



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5793

Introduced 3/27/2024, by Rep. Norine K. Hammond

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

210 ILCS 50/3.50

Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Provides that as soon as practicable after the effective date of the amendatory Act, the Department of Public Health shall adopt rules or amendments to its existing emergency medical responder licensing rules to authorize the electronic submission of licensure application documents to the Department for an EMR candidate who (i) is at least 18 years of age; (ii) has completed and passed all components of the education program required under the Act; (iii) has passed the National Registry Emergency Medical Technician EMR examination; and (iv) paid the appropriate initial licensure fee, unless the fee has not been waived under a specified administrative rule.

LRB103 39974 CES 71171 b

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 changing Section 3.50 as follows:

6 (210 ILCS 50/3.50)

7 Sec. 3.50. Emergency Medical Services personnel licensure  
8 levels.

9 (a) "Emergency Medical Technician" or "EMT" means a person  
10 who has successfully completed a course in basic life support  
11 as approved by the Department, is currently licensed by the  
12 Department in accordance with standards prescribed by this Act  
13 and rules adopted by the Department pursuant to this Act, and  
14 practices within an EMS System. A valid Emergency Medical  
15 Technician-Basic (EMT-B) license issued under this Act shall  
16 continue to be valid and shall be recognized as an Emergency  
17 Medical Technician (EMT) license until the Emergency Medical  
18 Technician-Basic (EMT-B) license expires.

19 (b) "Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate" or "EMT-I"  
20 means a person who has successfully completed a course in  
21 intermediate life support as approved by the Department, is  
22 currently licensed by the Department in accordance with  
23 standards prescribed by this Act and rules adopted by the

1 Department pursuant to this Act, and practices within an  
2 Intermediate or Advanced Life Support EMS System.

3 (b-5) "Advanced Emergency Medical Technician" or "A-EMT"  
4 means a person who has successfully completed a course in  
5 basic and limited advanced emergency medical care as approved  
6 by the Department, is currently licensed by the Department in  
7 accordance with standards prescribed by this Act and rules  
8 adopted by the Department pursuant to this Act, and practices  
9 within an Intermediate or Advanced Life Support EMS System.

10 (c) "Paramedic (EMT-P)" means a person who has  
11 successfully completed a course in advanced life support care  
12 as approved by the Department, is licensed by the Department  
13 in accordance with standards prescribed by this Act and rules  
14 adopted by the Department pursuant to this Act, and practices  
15 within an Advanced Life Support EMS System. A valid Emergency  
16 Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) license issued under this  
17 Act shall continue to be valid and shall be recognized as a  
18 Paramedic license until the Emergency Medical  
19 Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) license expires.

20 (c-5) "Emergency Medical Responder" or "EMR (First  
21 Responder)" means a person who has successfully completed a  
22 course in emergency medical response as approved by the  
23 Department and provides emergency medical response services in  
24 accordance with the level of care established by the National  
25 EMS Educational Standards Emergency Medical Responder course  
26 as modified by the Department, or who provides services as

1 part of an EMS System response plan, as approved by the  
2 Department, of that EMS System. The Department shall have the  
3 authority to adopt rules governing the curriculum, practice,  
4 and necessary equipment applicable to Emergency Medical  
5 Responders.

6 On August 15, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act  
7 98-973), a person who is licensed by the Department as a First  
8 Responder and has completed a Department-approved course in  
9 first responder defibrillator training based on, or equivalent  
10 to, the National EMS Educational Standards or other standards  
11 previously recognized by the Department shall be eligible for  
12 licensure as an Emergency Medical Responder upon meeting the  
13 licensure requirements and submitting an application to the  
14 Department. A valid First Responder license issued under this  
15 Act shall continue to be valid and shall be recognized as an  
16 Emergency Medical Responder license until the First Responder  
17 license expires.

18 (c-10) All EMS Systems and licensees shall be fully  
19 compliant with the National EMS Education Standards, as  
20 modified by the Department in administrative rules, within 24  
21 months after the adoption of the administrative rules.

22 (d) The Department shall have the authority and  
23 responsibility to:

- 24 (1) Prescribe education and training requirements,  
25 which includes training in the use of epinephrine, for all  
26 levels of EMS personnel except for EMRs, based on the

1 National EMS Educational Standards and any modifications  
2 to those curricula specified by the Department through  
3 rules adopted pursuant to this Act.

4 (2) Prescribe licensure testing requirements for all  
5 levels of EMS personnel, which shall include a requirement  
6 that all phases of instruction, training, and field  
7 experience be completed before taking the appropriate  
8 licensure examination. Candidates may elect to take the  
9 appropriate National Registry examination in lieu of the  
10 Department's examination, but are responsible for making  
11 their own arrangements for taking the National Registry  
12 examination. In prescribing licensure testing requirements  
13 for honorably discharged members of the armed forces of  
14 the United States under this paragraph (2), the Department  
15 shall ensure that a candidate's military emergency medical  
16 training, emergency medical curriculum completed, and  
17 clinical experience, as described in paragraph (2.5), are  
18 recognized.

19 (2.5) Review applications for EMS personnel licensure  
20 from honorably discharged members of the armed forces of  
21 the United States with military emergency medical  
22 training. Applications shall be filed with the Department  
23 within one year after military discharge and shall  
24 contain: (i) proof of successful completion of military  
25 emergency medical training; (ii) a detailed description of  
26 the emergency medical curriculum completed; and (iii) a

1 detailed description of the applicant's clinical  
2 experience. The Department may request additional and  
3 clarifying information. The Department shall evaluate the  
4 application, including the applicant's training and  
5 experience, consistent with the standards set forth under  
6 subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of Section 3.10. If the  
7 application clearly demonstrates that the training and  
8 experience meet such standards, the Department shall offer  
9 the applicant the opportunity to successfully complete a  
10 Department-approved EMS personnel examination for the  
11 level of license for which the applicant is qualified.  
12 Upon passage of an examination, the Department shall issue  
13 a license, which shall be subject to all provisions of  
14 this Act that are otherwise applicable to the level of EMS  
15 personnel license issued.

16 (3) License individuals as an EMR, EMT, EMT-I, A-EMT,  
17 or Paramedic who have met the Department's education,  
18 training and examination requirements.

19 As soon as practicable after the effective date of  
20 this amendatory Act of the 103rd General Assembly, the  
21 Department shall adopt rules or amendments to its existing  
22 emergency medical responder licensing rules to authorize  
23 the electronic submission of licensure application  
24 documents to the Department for an EMR candidate who:

25 (i) is at least 18 years of age;

26 (ii) has completed and passed all components of

1           the EMR education program required under this Act and  
2           the Department's rules;

3           (iii) has passed the National Registry Emergency  
4           Medical Technician EMR examination; and

5           (iv) has paid the appropriate initial licensure  
6           fee, unless the fee has not been waived under 77 Ill.  
7           Adm. Code 515.260(b).

8           (4) Prescribe annual continuing education and  
9           relicensure requirements for all EMS personnel licensure  
10          levels.

11          (5) Relicense individuals as an EMD, EMR, EMT, EMT-I,  
12          A-EMT, PHRN, PHAPRN, PHPA, or Paramedic every 4 years,  
13          based on their compliance with continuing education and  
14          relicensure requirements as required by the Department  
15          pursuant to this Act. Every 4 years, a Paramedic shall  
16          have 100 hours of approved continuing education, an EMT-I  
17          and an advanced EMT shall have 80 hours of approved  
18          continuing education, and an EMT shall have 60 hours of  
19          approved continuing education. An Illinois licensed EMR,  
20          EMD, EMT, EMT-I, A-EMT, Paramedic, ECRN, PHPA, PHAPRN, or  
21          PHRN whose license has been expired for less than 36  
22          months may apply for reinstatement by the Department.  
23          Reinstatement shall require that the applicant (i) submit  
24          satisfactory proof of completion of continuing medical  
25          education and clinical requirements to be prescribed by  
26          the Department in an administrative rule; (ii) submit a

1 positive recommendation from an Illinois EMS Medical  
2 Director attesting to the applicant's qualifications for  
3 retesting; and (iii) pass a Department approved test for  
4 the level of EMS personnel license sought to be  
5 reinstated.

6 (6) Grant inactive status to any EMR, EMD, EMT, EMT-I,  
7 A-EMT, Paramedic, ECRN, PHAPRN, PHPA, or PHRN who  
8 qualifies, based on standards and procedures established  
9 by the Department in rules adopted pursuant to this Act.

10 (7) Charge a fee for EMS personnel examination,  
11 licensure, and license renewal.

12 (8) Suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew the  
13 license of any licensee, after an opportunity for an  
14 impartial hearing before a neutral administrative law  
15 judge appointed by the Director, where the preponderance  
16 of the evidence shows one or more of the following:

17 (A) The licensee has not met continuing education  
18 or relicensure requirements as prescribed by the  
19 Department;

20 (B) The licensee has failed to maintain  
21 proficiency in the level of skills for which he or she  
22 is licensed;

23 (C) The licensee, during the provision of medical  
24 services, engaged in dishonorable, unethical, or  
25 unprofessional conduct of a character likely to  
26 deceive, defraud, or harm the public;



1           (D) The licensee has failed to maintain or has  
2 violated standards of performance and conduct as  
3 prescribed by the Department in rules adopted pursuant  
4 to this Act or his or her EMS System's Program Plan;

5           (E) The licensee is physically impaired to the  
6 extent that he or she cannot physically perform the  
7 skills and functions for which he or she is licensed,  
8 as verified by a physician, unless the person is on  
9 inactive status pursuant to Department regulations;

10           (F) The licensee is mentally impaired to the  
11 extent that he or she cannot exercise the appropriate  
12 judgment, skill and safety for performing the  
13 functions for which he or she is licensed, as verified  
14 by a physician, unless the person is on inactive  
15 status pursuant to Department regulations;

16           (G) The licensee has violated this Act or any rule  
17 adopted by the Department pursuant to this Act; or

18           (H) The licensee has been convicted (or entered a  
19 plea of guilty or nolo contendere) by a court of  
20 competent jurisdiction of a Class X, Class 1, or Class  
21 2 felony in this State or an out-of-state equivalent  
22 offense.

23           (9) Prescribe education and training requirements in  
24 the administration and use of opioid antagonists for all  
25 levels of EMS personnel based on the National EMS  
26 Educational Standards and any modifications to those

1           curricula specified by the Department through rules  
2           adopted pursuant to this Act.

3           (d-5) An EMR, EMD, EMT, EMT-I, A-EMT, Paramedic, ECRN,  
4           PHAPRN, PHPA, or PHRN who is a member of the Illinois National  
5           Guard or an Illinois State Trooper or who exclusively serves  
6           as a volunteer for units of local government with a population  
7           base of less than 5,000 or as a volunteer for a not-for-profit  
8           organization that serves a service area with a population base  
9           of less than 5,000 may submit an application to the Department  
10          for a waiver of the fees described under paragraph (7) of  
11          subsection (d) of this Section on a form prescribed by the  
12          Department.

13          The education requirements prescribed by the Department  
14          under this Section must allow for the suspension of those  
15          requirements in the case of a member of the armed services or  
16          reserve forces of the United States or a member of the Illinois  
17          National Guard who is on active duty pursuant to an executive  
18          order of the President of the United States, an act of the  
19          Congress of the United States, or an order of the Governor at  
20          the time that the member would otherwise be required to  
21          fulfill a particular education requirement. Such a person must  
22          fulfill the education requirement within 6 months after his or  
23          her release from active duty.

24          (e) In the event that any rule of the Department or an EMS  
25          Medical Director that requires testing for drug use as a  
26          condition of the applicable EMS personnel license conflicts

1 with or duplicates a provision of a collective bargaining  
2 agreement that requires testing for drug use, that rule shall  
3 not apply to any person covered by the collective bargaining  
4 agreement.

5 (f) At the time of applying for or renewing his or her  
6 license, an applicant for a license or license renewal may  
7 submit an email address to the Department. The Department  
8 shall keep the email address on file as a form of contact for  
9 the individual. The Department shall send license renewal  
10 notices electronically and by mail to a licensee who provides  
11 the Department with his or her email address. The notices  
12 shall be sent at least 60 days prior to the expiration date of  
13 the license.

14 (Source: P.A. 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-153, eff. 1-1-20;  
15 102-558, eff. 8-20-21; 102-623, eff. 8-27-21.)