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

10 The legislature finds that although emergency medical
11 service personnel, who may be assigned to operate vehicles which
12 are classified as commercial motor vehicles in the performance
13 of essential public safety functions, receive the same levels of
14 rigorous training, they are still required to obtain commercial
15 driver's licenses, which slows down hiring, raises costs, and
16 creates administrative hurdles for emergency medical services
17 departments across the State.



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

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

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12 (1) Exempt emergency medical services personnel from
13 commercial driver's license requirements, similar to
14 other licensed first responders operating in the
15 State; and
- 16 (2) Amend the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle"
17 in section 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to clarify
18 that all vehicles operated by licensed emergency
19 services personnel, not just ambulances, are included
20 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 limited to
7 active-duty military personnel, members of the
8 military reserves, members of the national guard on
9 active duty, including personnel on full-time national
10 guard duty, personnel on part-time national guard
11 training, and national guard military technicians
12 (civilians who are required to wear military
13 uniforms), and active-duty United States Coast Guard
14 personnel. This exception is not applicable to United
15 States reserve technicians; and

16 (2) Federal, state, and county firefighters, emergency
17 medical services personnel, and law enforcement
18 officers who drive federal, state, or county fire
19 trucks, including fire pumpers, aerial ladder trucks,
20 and elevated platform trucks, or authorized disaster
21 response and recovery vehicles and emergency vehicles;



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

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

15 ""Authorized emergency vehicle" includes fire department
16 vehicles, police vehicles, [~~ambulances,~~] emergency medical
17 services vehicles, disaster response and recovery vehicles,
18 ocean safety vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, conservation
19 and resources enforcement vehicles, [~~and~~] office of the state
20 fire marshal vehicles, and department of health vehicles
21 authorized and approved pursuant to section 291-31.5 that are



1 publicly owned and other publicly or privately owned vehicles
2 designated as ~~[such by a]~~ an authorized emergency vehicle by the
3 State, appropriate county council, or emergency management
4 agency."

5 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

8



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 that they have successfully completed an agency approved or other state approved training on authorized emergency vehicles. Amends the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle" under 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. (SD1)

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

