

AN ACT

To establish minimum equipment and staffing standards for ambulances in the Republic of Palau, and for other related purposes.

THE PEOPLE OF PALAU REPRESENTED IN THE OLBIL ERA KELULAU DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Legislative findings.

2 The Olbil Era Kelulau finds that adequate emergency medical services are
3 critical to the safety and wellbeing of the people of Palau and help minimize harm to
4 human life that occurs during medical emergencies. Therefore, the Olbil Era Kelulau
5 finds it necessary to establish minimum equipment standards for ambulances that
6 operate in the Republic so that personnel responding to emergencies have the right tools
7 to provide necessary medical assistance. The Olbil Era Kelulau finds it equally
8 important that staff responding to emergencies have sufficient training to be able to
9 properly use ambulance equipment and address patients' emergency medical needs.
10 Therefore, this bill establishes minimum equipment and staffing standards for
11 ambulances in the Republic that should serve to greatly enhance the delivery of
12 emergency medical services in the Republic.

13 Section 2. Equipment required for ambulances.

14 (a) Effective one hundred and twenty (120) days following the effective date of this
15 Act, every ambulance in the Republic must be equipped with emergency medical supplies
16 and equipment as required by regulation to be promulgated by the Ministry of Health as
17 in subsection (c).

18 (b) All ambulances and ambulance equipment and supplies must be maintained in
19 good working order and be kept clean and disinfected.

20 (c) Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section, the Ministry of
21 Health will promulgate regulations consistent with this Act that specify the types and
22 quantities of emergency medical supplies and equipment that ambulances must maintain.

23 Section 3. Staffing required for ambulances.

24 (a) Effective July 1, 2018, an ambulance responding to a request for emergency

1 medical services or transporting a patient from the scene of an emergency must be staffed
2 in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Ministry of Health in consultation
3 with the Bureau of Public Safety within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Act.

4 (b) Additional individuals satisfying the requirements of the regulations
5 promulgated in accordance with this section must be dispatched in response to a call for
6 assistance when necessary to provide adequate emergency medical services.

7 (c) At least one individual who is duly licensed as an Emergency Medical
8 Technician or Paramedic and is trained to properly utilize all equipment and supplies in
9 the ambulance must be present in the patient compartment of an ambulance whenever a
10 patient is present in the patient compartment.

11 (d) The Bureau of Public Safety, in coordination with any other appropriate
12 agencies or organizations, including Palau Community College, will make available
13 Emergency Medical Technician training opportunities so as to ensure that any licensure
14 requirement of this Act will be satisfied with respect to its ambulance staff.

15 Section 4. Certification of emergency ambulance service personnel.

16 (a) Certification under this section shall be a prerequisite to the practice of
17 emergency medical services in the Republic of Palau. Without an appropriate certificate
18 issued by the Board of Health Professionals, it is unlawful to work as an Emergency
19 Medical Technician or Paramedic. The Board of Health Professionals shall certify
20 individuals as qualified in emergency medical services upon application therefore,
21 provided that the applicant for certification:

22 (1) holds a certificate from a recognized Emergency Medical Technician or
23 Paramedic program, which is issued after satisfactorily passing a course of
24 training in emergency medical services for emergency ambulance services
25 personnel;

26 (2) agrees to meet and demonstrates compliance with continuing education
27 requirements set by the Board of Health Professionals; and

28 (3) meets any other qualifications set by the Board of Health Professionals.

1 (b) The Board of Health Professionals shall provide for the periodic renewal of
2 such certification as well as the circumstances resulting in revocation, suspension, or
3 limitation of certification in the event an individual once certified under this section fails
4 to maintain or meet requirements for continued certification, or for good cause shown.

5 Section 5. Renewal of certification.

6 (a) A person holding a certificate under this Act shall renew the certificate every
7 two years and comply with the continuing education requirements set forth in the
8 Board's rules. However, in order to stagger the certification of our available emergency
9 medical personnel during the initial implementation of this Act, the first four certificates
10 issued shall be valid for a period of three years and the following four certificates issued
11 shall be valid for a period of two and a half years.

12 (b) To determine compliance, the Board may conduct a random audit. Any
13 persons selected for audit shall be notified in writing by the Board. Within ninety days of
14 notification, the person shall provide to the Board documentation to verify compliance
15 with the continuing education requirements.

16 (c) Failure to renew, or in the case of audited persons, provide documentation of
17 compliance, shall constitute a forfeiture of the certificate, which may be restored only
18 upon the submission of written application, and in the case of audited persons,
19 documentation of compliance.

20 Section 6. Supervision.

21 Within the Bureau of Public Safety, there shall be an Emergency Medical Services
22 Medical Supervisor, who shall supervise and monitor the Emergency Medical Technician
23 and Paramedic employees' performance and program quality assurance. The Medical
24 Supervisor will be an individual with at least Emergency Medical Technician basic
25 training. The Supervisor shall coordinate with the Ministry of Health and Palau
26 Community College to facilitate the continuing professional development necessary to
27 retain certification through the Board of Health Professionals.

28 Section 7. Appropriations and reporting.

1 (a) The sum of \$65,000 is hereby authorized to be appropriated and is hereby
2 appropriated for expenditure or obligation to Palau Community College for the purpose
3 of funding the first year's budget of the permanent Emergency Medical Technician
4 program. The entire amount of funds authorized and appropriated in this sub-section
5 shall come from local revenues and are non-lapsing.

6 (b) The Board of Health Professionals shall submit a report to the President of the
7 Republic of Palau, the Senate President, and Speaker of the House of Delegates of the
8 Olbiil Era Kelulau within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the effective date of this
9 Act requesting any necessary funding and reporting on the status of certification of
10 emergency medical personnel.

11 (c) The sum of \$50,000 is hereby authorized to be appropriated and is hereby
12 appropriated for expenditure or obligation to the Bureau of Public Safety for the purpose
13 of implementing the personnel, training, and equipment measures mandated by this Act.
14 The entire amount of funds authorized and appropriated in this sub-section shall come
15 from local revenues and are non-lapsing. The Ministry of Justice shall, within ninety (90)
16 days of the effective date of this Act, submit a report to the President of the Republic of
17 Palau, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates of the Olbiil Era
18 Kelulau with an estimated budget for further implementation of this Act.

19 Section 8. Amendment. Section 1308 of Title 40, as modified by RPPL 9-57, is
20 amended as follows:

21 § 1308. Non-Communicable Diseases Fund.

22 (a) There is established within the National Treasury a permanent
23 Non-Communicable Diseases Fund ("Fund"). The purpose of this fund is to support the
24 efforts of the National Coordinating Mechanism for Non-Communicable Diseases
25 ("Mechanism"), established by Executive Order 379, to prevent non-communicable
26 diseases.

27 (b) The Fund shall be accessed and distributed through the annual budget
28 process. The Olbiil Era Kelulau shall authorize and appropriate the Fund.

1 (c) The Fund may be distributed in the form of block grants to each individual
2 State based on population and needs for purposes of implementing the goals outlined in
3 Executive Order 379, with an emphasis on addressing the risks associated with
4 non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in children, or may be authorized and appropriated
5 by the Olbiil Era Kelulau in the normal or supplemental budget processes, by continuing
6 resolutions, or by any other legislative means.

7 (d) The States shall submit proposals, which have been certified in compliance
8 with Executive Order 379 by the Ministry of Health, to the Olbiil Era Kelulau no later
9 than February 15 of each year detailing their proposed programs or policies to be funded.
10 Proposals may include, but not be limited to, funding for schools, churches, state
11 government organizations, cultural groups, or other related organizations. There shall
12 be a preference for proposals targeting individuals ages birth to twenty-one (21) years.

13 (e) The Ministry of Health shall:

- 14 (1) upon request, provide policy expertise to the States;
15 (2) upon request, provide technical assistance to the States;
16 (3) certify the proposals to be submitted by the States to the Olbiil Era

17 Kelulau, as in subsection (d); and

18 (4) monitor the progress of the Mechanism and States in the
19 implementation of NCD programs and policies.

20 (f) The Ministry of Education shall:

- 21 (1) upon request, provide policy expertise to the States; and
22 (2) upon request, provide technical assistance to the States.

23 (g) The Mechanism shall provide a strategic plan and establish a framework for
24 cooperation and coordination between the National Government, the States, and the
25 private sector for use of the Fund, in accordance with Executive Order 379.

26 (h) The States shall provide annual reports to the Mechanism, the President of
27 the Republic, and the Presiding Officers of the Olbiil Era Kelulau no later than February
28 1 of each year. The reports shall include the following:

- 1 (1) The amount of funding received and spent the prior fiscal year;
- 2 (2) The programs or policies implemented using the block grant funding,
- 3 including but not limited to, a description of how the funding was used and how
- 4 the program fits into the strategic plan of the Mechanism;
- 5 (3) The number of individuals impacted by the programs or policies,
- 6 including a breakdown by age group in five (5) year intervals up to age twenty (25)
- 7 and ten (10) year intervals after age twenty-five (25);
- 8 (4) The amount of coordination and cooperation with other governmental
- 9 and private sector partners; and
- 10 (5) Any other information required by regulations to be promulgated by
- 11 the Ministry of Health.

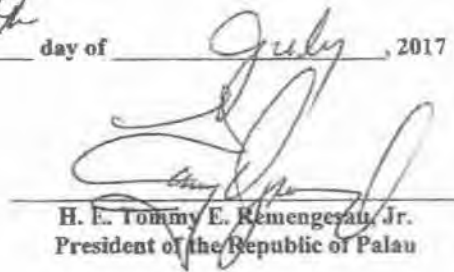
12 **Section 9. Effective date.**

13 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the President of the Republic of

14 Palau, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

PASSED: July 05, 2017

Approved this 19th day of July, 2017


H. E. Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau