



State of Maryland

**Maryland
Institute for
Emergency Medical
Services Systems**

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February 14, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chairman
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 515 – State Emergency Medical Services Board – Park Service Associates –
Certification as Emergency Medical Responders – Letter of Information

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

On behalf of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) and the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board, I am writing to provide information the Committee may find helpful as it considers SB 515.

As you know, MIEMSS is an independent State agency responsible for coordinating Maryland's statewide EMS System. MIEMSS is governed by an 11-member State EMS Board appointed by the Governor. Among other things, the EMS Board is responsible for licensing and certification of all EMS personnel, including Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) and approval of EMS educational programs. See §§13-516 Education Art., MD Code Ann.

MIEMSS only recently became aware of the issues SB 515 seeks to address. Over the past few weeks, we have been working closely with Department of Natural Resources personnel to develop and implement the programs needed so Park Rangers with the Maryland Park Service may serve as MIEMSS-certified Emergency Medical Responders in State parks throughout Maryland.

We are happy to report on our efforts on the following three areas.

1. We are working with DNR to help develop a "Maryland Park Service Jurisdictional EMS Operational Program" that will provide the framework for the EMRs to render care as part of the EMS system within in the Park Service. This framework is identical to that used in the other 32 Jurisdictional EMS Operational Programs in the State, e.g., Prince George's Fire/EMS Department, and will put the Maryland Park Service Program on the same footing and in the same status as these other programs within the state. Once developed and implemented, the Maryland Park Service will contain all the necessary system elements to ensure that an individual who suffers from illness or injury in a Maryland State Park receives appropriate care rendered by Maryland Park Service personnel until, if needed, additional local assistance arrives. Essential elements include a Program Medical Director, a Quality Assurance Program, and submission of EMS patient care reports for those treated.

2. We are also working expeditiously to help DNR complete the final steps toward obtaining approval as an EMS Educational Program. Once that process is completed, DNR will be able to provide EMR educational courses to its own personnel, which are tailored to departmental and personnel needs with minimized training costs. DNR had started this process some time ago, but the COVID-19 pandemic intervened to slow progress. DNR has now submitted the needed materials for MIEMSS to review and approve its educational program, and that is underway.
3. We are working with DNR to determine which of its personnel are currently certified by MIEMSS as EMRs or as another level of EMS clinician. Once this determination has been made, we will be able to identify what is needed in terms of training and testing in order for Maryland State certification of additional personnel as Maryland EMRs. Importantly, MIEMSS does not charge a fee for certification of public safety personnel, such as the Park Service EMRs.

Consistent with MIEMSS' mission to coordinate the statewide EMS system, we believe that visitors to Maryland's parks should have access to appropriate and timely emergency care should the need arise. In some cases, predictably, time is of the essence. Park Service personnel are in the best position to initiate needed care until local EMS system reinforcements can arrive. It is our pleasure to work with our DNR colleagues, and recent close collaboration has been very productive. We anticipate completing development of these three initiatives and forwarding them to the EMS Board for approval within the next two to three months, in time for summer park-going season.

I hope you find this information helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I may provide any further information.

Sincerely,



Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Ronald N. Young
Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
Clay Stamp, Chair, State EMS Board