

ORANGE



COUNTY
F L O R I D A

Ordinance Pertaining to Emergency and Nonemergency Medical Care and Transportation

May 19, 2026

Board of County Commissioners

Presentation Outline

- Background
- Ordinance Changes
- Resolution Changes
- Summary
- Requested Action

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Background

- Chapter 20, Article III, Orange County Code
 - Last amended on May 24, 2022, via Ordinance No. 2022-19
 - Governs emergency and nonemergency medical care and transportation
 - Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN)
 - Alternative Transportation Services (i.e., Paratransit)
 - Authorizes BCC to adopt rules and regulations by resolution

Background

- Resolution No. 2014-M-25
 - Adopted on June 3, 2014
 - Established Paratransit Rules and Regulations
 - Vehicle and Equipment standards
 - Fee requirements
 - Driver and Staff requirements
 - Insurance
 - Enforcement

Background

- EMS operations have evolved since the last Ordinance and Resolution were adopted, and there is now a need to update the Code and Resolution to reflect these changes

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Ordinance Changes

- Removes obligation for Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) to make recommendations concerning the performance of the EMS Division/Office of the Medical Director
 - Originally added in 2001 when the County Medical Director was a contracted position and not a county employee

Ordinance Changes

- Changes the window for COPCN holders to submit annual reports to the County from December 1st-31st to January 1st-31st
 - Many COPCN holders have had difficulty meeting the reporting deadline because most agencies report by calendar year

Ordinance Changes

- Moves insurance coverage amounts required for paratransit licensure from the Code to the Resolution
 - Insurance coverage amounts already exist in the Resolution
 - Easier to modify in the future

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Resolution Changes

- New Resolution supersedes Resolution No. 2014-M-25 and establishes new Paratransit Rules and Regulations
 - Similar to Resolution No. 2014-M-25 with some changes and new rules
- Clarifies that automatic lifts are required for vehicles, and ramps alone are insufficient
- Exempts governmental agencies from paratransit fees
 - Applies to Lynx, which has many paratransit vehicles
 - Fees are indirectly charged back to the County

Resolution Changes

- Lowers automobile liability insurance amount from \$1M to \$300k
 - Current \$1M amount is primary complaint of the paratransit program
 - EMS consulted with Risk Management on this change
- Updates enforcement process to align with the Code
 - Moves the hearing of administrative fines from the BCC to a hearing officer
- Creates new rule establishing minimum vehicle safety and equipment standards

Resolution Changes

- Creates new rule requiring a certified mechanic to inspect paratransit vehicles for minimum safety and equipment standards
 - City of Orlando has a similar requirement
 - Currently, inspections are performed by EMS staff that are not experts in vehicle maintenance
 - Exempts new vehicles (i.e., manufactured within past year) that have less than 10,000 miles

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Summary

- Ordinance amends Chapter 20, Article III of the Code
 - Removes EMSAC's obligation to make recommendations regarding EMS
 - Changes the window for COPCN holders to submit reports from Dec. to Jan.
 - Moves insurance coverage requirements to the Resolution
- Resolution establishes new Paratransit Rules and Regulations
 - Requires automatic lifts in vehicles
 - Exempts governmental agencies from paratransit fees
 - Lowers auto insurance from \$1M to \$300k
 - Administrative fines will be heard by hearing officer
 - Certified mechanic to inspect for vehicle safety and equipment standards

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Requested Action

- Approval of Public Hearing Item C.5.
 - Approve and adopt an Ordinance Pertaining to Emergency and Nonemergency Medical Care and Transportation in Orange County, Florida; Amending Chapter 20 (“Health and Human Services”), Article III (“Emergency and Nonemergency Medical Care and Transportation”) of the Orange County Code of Ordinances; Providing for Modifications to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council; Providing for Modifications to Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity; Providing for Modifications to Alternative Transportation Services; Amending Division 1 (“Generally”), Section 20-56 (“Creation of the County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC)”); Amending Division 2 (“Emergency Medical Care and Transportation Services”), Subdivision II (“Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity”), Section 20-98 (“Rights and Duties Granted by Certificate”); Amending Division 3 (“Alternative Transportation Services”), Section 20-132 (“Prerequisites to Granting”); Providing for Repeal of Laws in Conflict; and Providing for Effective Date.
 - Authorization for staff to correct any scrivener’s errors in the draft ordinance.
- Approval of Consent Agenda Item F.3.
 - Approval and execution of Resolution of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners Superseding Resolution No. 2014-M-25 regarding Orange County Emergency Medical Services Paratransit Rules and Regulations. (EMS, Office of the Medical Director)