

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1438 (Delegates Johnson and Lisanti)
Health and Government Operations

**State Emergency Medical Services Board - Park Services Associates -
Certification as Emergency Medical Responders**

This emergency bill requires the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board to issue a temporary certification as an emergency medical responder (EMR) to each park services associate (PSA) in the Maryland Park Service within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who submits proof of completing specified training or education requirements. Temporary certification expires on December 31, 2024. The bill also establishes a procedure for PSAs to obtain permanent certification after the temporary certification expires, including responsibilities for the EMS Board to review records and offer an examination. DNR may not charge a fee or require the passage of an examination for the temporary certification of a PSA as an EMR, nor may the EMS Board charge a licensing, certifying, or testing fee for permanent certification for PSAs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services (MIEMSS) can implement the bill using existing budgeted resources, as discussed below. Any reduction in revenues from the prohibition on fees is minimal and absorbable.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: After temporary certification expires, a PSA must apply for certification through the existing process. By July 1, 2023, the EMS Board must review the training

records for all PSAs to identify individuals whose training meets the requirements for permanent certification as an EMR. By July 1, 2024, the EMS Board must offer, at least twice, to each identified individual (1) the examination for certification as an EMR and (2) information regarding any other requirements the individual is required to meet to become a certified EMR.

The EMS Board must credit any training and education completed as a PSA toward any requirement for certification as an EMR if the board determines the training is substantially equivalent and not otherwise contrary to any other licensing requirement. The EMS Board is prohibited from charging a licensing, certifying, testing, or retesting fee for certification as an EMR to an individual who is a PSA at the date of application.

Current Law: “Emergency medical responder” means an individual who has (1) completed an EMR course approved by the EMS Board or its equivalent; (2) demonstrated competence in medical protocols as determined by the EMS Board; (3) been examined by the EMS Board or by a basic life support education program approved by the board; and (4) been certified as an EMR by the EMS Board.

With specified exceptions, an individual may not provide EMS in the State unless issued a license or certificate by the EMS Board. A law enforcement officer may provide EMS without a license or certificate from the board, if the officer:

- has successfully completed a course in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation/automated external defibrillator that is approved by specified organizations and meets specified standards or is approved for law enforcement officers by the EMS Board;
- provides services within the scope of that training; and
- is not dispatched as an EMS provider.

In the [2021 report](#) of the State Park Investment Commission, the commission recommended that park rangers be designated as first responders and that park rangers and PSAs be afforded the same benefits afforded to all other first responders, including emergency response pay, preferential income tax deductions, and legal presumptions for occupational disease.

State Fiscal Effect: Under the bill, MIEMSS, which administers the EMS Board, must (1) issue temporary certifications to PSAs; (2) review the training records for all PSAs to identify those eligible for permanent certification; and (3) offer each eligible individual the State EMR certification examination and information regarding any other requirements the individual is required to meet to become a certified EMR. MIEMSS advises that it can complete these requirements using existing budgeted resources. As the bill prohibits the EMS Board from charging a fee, MIEMSS revenues decrease minimally in fiscal 2024 and

2025, when eligible PSAs seek permanent certification as EMRs. Any such decrease is anticipated to be minimal and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 515 (Senator Young) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

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