

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 675
Apr 1, 2025
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

H

D

HOUSE BILL DRH40407-NB-81

Short Title: EMT Personnel Credentialing Modifications.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Pless.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL
3 TECHNICIANS EXAMINATION FOR CREDENTIALING AS VARIOUS EMERGENCY
4 MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 131E-155 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 131E-155. Definitions.

8 As used in this Article, unless otherwise specified:

9 ...

10 (17) "Practical examination" means a test that complies with National Registry of
11 Emergency Medical Technicians examination standards where an applicant
12 for credentialing as an emergency medical technician, emergency medical
13 responder, advanced emergency medical technician, or paramedic
14 demonstrates the ability to perform specified emergency medical care skills."

15 SECTION 2. G.S. 131E-159 reads as rewritten:

16 "§ 131E-159. Credentialing requirements.

17 (a) Individuals seeking credentials as an emergency medical technician, advanced
18 emergency medical technician, paramedic, emergency medical responder, emergency medical
19 dispatcher, or emergency medical services instructor shall apply to the Department using forms
20 prescribed by that agency. The Department's representatives shall examine the applicant by either
21 written, practical, or written and practical examination. The Department shall issue appropriate
22 credentials to the applicant who meets all the requirements set forth in this Article and the rules
23 adopted for this Article and who successfully completes the examinations required for
24 credentialing. Emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder, emergency medical
25 dispatcher, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic, and emergency medical services
26 instructor credentials shall be valid for a period not to exceed four years and may be renewed if
27 the holder meets the requirements set forth in the rules of the Commission. The Department is
28 authorized to revoke or suspend these credentials at any time it determines that the holder no
29 longer meets the qualifications prescribed.

30 (b) ~~The Subject to subsections (c1) and (d1) of this section,~~ the Commission shall adopt
31 rules setting forth the qualifications required for credentialing of emergency medical responders,
32 emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, paramedics,
33 emergency medical dispatchers, and emergency medical services instructors.

34 (b1) Beginning January 1, 2026, a person seeking credentialing or renewal of credentialing
35 under subsection (b) of this section shall only qualify for credentials under this section if the
36 person passes the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians examination for the level



1 of certification desired. Any other examination shall not be recognized by the Commission.
2 Persons that possess a State credential or other accepted credential that is not from the National
3 Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians for their respective certification prior to January 1,
4 2026, shall be certified under the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians by
5 January 1, 2030.

6 (c) Individuals currently credentialed as an emergency medical technician, advanced
7 emergency medical technician, paramedic, emergency medical responder, and emergency
8 medical services instructor by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians or by
9 another state where the education/credentialing requirements have been approved for legal
10 recognition by the Department of Health and Human Services, in accordance with rules
11 promulgated by the Medical Care Commission, and who is either currently residing in North
12 Carolina or affiliated with a permitted EMS provider offering service within North Carolina, may
13 be eligible for credentialing as an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical
14 technician, paramedic, emergency medical responder, and emergency medical services instructor
15 without examination. This credentialing shall be valid for a period not to exceed the length of the
16 applicant's original credentialing or four years, whichever is less.

17 (c1) A person seeking credentialing under subsection (b) of this section is required to pass
18 the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians examination for the level of
19 certification desired and undergo a criminal history background check in accordance with
20 subsection (g) of this section. The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
21 examination requirements shall include all sections of the examination as appropriate for each
22 level, including (i) didactic, practical, and clinical requirements, (ii) cognitive and psychomotor
23 skills examinations, and (iii) the receipt of the National Registry of Emergency Medical
24 Technicians certification.

25 (d) An individual currently credentialed as an emergency medical dispatcher by a
26 national credentialing agency, or by another state where the education/credentialing requirements
27 have been approved for legal recognition by the Department of Health and Human Services, in
28 accordance with rules issued by the Medical Care Commission, and who is either currently
29 residing in North Carolina or affiliated with an emergency medical dispatcher program approved
30 by the Department of Health and Human Services offering service within North Carolina, may
31 be eligible for credentialing as an emergency medical dispatcher without examination. ~~This~~
32 ~~credentialing shall be valid for a period not to exceed the length of the applicant's original~~
33 ~~credentialing or four years, whichever is less.~~ examination for up to one year. If a person is
34 seeking credentialing in this State and holds a state-level certificate as an emergency medical
35 technician, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic, emergency medical responder,
36 emergency medical dispatcher, or emergency medical services instructor in another state, the
37 person must obtain a credential from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
38 within one year of the issuance of their credentialing in this State. After one year, the person
39 cannot continue to be credentialed until passage of the National Registry of Emergency Medical
40 Technicians examination for the level of certification desired.

41 (d1) Any person seeking credentialing as a specialty certification, including a flight
42 paramedic, critical care paramedic, community paramedic, tactical paramedic, wilderness
43 paramedic, designated infection control officer, or a medical transportation safety professional,
44 shall pass the appropriate examination from the International Board of Specialty Certification.

45 (e) Duly authorized representatives of the Department may issue temporary credentials
46 with or without examination upon finding that this action will be in the public interest. Temporary
47 credentials shall be valid for a period not exceeding 90 days.

48 (f) The Department may deny, suspend, amend, or revoke the credentials of an
49 emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical
50 technician, paramedic, emergency medical dispatcher, or emergency medical services instructor
51 in any case in which the Department finds that there has been a substantial failure to comply with

1 the provisions of this Article or the rules issued under this Article. Prior to implementation of
2 any of the above disciplinary actions, the Department shall consider the recommendations of the
3 EMS Disciplinary Committee pursuant to G.S. 143-519. The Department's decision to deny,
4 suspend, amend, or revoke credentials may be appealed by the applicant or credentialed
5 personnel pursuant to the provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes, the
6 Administrative Procedure Act.

7 (g) An individual who applies for EMS credentials, seeks to renew EMS credentials, or
8 holds EMS credentials is subject to a criminal background review by the Department. At the
9 request of the Department, the Emergency Medical Services Disciplinary Committee, established
10 by G.S. 143-519, shall review criminal background information and make a recommendation
11 regarding the eligibility of an individual to obtain initial EMS credentials, renew EMS
12 credentials, or maintain EMS credentials. The Department and the Emergency Medical Services
13 Disciplinary Committee shall keep all information obtained pursuant to this subsection
14 confidential. The Medical Care Commission shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this
15 subsection, including rules to establish a reasonable fee to offset the actual costs of criminal
16 history information obtained pursuant to G.S. 143B-1209.33.

17 (g1) A person who is credentialed under this Article shall be required to keep on their
18 person a certification card that is up to date. In the event of a person losing their certification
19 card, the person shall order a duplicate. The Commission shall publish on their website a method
20 for contact to assist persons in ordering a replacement card.

21 (h) A person who is required to register as a sex offender under Article 27A of Chapter
22 14 of the General Statutes, or who was convicted of an offense which would have required
23 registration if committed at a time when such registration would have been required by law, shall
24 not be granted EMS credentials. The Department shall not renew the credentials of any person
25 who would be ineligible for EMS credentials under this subsection."

26 **SECTION 3.** The Medical Care Commission shall adopt temporary rules to
27 implement the provisions of this act. The temporary rules adopted shall remain in effect until
28 permanent rules are adopted to replace the temporary rules.

29 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2026.