



**Sub. H.B. 41**

125th General Assembly  
(As Passed by the House)

**Reps. Carmichael, Hollister, Flowers, McGregor, Willamowski, DePiero, C. Evans, Hughes, Gibbs, Carano, Schaffer, Faber, Collier, Cirelli, Beatty, Kearns, Schneider, Blasdel, Martin, G. Smith, S. Smith, Jolivette, Allen, Barrett, Book, Brown, Cates, Chandler, DeBose, Distel, Domenick, Gilb, Grendell, Hartnett, Harwood, Key, Latta, Niehaus, Olman, Otterman, S. Patton, T. Patton, Perry, Price, Raussen, Redfern, Reinhard, Schlichter, Schmidt, Seaver, Seitz, Setzer, D. Stewart, J. Stewart, Strahorn, Wagner, Walcher, Webster, Widener, Wilson**

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Grants certain firefighters additional credit on civil service examinations.
- Provides that a volunteer firefighter may register for and receive volunteer firefighter license plates for up to three approved vehicles.
- Provides that registration of the second and third vehicles requires payment of the license tax and any local motor vehicle tax, in addition to a \$10 issuance fee.
- Changes to five years (from three) the duration of the certificate to practice issued to emergency medical service personnel.
- Provides for certification as an EMT-basic, EMT-Intermediate, or paramedic of a qualified health care professional who meets alternative training and continuing education requirements established by the State Board of Emergency Medical Services (EMS Board).
- Creates the Emergency Medical Services Assistant Program to issue certificates to individuals aged 16-18 to assist in providing emergency medical services.

- Requires the EMS Board to establish standards and procedures governing the EMS-Assistant Program, including practice parameters and standards for EMS-Assistant training programs.
- Prohibits emergency medical services organizations from permitting an individual under age 18 to drive an ambulance.
- Modifies requirements governing the number of emergency medical service personnel that must be present during emergency runs.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### *Extra credit for firefighters on civil service examinations*

(secs. 124.23, 124.26, and 124.27)

Under the bill, any firefighter who applies for a position in the classified civil service and receives a passing grade on the regular civil service examination will receive additional credit on the examination as follows:<sup>1</sup>

- (1) If a volunteer firefighter, an additional 5%;
- (2) If a volunteer firefighter and either an emergency medical technician-basic (EMT-basic) or an emergency medical technician-intermediate (EMT-I), an additional 10%;<sup>2</sup>
- (3) If a firefighter II and an EMT-basic or EMT-I, an additional 15%;
- (4) If a firefighter II and a paramedic, an additional 20%.

Current law provides that an applicant for a position in the classified civil service who is eligible for veteran's preference must receive priority on the eligible list (the list of all individuals who have passed the civil service examination) over a nonveteran whose rating equals that of the veteran. The bill requires that an applicant who is eligible for both veteran's preference under current law and firefighter's preference under the bill receive priority on the eligible list over any

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<sup>1</sup> *The bill defines "firefighter" as either a volunteer firefighter (as defined in the law governing the Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund) or a full-time firefighter; "firefighter II" is a firefighter classification specified in the Ohio Administrative Code to reflect levels of training.*

<sup>2</sup> *"EMT-basic," "EMT-I," and "paramedic" have the same meanings as in the law governing emergency medical services.*

veteran who is not a firefighter whose rating is equal to that of the applicant. Further, an applicant who is not eligible for veteran's preference but is eligible for firefighter's preference must receive priority over any nonveteran who is not a firefighter whose rating is equal to that of the applicant.

### **Volunteer firefighter license plates**

(sec. 4503.47)

Current law authorizes a person who is a volunteer firefighter to register and be issued special volunteer firefighter license plates for one passenger car or other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. The bill provides for the issuance of these plates to a volunteer firefighter for up to three passenger cars or other approved vehicles and, for the first vehicle registered, waives the payment of any license tax, local motor vehicle tax, or Bureau of Motor Vehicles or deputy registrar service fee. Registration of a second or third vehicle requires the payment of the license tax, any local motor vehicle tax, and an additional \$10 issuance fee created by continuing law.

The bill requires the Registrar to send annually a written notice to each person who has been issued the special plates informing the person that the person must submit to the Registrar by a specified date written evidence from the chief or fire chief of the person's volunteer fire department attesting to the person's status as an active volunteer firefighter in that department. The notice must explain that, if the Registrar does not receive the proof by the date specified, the Registrar will cancel each of the person's certificates of registration and the person will be required to surrender each set of volunteer firefighter license plates and obtain other license plates.

### **Emergency medical services**

#### **Certificates to practice**

(secs. 4765.30 and 4765.31; Section 3)

Under current law, the certificate to practice issued by the State Board of Emergency Medical Services (EMS Board) to a first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic is valid for three years. The bill increases this to five years. The bill provides that this change will be implemented as certificates to practice expire on or after its effective date.

Current law requires each first responder, EMT-basic, EMT-I, and paramedic to complete an emergency medical services continuing education program or pass an examination approved by the EMS Board. The bill requires the Board to grant one hour of continuing education credit for each time an



individual participates in 20 emergency runs, up to a maximum of five hours of continuing education credit.

**Alternative certification requirements**

(secs. 4765.11, 4765.28, 4765.281, 4765.30, 4765.31, and 4765.311)

The bill requires the EMS Board to adopt rules establishing alternative training and continuing education requirements for individuals who hold a valid license or certificate to practice a health care profession in Ohio. The rules must specify to which health care professions the alternative training and continuing education requirements will apply. Under these rules, the EMS Board may issue a certificate to practice as an EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic to any qualified health care professional who meets the alternative training and continuing education requirements.

**Emergency Medical Services Assistant Program**

(secs. 4765.11, 4765.14, 4765.141, and 4765.50)

The bill requires the EMS Board to create an Emergency Medical Services Assistant Program and to adopt standards and procedures governing the program. The EMS Board also must establish, by rule, parameters to govern practice by an Emergency Medical Services Assistant (EMS-Assistant), including the following: emergency medical services that an EMS-Assistant may and may not assist and standards for EMS-Assistants to follow when assisting emergency medical services.

To obtain certification as an EMS-Assistant, an individual who is at least 16, but not more than 18, years old must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Pay an application fee, unless the EMS Board waives the fee because of the applicant's financial hardship;
- (2) Obtains a certificate of completion in emergency medical services assistant training;
- (3) Meets any other certification requirements established by the EMS Board.

An EMS-Assistant certificate is valid until its holder turns 18, unless the certificate is suspended or revoked.

An EMS-Assistant must comply with the EMS Board's standards when assisting with emergency medical services. The Board may suspend or revoke an

individual's EMS-Assistant certificate, or take other disciplinary action against the individual, for failure to comply with the Board's standards.

**EMS-Assistant training**

(secs. 4765.11, 4765.16(B), and 4765.24)

The bill requires the EMS Board to establish standards for EMS-Assistant training programs, including curriculum, number of hours of instruction and training, and instructional materials to be used. The bill requires the programs to be taught in accordance with the EMS Board's standards and specifies that each student who successfully completes a program is to receive a certificate of completion.

**Ambulance services**

**Ambulance drivers**

(sec. 4765.431)

The bill prohibits emergency medical services organizations from permitting an individual who is younger than 18 to drive an ambulance.

**Staffing of an ambulance during emergency runs**

(sec. 4765.43)

Existing law provides that, during each emergency run, an ambulance equipped for emergency medical services that is operated by an emergency medical service organization that does not utilize any volunteer emergency medical service providers must be staffed by at least two EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, or paramedics. The bill makes this provision also applicable to an ambulance operated by an emergency medical services organization that does not substantially utilize volunteer providers.

Current law also provides that, whenever a patient is being transported, an ambulance equipped for emergency medical services that is operated by an emergency medical service organization that utilizes volunteer emergency medical service providers must be staffed by at least two EMTs-basic, EMTs-I, or paramedics. At all other times during an emergency run, the ambulance must be staffed by at least one EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic. The bill requires instead that, during each emergency run, an ambulance operated by an emergency medical service organization that *substantially* utilizes volunteer emergency medical

service providers must be staffed by *at least one first responder and one EMT-basic, EMT-I, or paramedic.*<sup>3</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-06-03	p. 137
Reported, H. Health	10-15-03	p. 1123
Passed House (94-3)	12-10-03	pp. 1282-1283

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<sup>3</sup> *The bill does not specify what is intended by "substantially utilizes" or how it would be determined that an organization substantially utilizes volunteers.*