to prepare a regional EMS services and support plan outlining each council's planned efforts to meet and advance the regional council's roles and responsibilities. The plan must be filed on or before May 30 with DPH each year. DPH may amend each regional EMS council contract to reflect and respond to the submitted plans.

SECTION 4 amends M.G.L. Chapter 111C Section 5 by requiring DPH to consider each regional council's annual submitted regional EMS plan when determining the amount to be paid to each council annually.

SECTION 5 amends M.G.L. Chapter 111C by striking out Section 14 and replacing it with a new Section 14.

Section 14 requires DPH to establish and implement procedures for the making and investigation of complaints against any person certified, licensed, designated or otherwise approved by the DPH within the EMS system. Such procedures and any applicable information must be made available on the Office of Emergency Services website. DPH is responsible for investigating every complaint received and must refer complaints to other agencies and organizations as appropriate. Upon completion of the investigation, DPH must notify the complainant, if known, of any action in the matter.

SECTION 6 amends M.G.L. Chapter 111C Section 3 by adding a new subsection, subsection (d).

Subsection (d) requires DPH to study and make recommendations for potential permanent funding sources for and mechanisms to support the statewide EMS system. DPH must report its findings and recommendations to the clerks of the House of Representatives and Senate, and the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means by December 1, 2025.

SECTION 7 amends M.G.L. Chapter 111C by adding a new section, Section 26:

Subsection (a) establishes an emergency medical services peer licensure advisory committee and outlines membership:

- DPH commissioner or a designee
- Director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services or a designee and
- 6 members appointed by the DPH commissioner or their designees:
 - Member from the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts
 - Member from the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association
 - Member from the Professional Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts
 - Member from the Massachusetts Ambulance Association
 - Member from the Massachusetts Association of Hospital-Based Paramedic Services and
 - Member from the International Association of EMTs and Paramedics.

Subsection (b) requires the advisory committee to meet at least twice annually to advise DPH on the complaint resolution process and disciplinary actions for any person licensed/certified/otherwise approved within the statewide EMS system. This subsection also outlines member terms, term limits and compensation.