

A RESOLUTION

21-739

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 20, 2016

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to approve proposed rules submitted to the Council pursuant to the Emergency Medical Services Act of 2008 to provide for termination of resuscitation in the field by paramedics and remote pronouncement of death by certain medical doctors following termination of resuscitation by a certified 911 paramedic.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Emergency Medical Services Regulations Approval Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2016”.

Sec. 2. (a) On September 23, 2016, the Department of Health provided notice in the District of Columbia Register of its intent to adopt a proposed rulemaking in not fewer than 30 days after publication to provide for termination of resuscitation in the field by paramedics and remote pronouncement of death by certain medical doctors following termination of resuscitation by a certified 911 paramedic.

(b) Pursuant to section 24(b) of the Emergency Medical Services Act of 2008, effective March 25, 2009 (D.C. Law 17-357; D.C. Official Code § 7-2341.23(b)), the final rulemaking was submitted to the Council on November 22, 2016, as the Emergency Medical Services Regulations Amendment Approval Resolution of 2016, Proposed Resolution 21-1037, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on December 6, 2016.

(c) Currently, the inability of paramedics to terminate resuscitation in the field and remotely pronounce death leads to delays in the receipt of remains by a funeral home or medical examiner and delays in inputting the time of death in the Vital Records database. The District’s existing procedures are also duplicative, requiring hospital emergency rooms to pronounce the death of persons already determined to be deceased. This change will eliminate the costs and resources associated with transporting, receiving, and coding patients, particularly in cases where recoupment of those costs are unlikely.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Emergency Medical Services Regulations Emergency Approval Resolution of 2016 be adopted on an emergency basis.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.