



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 7/28/2016

Bill Number

House Bill 16-1034

Sponsors

***Representative Sias
Senator Garcia***

Short Title

***Emergency Medical Responder
Registration Program***

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill which becomes effective August 10, 2016, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

Summary

The bill changes the oversight of emergency medical responders from the Department of Public Safety to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CPDHE). Beginning July 1, 2017, CPDHE will administer a voluntary registration program for emergency medical responders. A person cannot present himself or herself as a registered emergency medical responder unless the person meets the requirements of the bill. The Board of Health is authorized to adopt rules for the administration of the registration program. A fingerprint-based criminal history record check must be completed as part of the registration process. The bill outlines the investigation and discipline procedures related to alleged misconduct by registered emergency medical responders.

Background

Emergency medical responders are specially trained people who provide out-of-hospital care in medical emergencies. There are many different types of emergency medical responders with different levels of training who provide different level of medical care, including first aid and basic life support. Often emergency medical responders are referred to as first responders.

Currently, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control in the Department of Public Safety operates the first responder certification program. Under the current first responder certification program, certifications are valid for three years. No person can present themselves as a certified first

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responder unless that person is currently state certified as a first responder. Among other requirements, a certified first responder applicant must:

- be at least 14 years old;
- have successfully completed an initial first responder training course from a division-recognized training center;
- have successfully completed certain examinations; and
- pay the required application fees.

House Action

House Health, Insurance, and Environment Committee (January 28, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from the Department of Public Health and Environment, Department of Public Safety, and Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado testified in support of the bill.

The committee adopted amendments L.004 and L.005, and referred the bill to the House Appropriations Committee. Amendment L.004:

- removed the definition of "emergency medical responder" and added the definition of "registered emergency medical responder;"
- made the registration program for emergency medical responders voluntary; and
- specified that a person cannot present himself or herself as a registered emergency medical responder unless he or she has met the requirements of the bill.

Amendment L.005 changed the effective date of the bill from July 1, 2017, to August 10, 2016.

House Appropriations Committee (April 7, 2016). The committee adopted amendment J.001 and referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole, as amended. The amendment added an appropriations clause to the bill.

House second reading (April 11, 2016). The House adopted the House Health, Insurance, and Environment and Appropriations committee reports and Amendment No. 3. Amendment No. 3 clarified language about persons not presenting themselves as registered emergency medical responders unless they meet the requirements of the bill. The House passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

House third reading (April 14, 2016). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate Health and Human Services Committee (April 21, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from the Colorado State Fire Chiefs, Department of Public Health and Environment, Department of Public Safety, and State Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Appropriations Committee with no amendments.

Senate Appropriations Committee (April 27, 2016). The committee referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole with no amendments.

Senate second reading (April 29, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

Senate third reading (May 2, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.