

Legislative Analysis



LICENSURE OF MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

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House Bill 5115 (H-1) as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Jeff Yaroeh
Committee: Workforce, Trades, and Talent
Complete to 3-11-22

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5115 would amend the Public Health Code to allow individuals 16 years of age and older to be licensed as medical first responders and individuals 17 years of age and older to be licensed as emergency medical technicians (EMTs). The application of an individual who is not yet 18 would have to be signed by his or her parent or guardian.

Currently under the code, an individual must be 18 to be licensed under Part 209, which governs emergency medical services.

The bill would retain this provision for individuals applying for licensure as an emergency medical technician specialist, paramedic, or emergency medical services instructor-coordinator license. However, it would provide that an individual applying for a *medical first responder* license could do so at age 16 or older and an individual applying for an *emergency medical technician* license could do so at age 17 or older. The application of an individual who is less than 18 years of age at the time of the application would have to be signed by the individual's parent or guardian.

Medical first responder means an individual who has met the educational requirements of a department approved medical first responder course and who is licensed to provide medical first response life support as part of a medical first response service or as a driver of an ambulance that provides basic life support services only. (Medical first responder does not include a police officer solely because his or her police vehicle is equipped with an automated external defibrillator.)

Emergency medical technician means an individual who is licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide basic life support.

MCL 333.20950

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5115 would likely increase costs and revenue for the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill would expand the population of individuals eligible for a medical first responder license and for an emergency medical technician license. DHHS would have costs to process the additional licenses which, like all current EMS personnel licenses, would be effective for three years. Currently, there is no fee for a medical first responder license and a \$40 fee for an emergency medical technician license. It is possible that the additional costs

of the bill would exceed the additional revenue. DHHS indicates that 6,052 individuals are currently licensed as medical first responders in Michigan.

Fiscal Year 2020-21 funding for the Emergency Medical Services Program line item appropriation is \$6.7 million Gross (\$1.5 million GF/GP), about half of which is for EMS program licensing and support, and half for statewide trauma system programs. Fiscal Year 2021-22 funding includes an additional \$3.0 million GF/GP to establish a system of care for time-sensitive stroke and heart attack emergencies, integrated within the EMS and statewide trauma system.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the following entities testified in support of the bill (8-19-21):

- Department of Health and Human Services
- Michigan Association of Ambulance Services

Representatives of the following entities testified in opposition to the bill (8-19-21):

- Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
- Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

The Michigan Fire Inspectors Society indicated opposition to the bill. (8-19-21)

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.