BUMXQQ-3

By Representatives Pettus, Underwood, Shirey, Cole, Lee, Clouse

RFD: Health

First Read: 02-May-23

2023 Regular Session
Enrolled, An Act,

Relating to the State Board of Health and emergency medical services; to amend Section 22-18-1, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the requirements for a licensure as a community paramedic; and to prohibit the State Board of Health from requiring a college degree for licensure as a community paramedic.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 22-18-1 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§22-18-1

For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

(1) ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN. Any individual who is an emergency medical services personnel, is 18 years of age or older, and who satisfies all of the following:

a. Has successfully completed the advanced emergency medical technician course of instruction, or its equivalent, as approved by the board.

b. Has passed the state Advanced EMT examination, as well as having met the requirements for becoming a licensed emergency medical technician.

c. Has been granted a license by the board.

(2) ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS). The treatment of
potentially life-threatening medical emergencies through the
use of invasive medical techniques specified as advanced life
support techniques by the board, which ordinarily would be
performed or provided by licensed physicians, but which may be
performed by emergency medical service personnel during
emergencies under constraints specified by rule of the board.

(3) AIR AMBULANCE. An aircraft that is intended to be
used for and is maintained or operated for transportation to a
medical care facility of persons who are sick or injured. For
the purposes of this chapter, fixed-wing aircraft that do not
conduct scene flights shall not be considered air ambulances.

(4) BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS). Prehospital care
involving non-invasive life support measures as specified by
the board.

(5) BOARD or BOARD OF HEALTH. The State Board of
Health.

(6) COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC. An individual who is an
emergency medical services personnel, is 18 years of age or
older, and who satisfies all of the following:
   a. Is currently licensed as a paramedic.
   b. Has at least two years of full-time service as a
      paramedic.
   c. Has successfully completed a community paramedic
      training program and obtained a postsecondary or equivalent
      award from an accredited college or university a paramedic
      course of instruction approved by the board.
   d. Has passed the state community paramedic examination
      and has met the requirements for becoming a licensed community
paramedic.

e. Has been granted a license by the board.

(7) COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM. The provision of episodic care, patient evaluation, advice, and treatment directed at preventing or improving a particular medical condition, within the scope of practice of the emergency medical services personnel.

(8) DEFINITIVE CARE FACILITY. A facility that has the capability to render care to conclusively manage a patient's current medical condition. The term includes, but is not limited to, urgent care facilities, family practice facilities, doctor's offices, and emergency departments.

(9) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Public Health.

(10) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS). A system of coordinated medical assistance and care provided by emergency medical services personnel, including:

a. The transportation and medical care provided to sick or injured individuals before arrival at a definitive care facility.

b. Continuation of care within a definitive care facility subject to the approval from that facility.

c. Integrated medical care with the oversight of a medical director.

(11) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL (EMSP). The collective term used to refer to all recognized National Highway Traffic Safety Administration levels of personnel licensed by the board, who have met all primary and renewal
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educational requirements, and who provide emergency or
non-emergency medical services within the level of their scope
of practice and in accordance with the applicable EMS Patient
Care Protocols.

(12) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT). An individual
who is an emergency medical services personnel, is 18 years of
age or older, and who satisfies all of the following:

a. Has successfully completed the basic emergency
medical technician course of instruction, or its equivalent,
as approved by the board.

b. Has passed the state EMT examination.

c. Has been granted a license by the board.

(13) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-INTERMEDIATE. An
individual who is an emergency medical services personnel, is
18 years of age or older, and who, prior to December 31, 2002,
satisfied all of the following:

a. Successfully completed the intermediate emergency
medical technician course of instruction, or its equivalent,
as approved by the board.

b. Passed the state EMT Intermediate examination and
has met the requirements for becoming a licensed emergency
medical technician.

c. Was granted a license by the board.

(14) GROUND AMBULANCE. A motor vehicle that is intended
to be used for and is maintained or operated for
transportation to a medical care facility of individuals who
are sick or injured.

(15) NON-TRANSPORT VEHICLE. A vehicle operated with the
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intent to provide BLS or ALS stabilization on scene, but not
intended to transport a patient to a medical care facility.

(16) PARAMEDIC. Any individual who is an emergency
medical services personnel, is 18 years of age or older, and
who has successfully completed the paramedic course of
instruction, or its equivalent, as approved by the board, and
passed the state paramedic examination, and who has been
granted a license by the board. The board may not require a
college degree for licensure as a community paramedic.

(17) PATIENT. An individual who receives or requests
medical care, or for whom medical care is requested, because
the individual is sick or injured.

(18) PHYSICIAN. An individual licensed to practice
medicine or osteopathy by the Medical Licensure Commission of
Alabama.

(19) PROGRAM MEDICAL DIRECTOR. A physician who has
completed the approved EMS Medical Director course and
provides medical direction and oversight to emergency medical
services personnel.

(20) PROVIDER SERVICE. An organization, whether public
or private, which provides transport or non-transport
emergency medical services.

(21) SCENE FLIGHT. The flight of an air ambulance to
the physical location of a sick or injured individual.

(22) TRANSPORT VEHICLE. An air or ground ambulance."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first
day of the third month following its passage and approval by
the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 16-May-23, as amended.

John Treadwell
Clerk