

ORDINANCE NO. 23-24-27

AN ORDINANCE OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 5 - HEALTH AND SANITATION, ARTICLE IV. – MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 5 - HEALTH AND SANITATION, ARTICLE IV. - MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY: SECTION 5-51. - DEFINITIONS., SECTION 5-52. - INSURANCE., SECTION 5-53. - AMBULANCES, NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES, AND AIR AMBULANCES., DIVISION 2. - BASIC AND ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT CARE AND TRANSPORTATION: SECTION 5-54. - CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY REQUIRED., SECTION 5-55. - CLASS OF SERVICE; CRITERIA AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS., SECTION 5-56. - APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE., SECTION 5-57. - DISPOSITION OF APPLICATION., SECTION 5-58. - RIGHTS AND DUTIES GRANTED BY A CERTIFICATE; PERIOD OF VALIDITY; EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSFERABILITY., SECTION 5-60. - REVOCATION, ALTERATION OR SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATES; GROUNDS., DIVISION 3. - NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION: SECTION 5-62. - NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND VEHICLES., SECTION 5-63—5.80. – RESERVED.; PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF DIVISION 4. – GOVERNMENTAL ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT NON-TRANSPORT (ALS NON-TRANSPORT) SERVICES: SECTION 5.63. - ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GOVERNMENTAL ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT NON-TRANSPORT (ALS NON-TRANSPORT) SERVICES, DIVISION 5. - HIGHLANDS COUNTY FIRE RESCUE MEDICAL DIRECTOR: SECTION 5-64. – AUTHORITY OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY FIRE RESCUE MEDICAL DIRECTOR; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER’S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes, Chapter 125, confers upon a local government, the authority to adopt ordinances and regulations which are designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2009, the County adopted the Ordinance which is now codified as Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5 - HEALTH AND SANITATION, ARTICLE IV. – MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; and

WHEREAS, Highlands County last modified Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5 - HEALTH AND SANITATION, ARTICLE IV. – MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES on May 20, 2014; and

WHEREAS, from time to time it is necessary for Highlands County to update and/or amend its codes and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that it is in its best interest to amend certain regulations set forth in Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5 - HEALTH AND SANITATION, ARTICLE IV. – MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, after due notice and public hearing, that:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. Highlands County has complied with all requirements and procedures of Florida law in processing this Ordinance. The above recitals are hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. AMENDING CHAPTER 5 - HEALTH AND SANITATION, ARTICLE IV. - MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5 - HEALTH AND SANITATION, ARTICLE IV. – MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES is hereby amended as follows:

Note: Underlined words constitute additions to existing text, ~~strikethrough~~ words constitute deletions to existing text, and asterisks (*) indicate omitted parts which are intended to remain unchanged.**

ARTICLE IV. – MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

DIVISION 1. – GENERALLY.

Sec. 5-51.- Definitions.

Authorized motor vehicle or air ambulance. An ambulance or air ambulance authorized by a certificate ~~or license~~ issued by the board pursuant to this article for which a permit has been issued by the Florida Department of Health pursuant to Part III

of Ch. 401, F.S. or a nonemergency medical transportation vehicle for which a permit has been issued pursuant to division 3 of this article.

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN). A written statement or document, issued by the board granting permission for an applicant ~~or licensee~~ to provide services authorized by a license issued under Part III of Ch. 401, F.S., for the benefit of the population of Highlands County.

Chief. The fire chief of Highlands County Fire Rescue.

~~Director.~~ The Director of the Highlands County Emergency Medical Services Department.

~~Emergency medical technician (EMT).~~ A person who is certified by the Florida Department of Health to perform only basic life support pursuant to Part III of Ch. 401, F.S.

First Responder Service (Non-BLS/Non-ALS) shall mean first response treatment of patients but does not include Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Life Support (ALS), or transport.

~~HCEMS.~~ The Highlands County Emergency Medical Services Department.

HCFR. The Highlands County Fire Rescue Department.

Highlands County Fire Rescue Medical Director. The medical director employed or contracted by the county pursuant to Section 401.265, F.S., and Section 64J-1.004, F.A.C.

~~Licensee.~~ The holder of a nonemergency medical transportation license issued by the board pursuant to this article or by the state EMS office in accordance with Ch. 401, F.S.

Medical director. A physician who is employed or contracted by a licensee certificate holder and who provides medical supervision, including appropriate quality assurance but not including administrative and managerial functions, for daily operations and training pursuant to Part III of Ch. 401, F.S.

Nonemergency medical transportation vehicle (NEMT vehicle). A land or water vehicle that is designed, constructed, reconstructed, maintained, equipped, or operated for, and is used for, or intended to be used for land or water transportation of persons who are

confined to wheelchairs or stretchers and whose condition is such that they do not need, and are not likely to need, basic life support or advanced life support during transport.

Service location. Any fixed location in or from which a ~~licensee~~ certificate holder solicits, accepts, or conducts business under Part III of Ch. 401, F.S.

Sec. 5-52. - Insurance.

- (a) Every certificate holder ~~and licensee~~ shall carry bodily injury and property damage insurance or its equivalent, with solvent and responsible insurers authorized to transact business in the State of Florida, or be qualified by the state as a self-insurer, to secure payment for any claim arising out of injury to or death of persons or damage to the property of others resulting from any action of the certificate holder, including but not limited to its employees, agents, officials, representatives, officers, contractors and/or subcontractors, and including but not limited to loss or damage resulting from any occurrence arising out of or caused by the operation or use of the certificate holder's or licensee's authorized motor vehicles or air ambulances.

- (c) Each certificate holder ~~and licensee~~ shall maintain medical malpractice insurance in at least the following amounts:

- (d) Every insurance policy or contract for such insurance shall provide for the payment and satisfaction of any financial judgment entered against the certificate holder, ~~or licensee.~~
- (e) All such insurance shall be obtained, and certificates or certified copies of such policies shall be filed with ~~the director~~ HCFR.
- (f) All such insurance policies shall provide for a 30-day cancellation notice to ~~the director~~ HCFR, and ~~the board~~ Highlands County shall be named as an additional insured on each policy.

Sec. 5-53. - Ambulances, nonemergency medical transportation vehicles, and air ambulances.

- (a) Certificate holders ~~and licensees~~ may permanently change an authorized motor vehicle or air ambulance following notice to the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee identifying the new motor vehicle or air ambulance to be operated under the certificate ~~or license~~ and providing to the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee copies of any forms required by the State of Florida for that purpose, along with the applicable fees.

(b) When it is necessary for an authorized motor vehicle or air ambulance to be out of service for routine maintenance or repairs, a substitute motor vehicle or air ambulance meeting the same transport capabilities and equipment specifications as the out of service motor vehicle or air ambulance may be used for a period of time not to exceed ~~30~~ 7 days. Written notification must be provided to the Chief or his/her designee regarding any authorized motor vehicle or air ambulance that is or will be out of service for a period exceeding 7 days and less than 30 days.

(1) If the substitute motor vehicle or air ambulance needs to be in service for ~~more than 30 days~~ or more, the certificate holder shall deliver to the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee a copy of the written approval of the state EMS office and give the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee access to the information maintained by the certificate holder pursuant to Rule 64J-1.007(2)(a)-(c), Florida Administrative Code.

(2) If the substitute motor vehicle or air ambulance needs to be in service for ~~longer than 30 days~~ or more, the ~~licensee certificate holder~~ must seek approval from the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee no later than 7 days prior to the expiration of the initial 30 days. An unpermitted motor vehicle or air ambulance may not be placed into service by a ~~licensee certificate holder~~ unless it is replacing a motor vehicle or air ambulance that has been temporarily taken out of service for maintenance or repair. When such a temporary motor vehicle or air ambulance substitution is made, the ~~licensee certificate holder~~ shall maintain and make accessible to the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee upon request, the following:

- a. Identification of the authorized motor vehicle or air ambulance that was taken out of service.
- b. Identification of the substitute motor vehicle or air ambulance.
- c. The date on which the substitute motor vehicle or air ambulance was placed into service and the date on which it was removed from service.
- d. The date on which the authorized motor vehicle or air ambulance was returned to service.

(c) Upon sale or disposal of an authorized motor vehicle or air ambulance, the certificate holder ~~or licensee~~ shall give written notice of the sale or disposal to the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee, who shall cancel the authorization for that motor vehicle or air ambulance. DIVISION 2. - BASIC AND ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT CARE AND TRANSPORTATION.

Sec. 5-54. - Certificate of public convenience and necessity required.

(a) Except as provided in this section, no person, firm, corporation, association, or governmental entity, other than the county, shall provide non-emergent medical transportation, emergency medical transportation, or emergency medical non-

transportation service in Highlands County without having first obtained a certificate from the board in accordance with this article.

(b) The following are exempted from the requirement of obtaining a certificate:

(1) A person or entity operating a vehicle rendering services as an ambulance when requested to do so by HCEMS HCFR or another government public safety agency in the event of a major catastrophe or other emergency requiring more ambulances than are available in Highlands County.

(7) ~~Any air carrier, as that term is defined in 49 U.S.C. Sec. 40102, that holds a certificate issued under 49 U.S.C. Chapter 411, authorizing air transportation.~~ First Responder Services (Non-BLS/Non-ALS) as defined in Sec. 5-51. - Definitions of this Code.

Sec. 5-55. - Class of service; criteria and performance standards.

There shall be four classes of medical transportation service and one medical non transportation class in Highlands County. Unless exempted by section 5-54 from obtaining a certificate, a separate certificate is required for each class of service other than class 1 which is licensed under division 3 of this article. Those classes of service are as follows:

(1) ~~Class 1-Nonemergency medical transportation service. A license must be obtained from the board before engaging in this level of medical care service.~~

(5) Class 5-Governmental Advanced life support non-transport (ALS non-transport). These governmental providers of advanced life support medical services operate with the intention of accessing, assessing, treating, and stabilizing patients at the scene of medical emergencies and not providing patient transportation.

Sec. 5-56. – Application for certificate.

(a) *Contents; form.* The application for a certificate shall be made on the ~~then current DHS Form 634 HCFR approved forms.~~ The application shall contain all information, documents, and attachments required by that said forms. In addition, the following information and documentation must be submitted with the application:

(1) The names, business address, and experience of the applicant. If applicant is an entity, the names and addresses of the directors, officers, partners, members and shareholders of that entity and their respective percentages of ownership must be provided. For governmental units, this information shall be supplied for members of the governing body;

- (5) A listing of each NEMT vehicle, ambulance, and air ambulance, or any other land or water vehicle to be used in the applicant's operations, including the vehicle year, make, model, mileage, and VIN, or if aircraft, year manufactured, number of hours for aircraft frame, tail number, serial number, and time since last major overhaul and such additional information as may be required by the board.

- (7) The address and description of each of the applicant's existing and proposed service locations and the hours of operation and staffing that are proposed for each location (ambulances, and air ambulances, and governmental ALS non-transport vehicles shall be staffed 24 hours per day, seven days per week);

(b) *Investigation and notices.*

- (1) Upon the filing of the application and the payment of any fee required by the board, the Chief or his/her designee director shall review the application for completeness and shall require the applicant to submit additional information or documents needed to complete the application. The ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee shall make an investigation into the application, including verification of qualifications of personnel and state inspection of vehicles. The ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee shall also investigate the public need for the proposed service in the geographical area involved as well as the factors pertaining to public convenience and necessity listed in subsection 5-57(a)(2). ~~In making those investigations, the director shall give notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the municipalities and to any providers of the class of service proposed who are serving any part of the area proposed to be served by the applicant.~~
- ~~(2) The notice shall contain the name of the applicant, a brief summary of the type and class of service proposed, the geographical area to be served, and contact information for the director. Further notice shall be provided to the public by publishing the fact of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in Highlands County, indicating where further information on the application is available, stating that any interested person who may be substantially affected by the proposed operation may, within 30 days, file with the Director a written objection to the application, specifying therein the reason for the objection.~~
- (2) Within 14 days after the Chief or his/her designee determines that an application is complete, notice of the application shall be provided to the public by publishing the fact of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in Highlands County.

- (3) The notice shall contain the name of the applicant, a brief summary of the type and class of service proposed, the geographical area to be served, and contact information for the Chief or his/her designee. The notice shall indicate where further information on the application is available, stating that any interested person who may be substantially affected by the proposed operation may, within 30 days, file with the Chief or his/her designee a written objection to the application, specifying therein the reason for the objection.
- (4) Within 30 to 60 days after ~~all of the required notices have~~ been mailed and published, the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee shall make a recommendation to the board to either grant or deny the application. Any such recommendation may contain such conditions of approval as the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee believes are necessary. The board, after considering the application and public convenience and necessity as provided in section 5- 57 of this article at a public hearing, shall take action to grant or deny the application within 60 days after receiving the recommendation of the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee. Notice of the date, time, and place of that public hearing shall be published not less than 15 days prior to the public hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation in Highlands County. ~~and mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the applicant, the municipalities, the providers required to be notified pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, and all persons who filed written objections to the application.~~

Sec. 5-57. - Disposition of application.

- (a) Following receipt of the recommendation of the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee on the application, the board shall consider the application at a properly noticed public hearing, provided that:
- (1) The board shall consider the application, the recommendations of the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee and the municipalities, any objections that have been filed, and the testimony and other evidence received at the public hearing and shall determine whether the public convenience and necessity of the residents of Highlands County would best be served by denying the application or granting the application with or without reasonable restrictions or limitations. In considering the application, the board shall consider whether there is any other pending application for a certificate to operate within the same class of service, the applicant's past performance record, and any other facts and circumstances that would indicate whether the proposed service is in the public interest. The board may require the participants to submit statements of ~~the~~ facts and memoranda on the issues of law; may compel attendance of witnesses and production of evidence; may take testimony; and shall generally conduct the hearing in a manner that affords all participants' administrative due process.

(3) Prior to granting any certificate, the board shall determine that the proposed service, to the extent to be authorized by the certificate, is or will be required by the present or future public convenience or necessity and that the applicant is financially and otherwise able to provide adequate and uninterrupted service at the times required. Proof of insurance, in amounts required by this article, must be submitted to the ~~Director~~ Chief prior to any applicant receiving a certificate, in order to protect the public ~~for~~ from any personal injury or property damage arising out of the applicant's operation.

Sec. 5-58. - Rights and duties granted by a certificate; period of validity; effective date; transferability.

(b) The certificate holder shall immediately notify the ~~director~~ Chief or his/her designee of any change of ownership or control of the certificate holder from what was stated in the application filed pursuant to section 5-5456 of this article or any assumption of legal responsibility for the services authorized by the certificate.

(c) Acceptance of the certificate shall obligate the certificate holder to:

(5) Operate in compliance with Florida law, Part III of Ch. 401, F.S., Chapter 64J-1, F. A. C., the Code of Ordinances, Highlands County, Florida, and the requirements of any other state or federal agencies regulating emergency medical ~~transportation~~ services;

Sec. 5-60. - Revocation, alteration, or suspension of certificates; grounds.

(b) Proceedings for revocation, alteration or suspension of a certificate shall be undertaken by the board in the same manner as proceedings for issuance of a certificate. All complaints shall be investigated within ~~45~~ 30 days and a report thereon made to the board, together with findings and recommendations. If revocation, suspension, or alteration of any certificate appears warranted, the board shall give five days' notice to the certificate holder that the same will be considered at a specific board meeting not less than five days from the date of the notice. The board shall thereupon undertake to consider the complaint and either revoke, suspend or alter the certificate or dismiss the complaint.

***DIVISION 3. - NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION.

Sec. 5-62. –Nonemergency medical transportation services and vehicles.

(a) ~~License required.~~ Every person, firm, corporation, association, governmental entity, or other organization owning or acting as agent for the owner of any business or service which furnishes, operates, conducts, maintains, advertises, engages in, proposes to engage in, or professes to engage in the business or service of primarily transporting persons who are confined to wheelchairs or stretchers, and whose condition is such that these persons do not need, and are not likely to need, basic life support or advanced life support during transport upon the streets, highways or waterways of Highlands County, shall be classified ~~licensed by the board~~ as a nonemergency medical transportation service, which includes wheelchair and stretcher car service. ~~However, any service holding a nonemergency medical transportation license issued by the state EMS office in accordance with Ch. 401, F.S. is exempt from the requirement to be licensed by the board.~~ The board shall approve or deny the license application for a certificate for operation of a nonemergency medical transportation service within ~~60~~ 75 days of the filing of the application pursuant to this section. A license certificate issued pursuant to this section shall automatically expire two years from the date of issuance.

(b) ~~Prerequisites for issuance of license certificate.~~ Any person, firm, corporation, association, governmental entity, or other organization seeking a certificate licensure as a nonemergency medical transportation service shall:

(1) Submit a completed license application form to ~~the director~~ HCFR on forms supplied by ~~the director~~ HCFR.

(3) Submit a completed vehicle permit application on form(s) supplied by HCFR and provide documentation that vehicles and equipment are in good working order and have been inspected by ~~the director~~ Chief or his/her designee or other agency designated by the board. A permit for each vehicle will then be issued ~~to a licensee~~ upon approval of the application for certificate and receipt of any and all appropriate fee(s) as required in subsection 5-62(b)(2) above.

(4) Provide proof of adequate insurance coverage for claims arising out of injury or death to persons and damage to the property of others resulting from any cause for which the owner of the business or service would be liable. The minimum amount of insurance coverage shall be that specified in this article. No license certificate to operate as a nonemergency medical transportation service within Highlands County shall be issued until such time as the applicant has submitted adequate proof of insurance.

(e) *Vehicle inspection.* In addition to inspection for licensure, the ~~Director~~ Chief or his/her designee or an agency designated by the board may also inspect any ~~nonemergency medical transportation vehicle~~ NEMT vehicle at any time. The

results of each inspection shall be recorded, and a copy provided to the operator. Any vehicle failing to meet required safety standards shall not be operated as a NEMT vehicle ~~nonemergency medical transportation vehicle~~ until such time as the vehicle passes inspection.

- (f) *Drivers of nonemergency medical transportation vehicles shall satisfy the following requirements.* Each nonemergency medical transportation service ~~licensee~~ certificate holder is responsible for assuring that all nonemergency medical transportation vehicles are driven by trained, experienced, and otherwise qualified personnel. The ~~licensee~~ certificate holder shall at a minimum document that each of the drivers:

(8) Has been found free from alcohol and drugs in unannounced random testing performed before employment, following any accident, and during employment. The random testing shall test not less than ten percent of the drivers employed by ~~licensee~~ the certificate holder at least quarterly.

- (g) *Records.* ~~Licenses~~ Certificate holders providing nonemergency medical transportation services shall maintain records in accordance with this section, indexed and filed for ready access, and shall maintain the following information:

(3) Each ~~licensee~~ certificate holder shall keep a trip report for each passenger transported upon which shall be recorded the time, place and origin, name of passenger and destination. Each ~~licensee~~ certificate holder shall retain and preserve all trip reports for no less than three years. Such records shall be available for inspection by representatives of the board and the Florida Department of Health, upon request, during normal working hours.

- (i) *License Certificate renewal.* In order to renew a ~~license~~ certificate for nonemergency medical transportation services, the ~~licensee~~ certificate holder shall:

(1) Submit a renewal application to the board at least ~~30~~ 90 days prior to the expiration of the ~~license~~ certificate.

(3) Provide documentation that current standards for issuance of a ~~license~~ certificate are met.

- (j) *Revocation of license certificate.* Every ~~license~~ certificate issued pursuant to this section is subject to revocation, modification or suspension where the board determines that:

- (1) The licensee certificate holder has failed or neglected to render services as required by the license certificate issued pursuant to this section or license under the current applicable Florida Statutes;
- (2) The application submitted to secure the license certificate from the board contains false representations or has omitted material facts;
- (3) The licensee certificate holder has failed to correct deficiencies found, within the time period prescribed; or

~~Secs. 5-63—5-80. Reserved.~~ DIVISION 4. - GOVERNMENTAL ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT NON-TRANSPORT (ALS NON-TRANSPORT) SERVICES ESTABLISHED.

DIVISION 4. – GOVERNMENTAL ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT NON-TRANSPORT (ALS NON-TRANSPORT) SERVICES

Sec. 5.63 - Additional requirements for governmental advanced life support non-transport (ALS non-transport) services.

In addition to mandatory compliance with the regulations and requirements set forth in Secs. 5-52, 5-54, 5-56, 5-57, 5-58, 5-59, and 5-60 of this Article, governmental providers of ALS non-transport services shall also:

- (1) Act under the authority of the Highlands County Fire Rescue Medical Director.
- (2) Respond and timely mobilize to all dispatched medical calls for service in the jurisdictional boundary as outlined in the certificate holder’s certificate.
- (3) Participate in EMS system quality assurance activities, as directed by the Highlands County Fire Rescue’s medical director.
- (4) Comply with the Highlands County Fire Rescue Medical Director’s credentialing standards for EMTs and paramedics.
- (5) Abide by the Highlands County’s Medical and Trauma Transport Protocols and standard operating medical procedures promulgated by Highlands County Fire Rescue’s medical director.
- (6) Utilize major medical equipment as approved by Highlands County Fire Rescue’s medical director and medical protocols, to include cardiac monitors/defibrillators, medications, and cervical collars.
- (7) Utilize the same ePCR software as the Highlands County Fire Rescue Department to promote a seamless transmission of patient information.
- (8) Relinquish patient care to HCFR, a county contracted transport provider, or a county certified transport provider, upon their arrival to the scene, unless otherwise directed by the charge paramedic or higher HCFR medical authority.

(9) Not submit a bill for service to a patient or the County for any cost of performing ALS non-transport services; and

(10) Not use ambulances or other patient transport-capable vehicles when providing ALS non-transport services. Permitted vehicles shall consist of fire engines or fire suppression apparatus that are ordinarily used in the business of fire extinguishment or fire prevention services for the protection of life and property.

DIVISION 5. HIGHLANDS COUNTY FIRE RESCUE MEDICAL DIRECTOR ESTABLISHED.

DIVISION 5. – HIGHLANDS COUNTY FIRE RESCUE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Sec. 5-64. – Authority of the Highlands County Fire Rescue Medical Director

In addition to the authority and responsibilities provided under Florida law, the county fire rescue medical director shall have the ultimate decision-making authority for any paramedics and EMTs that practice under his or her supervision. The county fire rescue medical director has the right to suspend the practicing privileges of any paramedic or EMT operating under his or her supervision.

Secs. 5-65 – 5.80. Reserved.

SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate in order to implement the provisions of this Ordinance. The County Administrator may, as deemed appropriate, necessary, and convenient, delegate the powers of implementation as herein set forth to such County employees as deemed effectual and prudent.

SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE. All prior actions of the Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County pertaining to the revisions to Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5 - HEALTH AND SANITATION, Article IV. – MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, are hereby ratified and affirmed consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS.

A. Section 2 of this Ordinance shall be codified in the Highlands County Code of Ordinances and the sections, divisions and provisions of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered as deemed appropriate by the codifier of the Highlands County Code of Ordinances.

B. Typographical errors and other matters of a similar nature that do not affect the intent of this Ordinance, as determined by the County Administrator and County Attorney, may be corrected with the endorsement of the County Administrator, or designee, without the need for a public hearing.

SECTION 6. CONFLICTS. Any ordinance or part thereof in conflict with this Ordinance or any part hereof is hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY. The divisions, sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subsection, section, or divisions of this ordinance shall be declared invalid, unconstitutional or unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, subsections, sections, and divisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Department of State.

DONE AND ADOPTED this _____ day of June 2024.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

(SEAL)

By: _____
Kevin Roberts, Chairperson

ATTEST:

By: _____
Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk