



MEMORANDUM

To: Maine EMS Board

From: Regional Managers Jason Oko, Melissa Adams, Rob Glaspy, Ryan Hall

Subject: Annual Comprehensive Regional Plan Waiver Request

Date: August 13, 2026

Situation

The Regional Managers have worked diligently over the last year to understand the Board's rules to take the appropriate steps to manage the development of restructured Regional Councils, voting memberships, and the establishment of, or affiliation with, a business entity to apply for designation. All four councils have either recently entered agreements with fiscal sponsors or are still working to do so. At the same time, EMS agencies across Maine are still working to come to terms with the impact of the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act (PPAEMA) and subsequent DEA Rules as well as the majority of Maine hospitals revoking the historical practice of restocking non-controlled medications through hospital pharmacies. The Regional Management Team believes it is necessary to survey stakeholders to collect and analyze relevant and timely information that will guide each respective Regional Council in drafting a comprehensive regional plan. It was not possible to meet the *August 15* annual deadline for Regional Councils to submit a comprehensive regional plan to the Board required by Rules (Chapter 15 §2[4][C]).

Background

- The EMS Board amended Chapter 15 of its Rules, effective in April 2024, restructuring Maine EMS Regions and Regional Councils and defining the designation, roles and responsibilities, composition, and duties of the Regional Councils.
- Managers for Regions One, Two, and Three were hired in April 2025. The Region Four Manager started in this position in May 2026.
- Each Regional Council has worked to identify potential business entities and negotiate an agreement or consider establishing a new entity to submit an application for designation to the Board according to Chapter 15 §2[1][C] and to facilitate eligibility for the sustainability grant funds in accordance with Chapter 27.
- The Regional Management Team initiated a Regional Needs Assessment Survey on July 14, 2025, and received over 350 responses before it closed in August 2025. Since the results of this survey, the Maine EMS system and agencies have experienced significant changes in controlled and non-controlled emergency medications.
- The Regional Management Team has updated the Regional Needs Assessment Survey for 2026 to use the results to guide the established Councils in preparing their comprehensive



regional plan for the Board in 2027.

Assessment

In August 2025, we recognized that each Regional Council must accomplish several steps before it will be positioned to submit “a comprehensive plan that provides for the organization and implementation of regional goals and strategies...(to) provide support to Ambulance Services and Non-Transporting services, and be accompanied by an analysis of regional operations that includes the identification of resources needed to meet the goals and strategies identified within the plan.” To date, all Regions have completed three or more of the steps, demonstrating progress.

Those steps include:

1. Orientation to the new Regional Council structure and Board rules,
2. Nominating a voting membership,
3. Establishing bylaws,
4. Affiliating with or creating a business entity to apply to the Board for designation as the Regional Council,
5. Analyzing data and feedback gathered from the Regional Needs Assessment Survey.

Request

The Regional Management Team requests that the Board waive the citation in Chapter 15 §2(4)(C) of the Maine EMS Rules requiring Regional Councils to submit a comprehensive Regional Plan to the Board “*no later than August 15 of each calendar year*” until August 1, 2027.