

**GREEN SHEET REDIGEST**

**HB 505**

**2022 Regular Session**

**Jefferson**

**HEALTH/EMERG MED SERVICE: Provides with respect to certified ambulance operators.**

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DIGEST

Proposed law provides that "certified ambulance operator" means an individual who is certified by the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (Bureau of EMS) of the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) as a certified ambulance operator. Stipulates that 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 La.

Proposed law defines "advanced life support", "advanced life support intervention", "advanced life support assessment", and "basic life support".

Proposed law requires that each applicant for certification as an ambulance operator be at least 18 years of age and submit all of the following to the Bureau of EMS:

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

Proposed law authorizes the Bureau of EMS to assess a fee of \$10 for ambulance operator certification. Provides that the certification shall expire one year after it is issued and shall not be renewable.

Proposed law authorizes certified ambulance operators to 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.

Proposed law prohibits an ambulance operator from administering care procedures that a licensed emergency medical services practitioner is authorized to administer unless he is trained and certified or licensed to do so.

Proposed law authorizes the La. Emergency Medical Services Certification Commission to deny, revoke, restrict, or suspend a certification to operate as an ambulance operator, impose fines and assess costs, or otherwise sanction the ambulance operator for certain enumerated causes.

Present law provides for civil immunity for a licensed emergency medical services practitioner who renders emergency medical care to an individual while in the performance of his medical duties and following the instructions of a physician, except for acts or

omissions intentionally designed to harm, or for grossly negligent acts or omissions which result in harm to the individual.

Proposed law retains present law and extends the civil immunity to cover certified ambulance operators.

Proposed law provides that advanced life support vehicles shall be staffed by not less than two people, at least one of which shall be licensed as an advanced emergency medical technician or a paramedic.

Present law, R.S. 40:1203.1 et seq., prohibits licensed healthcare facilities and providers from hiring certain nonlicensed persons when the results of a criminal history check reveal that the person has been convicted of any criminal offense enumerated in present law.

Proposed law adds certified ambulance operators to the list of nonlicensed persons to whom this prohibition on hiring applies.

(Amends R.S. 40:1131(intro. para.), 1133.2(A)(1) and (B)(intro. para.), 1133.4(A)(4), 1133.5(2), 1133.8(D) and (E), 1133.10(intro. para.), 1133.13(A)(1), and 1203.1(intro. para.) and (5); Adds R.S. 40:1131(24)-(28), 1133.2(B)(5), 1133.5(11) and (12), 1133.10(9), 1133.17, 1133.18, 1135.1(A)(2)(e), and 1135.2(A)(3))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Delete all references in proposed law to renewal of ambulance operator certifications.
2. Provide that an ambulance operator certification shall expire one year after it is issued and shall not be renewable.
3. Provide that the term "certified ambulance operator" 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 La.

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the engrossed bill

1. Defines "advanced life support", "advanced life support intervention", "advanced life support assessment", and "basic life support".
2. Extends civil immunity to certified ambulance operators.
3. Provides for staffing requirements of advanced life support vehicles.
4. Makes technical changes.