

SENATE, No. 2002

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED APRIL 17, 1997

By Senators CIESLA and PALAIA

1 AN ACT concerning mobile intensive care units and supplementing  
2 P.L.1984, c.146 (C.26:2K-7 et seq.).

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The citizens of New Jersey have become accustomed to, and rely  
9 upon, a high-quality emergency medical services system; and the  
10 various entities which comprise that system, including the many  
11 agencies, both paid and volunteer, which provide basic life support  
12 services, the 36 authorized mobile intensive care units, and the two  
13 programs which provide airborne emergency medical transportation,  
14 have functioned as a team to deliver care in a timely and efficient  
15 manner;

16 b. More than 90% of the residents of this State receive basic life  
17 support treatment and transportation from a volunteer emergency  
18 medical services agency;

19 c. Changing socioeconomic conditions have impacted heavily upon  
20 many volunteer emergency medical services agencies, impairing their  
21 ability to respond to calls for assistance at certain times; and this  
22 impairment has created a state of emergency which endangers the lives  
23 and safety of New Jersey citizens; and

24 d. The authorized mobile intensive care units, in conjunction with  
25 many volunteer emergency medical services agencies, have developed  
26 an effective and efficient means of addressing this problem through the  
27 provisions of this act.

28

29 2. An authorized mobile intensive care unit operating pursuant to  
30 P.L.1984, c.146 (C.26:2K-7 et seq.) as of the effective date of this act,  
31 which elects to operate one or more transport-capable ambulances as  
32 a mobile intensive care unit vehicle, may, in the course of responding  
33 to a call for emergency medical assistance, transport a patient to an  
34 appropriate emergency treatment facility, at the discretion of a mobile  
35 intensive care paramedic or registered professional nurse staffing the  
36 vehicle, if the primary basic life support ambulance service provider  
37 for that municipality has not arrived at the scene of the medical

1 emergency at the time the paramedic or nurse determines that it is  
2 necessary to transport the patient to an emergency treatment facility.

3

4 3. The provisions of section 2 of this act shall constitute a waiver  
5 to any certificate of need issued to a hospital to develop and maintain  
6 a mobile intensive care unit pursuant to P.L.1984, c.146 (C.26:2K-7  
7 et seq.), which shall authorize that unit to operate one or more  
8 transport-capable ambulances as a mobile intensive care unit vehicle  
9 in accordance with regulations adopted by the commissioner.

10

11 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

12

13

14

#### STATEMENT

15

16 This bill provides that an authorized mobile intensive care unit  
17 (MICU) operating pursuant to State law as of the effective date of this  
18 bill, which elects to operate one or more transport-capable ambulances  
19 as a MICU vehicle, may, in the course of responding to a call for  
20 emergency medical assistance, transport a patient to an appropriate  
21 emergency treatment facility, at the discretion of a mobile intensive  
22 care paramedic or registered professional nurse staffing the vehicle, if  
23 the primary basic life support ambulance service provider for that  
24 municipality has not arrived at the scene of the medical emergency at  
25 the time the paramedic or nurse determines that it is necessary to  
26 transport the patient to an emergency treatment facility.

27 The provisions of this bill shall constitute a waiver to any certificate  
28 of need issued to a hospital to develop and maintain a MICU, which  
29 shall authorize that unit to operate one or more transport-capable  
30 ambulances as a MICU vehicle in accordance with regulations adopted  
31 by the commissioner.

32

33

34

35

36 \_\_\_\_\_  
37 Permits mobile intensive care unit to transport patient to emergency  
treatment facility.