

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems
5 Act is amended by adding Section 3.89 as follows:

6 (210 ILCS 50/3.89 new)

7 Sec. 3.89. Rural populations; credential exception.

8 (a) In a rural population of 5,000 or fewer inhabitants,
9 each EMS System Medical Director may create an exception to
10 the credentialing process to allow registered nurses,
11 physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses
12 to apply to serve as volunteers who perform the same work as
13 EMTs. As part of the volunteer recognition process, EMS
14 Systems shall ensure that registered nurses, physician
15 assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses have an
16 active license issued by the Department of Financial and
17 Professional Regulation. This system-level recognition shall
18 require documentation and proof of the completion of at least
19 20 hours of prehospital care-specific coursework approved by
20 the Department of Public Health, including, but not limited
21 to, airway management, ambulance operation, ambulance
22 equipment, extrication, telecommunication, prehospital
23 cardiac and trauma care, and 8 hours of observant riding time.

1 Each EMS System Medical Director who creates an exception to
2 the credentialing process under this Section may require
3 additional training or documentation and may reject a
4 volunteer applicant under this Section for just cause. Each
5 exemption period shall be no longer than one year, after which
6 time a volunteer applicant may apply for another exemption
7 under this Section. Each EMS System Medical Director is
8 responsible for ensuring that volunteer applicants meet EMS
9 System requirements for credentialing and authorizing the
10 practice in accordance with the EMS System plan for basic life
11 support. Exceptions to the credentialing process under this
12 Section are only allowable for volunteer EMS agencies in
13 Illinois.

14 (b) The Department of Public Health may adopt rules to
15 implement this Section.