

FACT SHEET

May 2023 JLOSC Review of Fire Prevention Commission



Joint Legislative Oversight
& Sunset Committee

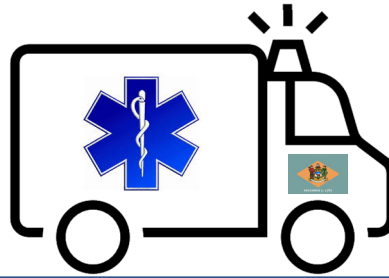
JLOSC Staff Report includes 10 total findings, highlights:

- **The State Fire Prevention Commission has existed for 68 years.** Since its creation many changes occurred such as:
 - Volunteer fire service progressed into combination fire service including paid firefighter positions to support the demand.
 - Commission now supports BLS care by certifying and regulating all ambulance vehicles, EMTs, and EMRs.
 - Numerous outdated items throughout Delaware code.
 - **Despite changes and expanded duties, Fire Commission staff is limited to 6 full-time employees.**
- **This marks the 3rd JLOSC review for the Fire Commission.**
 - Previous reviews in 1993 and 2009, some 2009 recommendations not fully implemented.
- **37% of EMS personnel and firefighters in the United States have contemplated suicide at some point in their lives, which is nearly 10 times the rate of average Americans (SAMHSA).**
 - Fire Commission needs more support to provide resources for fire and BLS professionals they oversee and support.
 - Fire Commission signed a contract with Uprise Health in January 2023.
 - Helps implement House Bill 82 enacted in September 2021, allows the Fire Commission to recommend EMTs into Delaware Professionals' Health Monitoring Program in lieu of imposing discipline upon respondents within the Commission's authority.
- **Annual "auditing" requirement misunderstood since 1998.**
 - Fire Commission needs more resources for the annual requirement.
 - Remedial training should be offered to any company found in violation of Fire Commission's annual financial review requirements.
 - OnDemand financial training should be available.
 - Communication between the State Auditor's office and Fire Commission should be improved.
- **Delaware is the only state to split up EMS oversight and authority regarding ALS and BLS services.**
 - Communication needs to improve between Office of Emergency Medical Services, currently charged with review of all EMS training.
 - Many est. committees that meet to discuss EMS services in the state.
- **September 2017: Delaware became the 12th state to join the National EMS licensure compact however, Delaware not integrated with the compact's coordinated database.**
- **Creating a minimum education standard for Delaware firefighters is a matter of safety.** 18 states require some type of certification, training, education, or examination requirements for volunteer firefighters.
- **Fire Commission meeting a public need, 5 recommendations including:**
 - Statute revisions.
 - Regulation and administrative updates.

WHAT IS A JLOSC REVIEW?

- Purpose to determine **genuine public need** for the entity and evaluate how effective entity is performing to meet that need.
 - **Entity under review has burden of proof.**
- Reviews are proactive in nature and **use statutory review criteria** identified in each report's Objective, Scope, and Methodology section.
- **Reviews include a performance evaluation** conducted by JLOSC staff using national standards such as the GAGAS-Yellow Book.
- **Oversight is an important part of state government to ensure that entities are operating as intended.**
- As of 2021, **JLOSC review selection process changed to a proactive process.**
 - For 2022 review consideration JLOSC staff prepared a list of boards and commissions that JLOSC had never reviewed.
- JLOSC stands for the *Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee*, is 1 of 4 joint committees of the Delaware General Assembly, **tasked with performing periodic legislative reviews of entities to assess performance, public need, and increase accountability.**
- JLOSC supported by staff from the Division of Research which include 2 analysts who have formal education in public policy and are members of the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society (NLPES).

A Quick Guide to Emergency Medical Services in Delaware & Frequently Used Abbreviations in this Report



EMS = Emergency Medical Services

First Responder = someone whose job includes responding immediately to an accident or emergency (commonly firefighter, law enforcement officer, paramedic, emergency medical technician).



Office of EMS provides EMS system oversight which includes 8 medical directors and the Delaware Emergency Medical Reporting System (DEMRS).

DEMRS provides access to patient data statewide for all EMS service providers, Delaware hospitals, billing companies, and inter-facility transport services.

EMS System Broken into 2 Service Types, in Delaware under 2 Different Offices

BLS = Basic Life Support



**State Fire Prevention Commission
Certifies and Regulates:**

- All vehicles in operation as an **ambulance**.
- **EMR** = Emergency Medical Responder
- **EMT** = Emergency Medical Technician

ALS = Advanced Life Support



**Division of Professional Regulation
Licenses and Regulates:**

- **Paramedics**

Licensed by the Delaware Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, under the Division of Professional Regulation, in collaboration with the Office of Emergency Medical Services.