

Western Virginia EMS Council  
Report from the Governor's EMS Advisory Board

The most recent meeting was held February 10, 2012 in Richmond, Virginia.

There several pieces of legislation and budget bills that has the potential to impact EMS. I am currently tracking these pieces of legislation and will provide an update at the meeting:

**HB74/SB239 - Mandatory report of suspected child abuse; time limit.** Reduces the time limit for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect by mandated reporters from 72 hours to "as soon as possible, but no longer than 24 hours. Also sets penalties. EMS Providers are mandatory reporters. (Senate amendments has been approved by the House and likely to pass).

**HB177 - Health records privacy; disclosure to emergency medical services councils.** Provides that health care providers shall disclose health information to a regional emergency medical services council when the health information and data will be used for purposes limited to monitoring and improving the quality of emergency medical services. (Passed both House and Senate).

**HB490 – EMS Advisory Board Composition.** Better staggers appointment to the EMS Advisory Board to improve continuity. (Passed both House and Senate).

**HB533 – Efforts to protect the \$4 for Life funds for the purpose outline in the Code.** (Bill has been layed on the table (failed in committee).

**HB856/SB - Critical incident stress management teams; privileged information.** Provides that information communicated to critical incident stress management team members by public safety personnel who are the subjects of peer support services shall not be disclosed. The bill allows the public safety personnel to waive the privilege(Passed both House and Senate).

Numerous Bills (and amendments) related to Virginia Retirement System.

Budget Bills – Governor's proposal include reallocation of \$500,000 annually from \$4-for-Life to Poison Control Centers. (Will discuss status at meeting).

Other amendments –

- 290 #1h, #1s – give VAVRS an additional \$80,000. This has been pulled.
- 290 #3h, #5h, #1h, #7h, – returns the \$500,000 back to \$4-for-Life
- 290 #4h – Use a portion of \$4-for-Life for training to cover National Registry Test Fees.

Congratulations to WVEMS for its success with RSAF grant funding. In the most recent cycle 18 WVEMS agencies received \$916,728. Next grant cycle is March 15, 2012. Changes in this cycle required:

- For multi-agency requests, a memorandum of agreement is required from each participating agency.
- All communications equipment must be P25 Compliant.

It is anticipated that NFPA1917 (ambulance construction standards) will go into effect in 2013. When this goes into effect, it will replace the k-k-k standards that are in place now. These standards will likely increase the costs of an ambulance. We are working on scheduling a few informational sessions during the 2012 EMS Symposium.

There is a new committee of the Advisory Board called "Provider Health and Safety." In May, twenty deceased EMS providers will be recognized at the National EMS memorial. Of them, twelve died from cardiac arrest and four died from a Medevac crash. Two Virginia EMS providers have died in the line of duty in the last couple of months. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please let me know.

Thank you for your confidence in me to represent the Council on the Advisory Board. Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dale Wagoner