
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that requiring first
2 responders to obtain commercial driver's licenses to operate
3 authorized commercial vehicles used for emergency response is
4 not in the best interest of public safety because first
5 responders receive training provided by federal, state, and
6 county government agencies that would satisfy this requirement.
7 Imposing this requirement would only serve to create an
8 administrative hurdle for first responders and hinder the
9 performance of their vital public safety functions.

10 The legislature additionally finds that although emergency
11 medical services personnel, who may be assigned to operate
12 vehicles that are classified as commercial motor vehicles were
13 performing essential public safety functions, receive the same
14 levels of rigorous training as others authorized to operate
15 commercial vehicles, they are still required to obtain
16 commercial driver's licenses, which slows down hiring, raises



1 costs, and creates administrative hurdles for emergency medical
2 services departments across the State.

3 The legislature further finds that exempting qualified
4 emergency medical services personnel from commercial driver's
5 license requirements may help to alleviate barriers to
6 recruitment and retention and streamline essential functions,
7 while maintaining public safety standards.

8 The legislature also finds that the current definition for
9 "authorized emergency vehicle" in existing law is insufficient,
10 in that it does not include alternative emergency service
11 vehicles utilized by emergency medical services departments in
12 the State.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 14 (1) Exempt emergency medical services personnel from
15 commercial driver's license requirements, similar to
16 other licensed first responders operating in the
17 State; and
- 18 (2) Amend the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle"
19 under the statewide traffic code to clarify that
20 additional emergency services vehicles beyond
21 ambulances are included in the definition.



1 SECTION 2. Section 286-235.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "**§286-235.5 Persons exempt from licensure.** The following
4 persons shall be exempt from licensure under this part:

- 5 (1) Individuals who operate commercial motor vehicles for
6 military purposes. This exception [~~is~~] shall be
7 limited to active-duty military personnel, members of
8 the military reserves, members of the national guard
9 on active duty, including personnel on full-time
10 national guard duty, personnel on part-time national
11 guard training, and national guard military
12 technicians (civilians who are required to wear
13 military uniforms), and active-duty United States
14 Coast Guard personnel. This exception [~~is~~] shall not
15 be applicable to United States reserve technicians;
16 and
- 17 (2) Federal, state, and county firefighters, emergency
18 medical services personnel, and law enforcement
19 officers who [~~drive~~] operate federal, state, or county
20 fire trucks, including fire pumpers, aerial ladder
21 trucks, and elevated platform trucks, or authorized



1 disaster response and recovery vehicles and emergency
2 vehicles; provided that [~~they~~] the individuals are
3 trained by the federal, state, or county government
4 and the commercial motor vehicles are equipped with
5 audible and visual signals and are not subject to
6 normal traffic regulation[~~-~~]; provided further that
7 federal, state, and county firefighters, emergency
8 medical services personnel, and law enforcement
9 officers shall maintain proof of successful completion
10 of agency-approved or other state-approved training on
11 authorized emergency vehicles. For purposes of this
12 paragraph, "authorized emergency vehicle" [~~shall have~~]
13 has the same meaning as in section 291C-1."

14 SECTION 3. Section 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending the definition of "authorized emergency
16 vehicle" to read as follows:

17 ""Authorized emergency vehicle" includes fire department
18 vehicles, [~~police vehicles, ambulances,~~] emergency medical
19 services vehicles, disaster response and recovery vehicles,
20 ocean safety vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, conservation
21 and resources enforcement vehicles, [~~and~~] office of the state



1 fire marshal vehicles [~~authorized and approved pursuant to~~
2 ~~section 291-31.5~~], and department of health vehicles that are
3 publicly owned and other publicly or privately owned vehicles
4 designated as [~~such by a~~] an authorized emergency vehicle by the
5 State, appropriate county council, or emergency management
6 agency."

7 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

City and County of Honolulu Mayor's Package; DOH; Commercial Driver's License Exemption; Emergency Medical Services Personnel; Authorized Emergency Vehicle

Description:

Exempts emergency medical services personnel from commercial driver's license requirements. Requires federal, state, and county firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and law enforcement officers to maintain proof of successful completion of agency-approved or other state-approved training on authorized emergency vehicles. Amends the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle" under the State Traffic Code to replace ambulances with emergency medical services vehicles. Expands the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle" to include disaster response and recovery vehicles and Department of Health vehicles. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

