

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025**

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**HOUSE BILL 675**

Short Title: EMT Personnel Credentialing Modifications. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representative Pless.

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

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Referred to: Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery, if favorable, Regulatory Reform, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

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April 3, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
TECHNICIANS EXAMINATION FOR CREDENTIALING AS VARIOUS EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 131E-155 reads as rewritten:

"§ 131E-155. **Definitions.**

As used in this Article, unless otherwise specified:

...

(17) "Practical examination" means a test that complies with National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians examination standards where an applicant for credentialing as an emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder, advanced emergency medical technician, or paramedic demonstrates the ability to perform specified emergency medical care skills."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 131E-159 reads as rewritten:

"§ 131E-159. **Credentialing requirements.**

(a) Individuals seeking credentials as an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic, emergency medical responder, emergency medical dispatcher, or emergency medical services instructor shall apply to the Department using forms prescribed by that agency. The Department's representatives shall examine the applicant by either written, practical, or written and practical examination. The Department shall issue appropriate credentials to the applicant who meets all the requirements set forth in this Article and the rules adopted for this Article and who successfully completes the examinations required for credentialing. Emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder, emergency medical dispatcher, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic, and emergency medical services instructor credentials shall be valid for a period not to exceed four years and may be renewed if the holder meets the requirements set forth in the rules of the Commission. The Department is authorized to revoke or suspend these credentials at any time it determines that the holder no longer meets the qualifications prescribed.

(b) ~~The Subject to subsections (c1) and (d1) of this section, the~~ Commission shall adopt rules setting forth the qualifications required for credentialing of emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, and emergency medical services instructors.



1        (b1) Beginning January 1, 2026, a person seeking credentialing or renewal of credentialing  
2 under subsection (b) of this section shall only qualify for credentials under this section if the  
3 person passes the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians examination for the level  
4 of certification desired. Any other examination shall not be recognized by the Commission.  
5 Persons that possess a State credential or other accepted credential that is not from the National  
6 Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians for their respective certification prior to January 1,  
7 2026, shall be certified under the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians by  
8 January 1, 2030.

9        (c) Individuals currently credentialed as an emergency medical technician, advanced  
10 emergency medical technician, paramedic, emergency medical responder, and emergency  
11 medical services instructor by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians or by  
12 another state where the education/credentialing requirements have been approved for legal  
13 recognition by the Department of Health and Human Services, in accordance with rules  
14 promulgated by the Medical Care Commission, and who is either currently residing in North  
15 Carolina or affiliated with a permitted EMS provider offering service within North Carolina, may  
16 be eligible for credentialing as an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical  
17 technician, paramedic, emergency medical responder, and emergency medical services instructor  
18 without examination. This credentialing shall be valid for a period not to exceed the length of the  
19 applicant's original credentialing or four years, whichever is less.

20        (c1) A person seeking credentialing under subsection (b) of this section is required to pass  
21 the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians examination for the level of  
22 certification desired and undergo a criminal history background check in accordance with  
23 subsection (g) of this section. The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians  
24 examination requirements shall include all sections of the examination as appropriate for each  
25 level, including (i) didactic, practical, and clinical requirements, (ii) cognitive and psychomotor  
26 skills examinations, and (iii) the receipt of the National Registry of Emergency Medical  
27 Technicians certification.

28        (d) An individual currently credentialed as an emergency medical dispatcher by a  
29 national credentialing agency, or by another state where the education/credentialing requirements  
30 have been approved for legal recognition by the Department of Health and Human Services, in  
31 accordance with rules issued by the Medical Care Commission, and who is either currently  
32 residing in North Carolina or affiliated with an emergency medical dispatcher program approved  
33 by the Department of Health and Human Services offering service within North Carolina, may  
34 be eligible for credentialing as an emergency medical dispatcher without ~~examination. This~~  
35 ~~credentialing shall be valid for a period not to exceed the length of the applicant's original~~  
36 ~~credentialing or four years, whichever is less.~~ examination for up to one year. If a person is  
37 seeking credentialing in this State and holds a state-level certificate as an emergency medical  
38 technician, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic, emergency medical responder,  
39 emergency medical dispatcher, or emergency medical services instructor in another state, the  
40 person must obtain a credential from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians  
41 within one year of the issuance of their credentialing in this State. After one year, the person  
42 cannot continue to be credentialed until passage of the National Registry of Emergency Medical  
43 Technicians examination for the level of certification desired.

44        (d1) Any person seeking credentialing as a specialty certification, including a flight  
45 paramedic, critical care paramedic, community paramedic, tactical paramedic, wilderness  
46 paramedic, designated infection control officer, or a medical transportation safety professional,  
47 shall pass the appropriate examination from the International Board of Specialty Certification.

48        (e) Duly authorized representatives of the Department may issue temporary credentials  
49 with or without examination upon finding that this action will be in the public interest. Temporary  
50 credentials shall be valid for a period not exceeding 90 days.

1 (f) The Department may deny, suspend, amend, or revoke the credentials of an  
2 emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical  
3 technician, paramedic, emergency medical dispatcher, or emergency medical services instructor  
4 in any case in which the Department finds that there has been a substantial failure to comply with  
5 the provisions of this Article or the rules issued under this Article. Prior to implementation of  
6 any of the above disciplinary actions, the Department shall consider the recommendations of the  
7 EMS Disciplinary Committee pursuant to G.S. 143-519. The Department's decision to deny,  
8 suspend, amend, or revoke credentials may be appealed by the applicant or credentialed  
9 personnel pursuant to the provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes, the  
10 Administrative Procedure Act.

11 (g) An individual who applies for EMS credentials, seeks to renew EMS credentials, or  
12 holds EMS credentials is subject to a criminal background review by the Department. At the  
13 request of the Department, the Emergency Medical Services Disciplinary Committee, established  
14 by G.S. 143-519, shall review criminal background information and make a recommendation  
15 regarding the eligibility of an individual to obtain initial EMS credentials, renew EMS  
16 credentials, or maintain EMS credentials. The Department and the Emergency Medical Services  
17 Disciplinary Committee shall keep all information obtained pursuant to this subsection  
18 confidential. The Medical Care Commission shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this  
19 subsection, including rules to establish a reasonable fee to offset the actual costs of criminal  
20 history information obtained pursuant to G.S. 143B-1209.33.

21 (g1) A person who is credentialed under this Article shall be required to keep on their  
22 person a certification card that is up to date. In the event of a person losing their certification  
23 card, the person shall order a duplicate. The Commission shall publish on their website a method  
24 for contact to assist persons in ordering a replacement card.

25 (h) A person who is required to register as a sex offender under Article 27A of Chapter  
26 14 of the General Statutes, or who was convicted of an offense which would have required  
27 registration if committed at a time when such registration would have been required by law, shall  
28 not be granted EMS credentials. The Department shall not renew the credentials of any person  
29 who would be ineligible for EMS credentials under this subsection."

30 **SECTION 3.** The Medical Care Commission shall adopt temporary rules to  
31 implement the provisions of this act. The temporary rules adopted shall remain in effect until  
32 permanent rules are adopted to replace the temporary rules.

33 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2026.