

## S 848

### Helicopter Medical Services Patient Safety, Protection, and Coordination Act

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Transportation and Public Works

**Introduced:** Apr 22, 2009

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Apr 22, 2009)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/848>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MO • **Chamber:** Senate

## Cosponsors (7 total)

| Cosponsor                         | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]     | R · ME        |      | Apr 22, 2009 |
| Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]      | D · MI        |      | Jun 23, 2009 |
| Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]         | R · NC        |      | Jul 7, 2009  |
| Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]       | D · WA        |      | Jul 7, 2009  |
| Sen. Hagan, Kay R. [D-NC]         | D · NC        |      | Jul 28, 2009 |
| Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]        | D · MA        |      | Jul 28, 2009 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA        |      | Dec 10, 2009 |

## Committee Activity

| Committee                                       | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|---|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee | Senate  | Referred To | Apr 22, 2009 |

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

## Related Bills

| Bill       | Relationship | Last Action   |
|------------|--------------|---|
| 111 HR 978 | Related bill | Feb 12, 2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |

Helicopter Medical Services Patient Safety, Protection, and Coordination Act - Authorizes states to regulate helicopter medical services with respect to: (1) the medical qualifications and training of helicopter medical personnel; and (2) the obligation of providers of helicopter medical services to comply with a state's health planning, patient safety, and medical service requirements. Prohibits states from imposing requirements on pilots.

Authorizes states to regulate the following aspects of helicopter medical services to the extent such regulations are harmonized with applicable federal operating requirements: (1) establishment of criteria for determination of the appropriate medical institution to receive a transported patient; (2) specification of service requirements with respect to geographic areas within a state or during specified hours and days; (3) coordination of flight requests for emergency helicopter medical services; (4) compliance with medical services accreditation requirements, except where they infringe upon relevant federal operating requirements; and (5) provision of emergency helicopter medical services to all persons where needed.

Authorizes a state to regulate certain aspects of helicopter medical services to the extent that such regulations are consistent with, and do not infringe upon, applicable federal operating requirements.

Specifies among the aspects of helicopter medical services which states may regulate: (1) the necessary medical equipment and supplies to be carried on board or affixed to the helicopter; (2) the physical attributes of the helicopter necessary for the provision of quality medical care and for the protection of helicopter, ground medical, and emergency response personnel; and (3) specified communication capabilities among helicopter medical personnel and emergency medical services and public safety personnel, and between the flight crew and helicopter medical personnel. Requires a provider of helicopter medical services that is licensed in more than one state where state helicopter medical services regulations are inconsistent to comply with the most stringent regulation.

Requires a state, if necessary, to establish regulations or negotiate mutual aid agreements with adjacent states, or providers of helicopter medical services in such states, to ensure access to such services across state borders.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Apr 22, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 22, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.