

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 215

(Chair, Health and Government Operations  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Maryland  
Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

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**State Emergency Medical Services Board - Emergency Medical Services Providers**

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This departmental bill alters the nomenclature for emergency medical services (EMS) providers' licensure and certification levels to reflect national standards. Specifically, "first responder" is changed to "emergency medical responder," "emergency medical technician (EMT)-basic" is shortened to "EMT," and "EMT-paramedic" is shortened to "paramedic." Two other existing levels – "cardiac rescue technician" and "emergency medical dispatchers" – are unchanged by the bill.

The bill also authorizes a law enforcement officer (unless the officer is dispatched as an EMS provider) who has completed an approved course to provide emergency medical care within the scope of that training without a license or certificate issued by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012, except for the requirement to adopt regulations, which takes effect July 1, 2011.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill's requirements can be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** MIEMSS has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small businesses (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

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## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** In addition to altering the nomenclature for EMS providers' licensure and certification levels, the bill specifies the definitions of "emergency medical responder" and "paramedic" and alters the definition of "EMT." Specifically, "emergency medical responder" means an individual who has (1) completed an emergency medical responder course (or its equivalent) approved by the EMS Board; (2) demonstrated competence in medical protocols as determined by the board; (3) been examined by the board or by a basic life support education program approved by the board; and (4) been certified as an emergency medical responder by the board. "Paramedic" means an individual who has (1) completed a paramedic course approved by the board; (2) been examined and registered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, Inc. as a paramedic; (3) demonstrated competence in medical protocols within the State; and (4) been licensed as a paramedic by the EMS Board. To the requirement that an EMT be examined by the board, the bill adds that an EMT may alternatively be examined and registered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, Inc. as an EMT.

Uncodified language specifies that an emergency medical services provider who is licensed or certified by the EMS Board prior to July 1, 2012, must be deemed licensed or certified until the expiration of the license or certification.

The EMS Board must adopt regulations to carry out the bill's provisions by July 1, 2012.

**Current Law/Background:** An EMS provider is an individual licensed or certified by the EMS Board as a cardiac rescue technician, an emergency medical dispatcher, an EMT-basic, an EMT-paramedic, or a first responder. An EMS provider supplies medical services prior to hospital services in order to prevent imminent death or aggravation of illness or injury, transport from the scene of a medical emergency to a hospital or appropriate facility, and interfacility critical care. The EMS Board, which governs MIEMSS, is responsible for approving EMS provider training courses and examining and certifying EMS personnel.

MIEMSS advises that the bill's provisions align Maryland's nomenclature with that of other states and the National Registry for Emergency Medical Technicians, which is used for the testing and registration of EMS providers in Maryland.

In addition, MIEMSS advises that it has, in collaboration with the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission, already developed a course to provide the specific

medical emergency training needed by law enforcement officers – who may arrive at the scene of a medical emergency prior to the arrival of EMS providers – to provide potentially life-saving emergency care in a hostile environment.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City; Kent, Montgomery, and Worcester counties; Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Department of General Services; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; University System of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2011  
mc/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - March 23, 2011

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Emergency Medical Services Board – Emergency Medical Services Providers

BILL NUMBER: HB 215

PREPARED BY: Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.