

ACT 65

S.B. NO. 2017

A Bill for an Act Relating to Emergency Medical Services.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Act 119, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 (Act 119), created an additional category for “emergency medical technician 1”, which is an individual who is certified at a higher practice level than emergency medical responders, but does not provide ambulance services. Act 119 required the Hawaii medical board to establish a pilot program to issue licenses to individuals qualified in emergency medical services upon application therefor; provided the applicant meets various levels of education and training based on national standards and qualifications. Act 119 also established license renewal criteria as set forth by the Hawaii medical board. The purpose of Act 119 was to align the State with national trends and mitigate the unintended consequences associated with the deregulation of the State’s emergency medical services system by including emergency medical technicians who do not work on an ambulance, but provide life-saving care. However, Act 119 was limited to those counties having a population of greater than five hundred thousand, thereby excluding emergency medical technicians, such as firefighters and lifeguards, for the counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to repeal existing law that limits licensure as an emergency medical technician 1 to individuals whose practice is performed in a county with a population of five hundred thousand or greater.

SECTION 2. Section 453-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“[§453-34] Licensure consistent with levels of practice; licensure of emergency medical technician 1. (a) The Hawaii medical board shall issue licenses upon application therefor, consistent with the following levels of practice:

- (1) Emergency medical technician 1;
- (2) Emergency medical technician;
- (3) Advanced emergency medical technician; or
- (4) Mobile intensive care technician or paramedic.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2022, the Hawaii medical board shall accept applications for licensure as an emergency medical technician 1; provided that the applicant shall:

- (1) Demonstrate successful completion of a Hawaii medical board-approved emergency medical technician course that meets or exceeds

the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards for Emergency Medical Technicians;

- (2) Provide a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification;
 - (3) Demonstrate proficiency in basic life support for health care providers;
 - (4) Demonstrate successful completion of the National Registry of Emergency Medical ~~[[Technicians]]~~ emergency medical technician cognitive examination and National Registry of Emergency Medical ~~[[Technicians]]~~ psychomotor examination;
 - (5) Pay any fees assessed in amounts equivalent to fees paid by emergency medical technicians pursuant to section 16-53-21.5, Hawaii Administrative Rules; and
 - (6) Meet any other requirements determined by the Hawaii medical board.
- (c) Any emergency medical technician 1 licensed under this part shall document care in a pre-hospital emergency medical records system compatible with the emergency medical services system's pre-hospital medical records system. Emergency medical technicians 1 shall:
- (1) Practice under a physician or osteopathic physician licensed pursuant to this chapter; and
 - (2) Restrict their scope of practice to the performance of basic emergency medical care of patients.
- ~~[(d) Licensure under this section is limited to individuals whose practice is performed in a county with a population of 500,000 or greater.]”~~

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 17, 2022.)