

Overview of S.182 As Passed Senate

An act relating to government operations regarding emergency medical services and public safety in response to COVID-19

S.182 As Passed Senate addresses the following topics in response to COVID-19: *emergency medical services, current electrician and plumber license terms, and county funding of sheriff emergency needs.*

Emergency medical services (EMS). Secs. 1-3 eliminate the credentialing requirement for emergency medical personnel; extend ambulance license terms from one to three years; and require the Department of Financial Regulation to enforce the current law requirement for direct health insurer reimbursements to ambulance services.

- Sec. 1 amends the chapter of Title 24 that regulates ambulance licenses.
 - Throughout, references to the credentialing of emergency medical personnel are deleted, in accordance with the elimination of that credentialing requirement in Sec. 2.
 - In 24 V.S.A. § 2683, ambulance license terms are extended from one to three years.
 - In 24 V.S.A. § 2689, the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) is required to enforce the current law requirement that health insurers directly reimburse ambulance services for the emergency medical treatment they provide.
- Sec. 2 requires DFR to report to the Gov Ops and Health Care committees by Jan. 15, 2021 regarding its enforcement of 24 V.S.A. § 2689.
- Sec. 3 amends the chapter of Title 18 that regulates emergency medical services.
 - Throughout, references to the credentialing of emergency medical personnel by their affiliated agency are deleted.
 - Under current law, emergency medical personnel must be licensed, and pursuant to Department of Health rule, a qualification for licensure is certification by a national entity, the NREMT (National Registry of Emergency Management Technicians).

- In addition, under current law in 18 V.S.A. § 906(4), emergency medical personnel must be credentialed by their affiliated agency (an ambulance service or first responder service). Credentialing consists of “the minimum and appropriate requirements necessary to ensure that an emergency medical provider can demonstrate the competence and minimum skills necessary to practice within his or her scope of licensure.”
- The bill repeals 18 V.S.A. § 906(4) and deletes all other references to credentialing.
- This section also contains technical corrections.

Current electrician and plumber license terms. Sec. 4 provides that all electrician and plumber licenses that were due to expire between March 30, 2020 and September 30, 2020 shall remain valid and be deemed to expire on September 30, 2020, and waives any associated late fees for renewal that would have applied during that time frame.

County funding of sheriff emergency needs. Sec. 5 allows a county’s reserve funds and capital reserve funds to be used for the emergency needs of the county sheriff subject to the approval of the county assistant judges.

- A sheriff would be required to seek any allowable reimbursement for these expenses and return any reimbursement obtained to the county.
- This authority is scheduled to sunset two weeks after the day the Governor terminates the COVID-19 state of emergency.
- *See also* [this overview](#) of county budgets and sheriff department funding.