



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.  
COMMISSIONER

1100 West 49th Street • Austin, Texas 78756  
P.O. Box 149347 • Austin, Texas 78714-9347  
1-888-963-7111 • [www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us)

November 15, 2007

Re: Notice of Legislative Changes to Chapter 773

Dear Interested Party:

I would like to make you aware an important bill that was passed by the 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session that affects EMS Providers and health care facilities that may use transport services. Senate Bill 10 (SB-10) has a variety of health- related issues within its provisions, but Section 14 addresses patients being transported by a stretcher. This bill was signed into law on June 14, 2007 and became effective on September 1, 2007.

Section 14 of SB-10 alters Chapter 773, §§ 773.004 and 773.041, relating to Emergency Health Care, of the Texas Health and Safety Code. This change in the law establishes clear requirements on the transportation of bedridden patients and effectively outlaws the use of non-licensed, stretcher transport vehicles. Specifically, the bill states that people, organizations or entities "...may not transport a patient by stretcher in a vehicle unless the person holds a license as an emergency medical services provider." This amendment does not affect patients that travel via wheelchair or other non-stretcher devices.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (512) 834-6700 or via e-mail at: [maxie.bishop@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:maxie.bishop@dshs.state.tx.us)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maxie Bishop".

Maxie Bishop, RN, LP  
State EMS Director  
Office of EMS and Trauma Services