AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1131(introductory paragraph), 1133.2(A)(1) and (B)(introductory paragraph), 1133.4(A)(4), 1133.5(2), 1133.8(D) and (E), 1133.10(introductory paragraph), 1133.13(A)(1), and 1203.1(introductory paragraph) and (5) and to enact R.S. 40:1131(24) through (26), 1133.2(B)(5), 1133.5(11) and (12), 1133.10(9), 1133.17, 1133.18, and 1135.1(A)(2)(e) and (8), relative to emergency medical services; to define certain terms for purposes of laws pertaining to emergency medical personnel; to require that certified ambulance operators receive certification from the bureau of emergency medical services of the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide conditions, procedures, and standards relative to certification of ambulance operators; to provide for fees for such certification; to provide for duties of certified ambulance operators and to establish grounds for disciplinary action against such personnel; to include certified ambulance operators within laws requiring criminal history checks on certain nonlicensed persons who provide health-related services and prohibiting hiring of such persons who have been convicted of certain offenses; to provide for civil immunity with respect to certified ambulance operators; to provide for staffing requirements of advanced life support ambulances; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:1131(introductory paragraph), 1133.2(A)(1) and (B)(introductory paragraph), 1133.4(A)(4), 1133.5(2), 1133.8(D) and (E), 1133.10(introductory paragraph), 1133.13(A)(1), and 1203.1(introductory paragraph) and (5) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:1131(24) through (26), 1133.2(B)(5), 1133.5(11) and (12),
1133.10(9), 1133.17, 1133.18, and 1135.1(A)(2)(e) and (8) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1131. Definitions

For purposes of this Chapter, the following terms have the meaning ascribed to them in this Section:

(24) "Certified ambulance operator" means an individual who is certified by the bureau as a certified ambulance operator. The term shall not include any individual employed by a fire department of any municipality, parish, or fire protection district or any volunteer firefighter of the state of Louisiana.

(25) "Advanced life support" or "ALS" means the provision of medically necessary supplies and services by EMS practitioners who are licensed at least to the level of advanced emergency technician or equivalent.

(26) "Basic life support" or "BLS" means the provision of medically necessary supplies and services by EMS practitioners who are licensed at least to the level of emergency medical technician.

§1133.2. Fee schedule; fees for license prohibited

A.(1) The bureau shall not require or collect any fee or charges for licensure, or license renewal, or certification of emergency medical services practitioners, any of the following personnel who serve as such in their capacity on a voluntary basis and who receive no compensation of any kind for such services:

(a) Emergency medical services practitioners,

(b) Ambulance operators,

B. Except as provided in Subsection A of this Section, the bureau shall assess fees for testing and licenses, and certifications based on the following schedule:

(5) Ambulance operator certification $10.00
§1133.4. Powers and duties of the commission; exceptions

A. The commission shall:

* * *

(4) Conduct disciplinary hearings for emergency medical personnel and certified ambulance operators.

* * *

§1133.5. Powers and duties of the bureau

The bureau shall:

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(2) Prescribe application forms for emergency medical practitioner licensure and license renewal and ambulance operator certification.

* * *

(11) Issue a certification to any duly qualified applicant for certification as an ambulance operator.

(12) Deny, withhold, restrict, probate, or suspend an ambulance operator certification as directed by the commission in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:1133.18.

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§1133.8. Hearings of the commission; appeal of decision

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D. Notice of the commission's decision to revoke, restrict, suspend, or deny a license or certification shall be sent to the individual under investigation by registered mail, return receipt requested, at his last known address as it appears on the records of the bureau.

E. An individual whose license or certification has been revoked, restricted, suspended, placed in probation, or denied may have the proceedings of the commission reviewed by a court of competent jurisdiction, provided that an appeal is made no later than thirty days after the date indicated on the registered mail receipt of the notice required by Subsection D of this Section. The decision of the commission shall remain in force until an appeal is granted unless the court orders

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a stay. If an appeal is granted, the decision of the commission shall be suspended until a final disposition of the matter is ultimately rendered by the court affirming the decision of the commission.

§1133.10. Violations

No person or individual shall engage in any of the following activities:

(9) Operate as an ambulance operator unless certified to do so in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Part.

§1133.13. Civil immunity

A.(1) Any certified ambulance operator, certified pursuant to the provisions of this Part, or any emergency medical services practitioner, licensed pursuant to the provisions of this Part who renders emergency medical care to an individual while in the performance of his medical duties and following the instructions of a physician shall not be individually liable to such an individual for civil damages as a result of acts or omissions in rendering the emergency medical care, except for acts or omissions intentionally designed to harm, or for grossly negligent acts or omissions which result in harm to such an individual. Nothing herein in this Subsection shall relieve the driver of the emergency vehicle from liability arising from the operation or use of such the vehicle.

§1133.17. Ambulance operators; requirements for certification; duties authorized

A. Each applicant for certification as an ambulance operator shall submit all of the following to the bureau:

(1) A copy of the applicant's valid, unrestricted driver's license at the appropriate level required by law.

(2) A copy of a current and valid defensive driving certificate issued by the National Safety Council or its equivalent as determined by the department.

(3) A copy of a current and valid American Heart Association Health Care...
Provider credential, American Red Cross Professional Rescuer credential, or an
equivalent cardio-pulmonary resuscitation certification approved by the department.

(4) A copy of the applicant's current official driving record from the
Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

B. Each applicant for certification in accordance with this Section shall be
at least eighteen years of age.

C. An ambulance operator certification shall expire one year after it is issued
and shall not be renewable.

D. A certified ambulance operator may perform any of the following
functions:

(1) Operate an ambulance in compliance with federal, state, and local law.

(2) Assist with the handling and movement of a sick, injured, or disabled
individual if a licensed emergency medical services practitioner, registered nurse,
physician assistant, or physician directly supervises the operator. No ambulance
operator may administer care procedures that a licensed emergency medical services
practitioner is authorized to administer unless he is trained and certified or licensed
to do so.

E. No licensed emergency medical services practitioner shall be required to
hold a certification as an ambulance operator in order to operate an ambulance.

§1133.18. Certified ambulance operators; grounds for discipline

The commission may discipline any certified ambulance operator for any of
the following causes by directing the bureau to deny, withhold, revoke, restrict,
probate, or suspend a certification to operate as an ambulance operator; imposing
 fines and assessing costs; or otherwise sanctioning the ambulance operator:

(1) Fraud or any misstatement of fact in the procurement of any certification
or in any other statement or representation to the bureau or its representatives.

(2) Conviction of a crime or offense which reflects the inability of the
individual to carry out his duties with due regard for the health and safety of clients
or patients.

(3) Entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a criminal charge

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regardless of final disposition of the criminal proceeding, including but not limited
to expungement or nonadjudication.

(4) Is unfit or incompetent by reason of negligence, habit, or other cause.

(5) Is mentally incompetent.

(6) Is habitually intemperate in the use of or abuses alcohol or habit-forming
   drugs.

(7) Is guilty of aiding or abetting another person in violating any provision
    of this Part.

(8) Continuing or recurring practices which fail to meet the standards of
    ambulance operators in this state.

(9) Endeavors to deceive or defraud the public.

(10) Is guilty of moral turpitude.

(11) Has violated any rules and regulations of the commission or the bureau
    or any provision of this Part.

(12) Intentional falsification of any document related to the procurement of
    any certification or license.

(13) Operating any vehicle in violation of state or local traffic laws.

(14) Revocation, suspension, or any restriction of the ambulance operator's
    driver's license.

(15) Failure to maintain all current ambulance operator training standards as
    required by the bureau.

(16) Has had a certification or license to practice as an ambulance operator
denied, revoked, suspended, or otherwise restricted in Louisiana or any other state
or territory of the United States.

§1135.1. Qualifications to operate ambulances; equipment; penalty

A.

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(2)

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(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph,
a certified ambulance operator who is not a licensed emergency medical services
practitioner may operate an ambulance in compliance with federal, state, and local
law and assist with the handling and movement of a sick, injured, or disabled
individual if a licensed emergency medical technician, a licensed advance emergency
medical technician, a licensed paramedic, a registered nurse, or a physician directly
supervises the certified ambulance operator. No ambulance operator may administer
care procedures that a licensed emergency medical services practitioner is authorized
to administer unless he is trained and certified or licensed to do so.

* * *

(8) Advanced life support ambulances shall be staffed by not less than two
people, at least one of which shall be licensed at a minimum to the level of advanced
emergency medical technician.

* * *

§1203.1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Part, the following terms have the meaning ascribed
in this Section:

* * *

(5) "Licensed ambulance personnel" means personnel who provide services,
either for compensation or volunteer services, as an emergency medical service
practitioner, including licensed emergency medical technicians, licensed advanced
emergency medical technicians, licensed paramedics, and licensed first emergency
medical responders. The term "licensed ambulance personnel" shall also include
certified ambulance operators.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________________

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