

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 182 entitled “An act relating to a plan to elevate the Department of
4 Public Safety to the Agency of Public Safety” respectfully reports that it has
5 considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out
6 all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. chapter 71 is amended to read:

8 CHAPTER 71. AMBULANCE SERVICES

9 Subchapter 1. Emergency Medical Services Districts

10 * * *

11 § 2657. PURPOSES AND POWERS OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL

12 SERVICES DISTRICTS

13 (a) It shall be the function of each emergency medical services district to
14 foster and coordinate emergency medical services within the district, in the
15 interest of affording adequate ambulance services within the district. Each
16 emergency medical services district shall have powers ~~which~~ that include the
17 power to:

18 * * *

19 (3) enter into agreements and contracts for furnishing technical,
20 educational, and support services ~~and credentialing~~ related to the provision of
21 emergency medical treatment;

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

* * *

(10) assist the Department of Health in a program of testing for licensure of emergency medical services personnel;

~~(11) assure that each affiliated agency in the district has implemented a system for the credentialing of all its licensed emergency medical personnel;~~
~~and [Repealed.]~~

(12) develop protocols for providing appropriate response times to requests for emergency medical services.

* * *

Subchapter 2. Licensing Operation of ~~Ambulance Service~~ Affiliated Agencies

* * *

§ 2682. POWERS OF STATE BOARD

(a) The State Board shall administer this subchapter and shall have power to:

* * *

(3) Make, adopt, amend, and revise, as it deems necessary or expedient, reasonable rules in order to promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of members of the public using, served by, or in need of emergency medical treatment. Any rule may be repealed within 90 days of the date of its adoption by a majority vote of all the district boards. Such rules may cover or relate to:

1 (A) age, training, ~~credentialing~~, and physical requirements for
2 emergency medical services personnel;

3 * * *

4 § 2683. TERM OF LICENSE

5 Full licenses shall be issued on forms to be prescribed by the State Board
6 for a period of ~~one year~~ three years beginning on January 1, or for the balance
7 of any such ~~year~~ three-year period. Temporary, conditional, or provisional
8 licenses may also be issued by the Board.

9 * * *

10 § 2689. REIMBURSEMENT FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

11 (a)(1) When an ambulance service provides emergency medical treatment
12 to a person who is insured by a health insurance policy, plan, or contract that
13 provides benefits for emergency medical treatment, the health insurer shall
14 reimburse the ambulance service directly, subject to the terms and conditions
15 of the health insurance policy, plan, or contract.

16 (2) The Department of Financial Regulation shall enforce the provisions
17 of this subsection.

18 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to interfere with coordination
19 of benefits or to require a health insurer to provide coverage for services not
20 otherwise covered under the insured's policy, plan, or contract.

1 (c) Nothing in this section shall preclude an insurer from negotiating with
2 and subsequently entering into a contract with a nonparticipating ambulance
3 service to establish rates of reimbursement for emergency medical treatment.

4 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION; REPORT ON
5 ENFORCEMENT OF HEALTH INSURER REIMBURSEMENTS
6 TO AMBULANCE SERVICES

7 On or before January 15, 2021, the Department of Financial Regulation
8 shall report to the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on
9 Health and Welfare and the House Committees on Government Operations and
10 on Health Care regarding its enforcement of 24 V.S.A. § 2689(a) (health
11 insurers' direct reimbursement to ambulance services) as set forth in Sec. 1 of
12 this act.

13 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. chapter 17 is amended to read:

14 CHAPTER 17. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
15 § 901. POLICY

16 It is the policy of the State of Vermont that all persons who suffer sudden
17 and unexpected illness or injury should have access to the emergency medical
18 services system in order to prevent loss of life or the aggravation of the illness
19 or injury, and to alleviate suffering.

1 within the scope of practice for such level of licensure as defined by NHTSA's
2 National EMS Scope of Practice Model consistent with the license level of the
3 affiliated agency, and subject to the medical direction of the emergency
4 medical services district medical advisor.

5 * * *

6 (E) An applicant who has served as a hospital corpsman or a medic in
7 the U.S. Armed Forces, or who is licensed as a registered nurse or a physician
8 assistant shall be granted a permanent waiver of the training requirements to
9 become a licensed emergency medical technician, an advanced emergency
10 medical technician, or a paramedic, provided the applicant passes the
11 applicable examination approved by the Commissioner for that level of
12 licensure ~~and further provided that the applicant is credentialed by an affiliated~~
13 ~~agency.~~

14 (F) An applicant who is registered on the National Registry of
15 Emergency Medical Technicians as an emergency medical technician, an
16 advanced emergency medical technician, or a paramedic shall be granted
17 licensure as a Vermont emergency medical technician, an advanced emergency
18 medical technician, or a paramedic without the need for further testing,
19 provided he or she is ~~credentialed by an affiliated agency or is serving as a~~
20 ~~medic with the Vermont National Guard.~~

21 * * *

1 § 909. EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2 (a) The Commissioner shall establish ~~an advisory committee~~ the
3 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee to advise on matters
4 relating to the delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) in Vermont.

5 (b) The ~~Emergency Medical Services Advisory~~ Committee shall include
6 the following members:

7 * * *

8 (e) ~~Beginning~~ Annually, on or before January 1, ~~2019~~, the Committee shall
9 report ~~annually~~ on the ~~emergency medical services~~ EMS system to the House
10 Committees on Government Operations, on Commerce and Economic
11 Development, and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on
12 Government Operations, on Economic Development, Housing and General
13 Affairs, and on Health and Welfare. The Committee's reports shall include
14 information on the following:

15 * * *

16 (5) funding mechanisms and funding gaps for EMS personnel and
17 providers across the State, including for the funding of infrastructure,
18 equipment, and operations and costs associated with initial and continuing
19 training, and licensure, ~~and credentialing~~ of personnel;

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

* * *

(8) how the current system of preparing and licensing EMS personnel could be improved, including the role of Vermont Technical College’s EMS program; whether the State should create an EMS academy; and how such an EMS academy should be structured; and

(9) how EMS instructor training and licensing could be improved; ~~and~~

~~(10) the impact of the State’s credentialing requirements for EMS personnel on EMS providers.~~

Sec. 4. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; ELECTRICIANS’

LICENSING BOARD; PLUMBERS’ EXAMINING BOARD;

TEMPORARY LICENSE EXTENSION AND LATE FEE WAIVER

Notwithstanding the provisions of 26 V.S.A. §§ 908 (electricians) and 2195 (plumbers) regulating the renewal of licenses by the Electricians’ Licensing Board and Plumbers’ Examining Board, 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 any associated late fees for renewal that would have applied during that time frame shall be waived.

1 Sec. 5. COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY; COUNTY RESERVE
2 FUNDS; COUNTY SHERIFFS; FUNDING OF EMERGENCY
3 NEEDS

4 (a) Funding.

5 (1) To support the emergency needs of sheriffs due to the State’s
6 COVID-19 response, a county’s reserve funds described in 24 V.S.A. § 133(e)
7 shall be allowed to be used for the emergency needs of the county sheriff.
8 “Emergency needs” means the needs to respond to COVID-19 and includes
9 hiring deputies, dispatchers, and other personnel and purchasing equipment
10 and supplies.

11 (2) The funding of these emergency needs under this subsection shall be
12 in addition to the support of the sheriff’s department set forth in 24 V.S.A.
13 § 73.

14 (b) Application for reimbursement. Any sheriff who receives county
15 reserve funds for emergency needs under subsection (a) of this section shall
16 apply to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and any other
17 applicable resources for COVID-19 relief known to the sheriff for any
18 allowable reimbursement.

19 (c) Sunset. This section shall be repealed two weeks after the day the
20 Governor terminates the state of emergency for the State of Vermont in
21 response to COVID-19.

1 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on passage.

3 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating
4 to government operations regarding emergency medical services and public
5 safety in response to COVID-19”

6

7

8

9

10

11

12 (Committee vote: _____)

13

14

Senator _____

15

FOR THE COMMITTEE