

Senate Bill 132

By: Senators Stokes of the 43rd, Tate of the 38th and Starr of the 44th

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 emergency medical services, so as to provide for the transfer of certification and
3 recertification responsibilities for paramedics and cardiac technicians to the Department of
4 Human Resources from the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners; to provide for
5 definitions; to provide for certification and recertification of emergency medical technicians,
6 paramedics, and cardiac technicians by that department; to provide for revocations,
7 investigations, subpoenas, and hearings by that department; to provide for that department
8 to become the successor to the rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and administrative
9 orders of the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners; to provide for conforming
10 changes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency
14 medical services, is amended by striking paragraphs (5) and (16) and adding paragraph (6.1)
15 following paragraph (6) of Code Section 31-11-2, relating to definitions, and inserting in
16 their respective places the following:

17 "(5) 'Cardiac technician' means a person who, having been trained and certified as an
18 emergency medical technician and having completed additional training in advanced
19 cardiac life support techniques in a training course approved by the department, is so
20 certified by the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners prior to January 1, 2002,
21 or the Department of Human Resources on and after January 1, 2002.."

22 "(6.1) 'Department' means the Department of Human Resources."

23 "(16) 'Paramedic' means any person who has been certified as an ~~advanced emergency~~
24 ~~medical technician~~ by the composite board before ~~July 1, 1988~~ January 1, 2002, or any
25 ~~person who has been certified by that board on or after July 1, 1988,~~ by the department
26 on or after January 1, 2002, as having been trained in emergency care techniques in a

1 paramedic training course approved by the department, ~~but all such persons shall be~~
 2 ~~designated on and after July 1, 1988, as paramedics."~~

3 SECTION 2.

4 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 31-11-51, relating to certification
 5 and recertification of emergency medical technicians, and inserting in its place the following:

6 "31-11-51.

7 The board shall, by regulation, authorize the department to establish procedures and
 8 standards for certifying and recertifying emergency medical technicians. The department
 9 shall succeed to all rules and regulations, policies, procedures, and administrative orders
 10 of the composite board which were in effect on December 31, 2001, and which relate to the
 11 functions transferred to the department by this chapter. Such rules, regulations, policies,
 12 procedures, and administrative orders shall remain in effect until amended, repealed,
 13 superseded, or nullified by proper authority or as otherwise provided by law."

14 SECTION 3.

15 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 31-11-52, relating to certification
 16 and recertification of and training for paramedics and cardiac technicians, and inserting in
 17 its place the following:

18 "31-11-52.

19 (a) ~~The composite board~~ department shall establish procedures and standards for certifying
 20 and recertifying paramedics and cardiac technicians. An applicant for initial certification
 21 as a paramedic or a cardiac technician must:

22 (1) Submit a completed application on a form to be prescribed by the ~~composite board~~
 23 department, which shall include evidence that the applicant is 18 years of age or older and
 24 is of good moral character;

25 (2) Submit from the department a notarized statement that the applicant has completed
 26 a training course approved by the department;

27 (3) Submit to the ~~composite board~~ department a fee as set forth in the regulations of the
 28 ~~composite board~~ department; and

29 (4) Meet such other requirements as are set forth in the rules and regulations of the
 30 ~~composite board~~ department.

31 (b) The department shall also adopt procedures and standards for its approval of paramedic
 32 training courses and cardiac technician training courses. The department shall adopt such
 33 regulations after consultation with ~~the composite board and other~~ appropriate public and
 34 private agencies and organizations concerned with medical education and the practice of

1 medicine. Procedures and standards adopted by the department shall be consistent with the
2 purposes and provisions of this chapter."

3 **SECTION 4.**

4 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 31-11-54, relating to services
5 which may be rendered by paramedics and paramedic trainees, and inserting in its place the
6 following:

7 "31-11-54.

8 (a) Upon certification by the ~~composite board~~ department, paramedics may perform any
9 service that a cardiac technician is permitted to perform. In addition, upon the order of a
10 duly licensed physician and subject to the conditions set forth in paragraph (2) of
11 subsection (a) of Code Section 31-11-55, paramedics may perform any other procedures
12 which they have been both trained and certified to perform, including, but not limited to:

- 13 (1) Administration of parenteral injections of diuretics, anticonvulsants, hypertonic
14 glucose, antihistamines, bronchodilators, emetics, narcotic antagonists, and others;
15 (2) Cardioversion; and
16 (3) Gastric suction by intubation.

17 (b) While in training preparatory to becoming certified, paramedic trainees may perform
18 any of the functions specified in this Code section under the direct supervision of a duly
19 licensed physician, a registered nurse, or an approved paramedic clinical preceptor."

20 **SECTION 5.**

21 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 31-11-55, relating to services
22 which may be rendered by cardiac technicians and trainees, and inserting in its place the
23 following:

24 "31-11-55.

25 (a) Upon certification by the ~~composite board~~ department, cardiac technicians may do any
26 of the following:

- 27 (1) Render first-aid and resuscitation services;
28 (2) Upon the order of a duly licensed physician and as recommended by the Emergency
29 Health Services Advisory Council and approved by the ~~composite board~~ department:
30 (A) Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and defibrillation in a pulseless,
31 nonbreathing patient;
32 (B) Administer approved intravenous solutions;
33 (C) Administer parenteral injections of antiarrhythmic agents, vagolytic agents,
34 chronotropic agents, alkalizing agents, analgesic agents, and vasopressor agents; and
35 (D) Perform pulmonary ventilation by esophageal airway and endotracheal intubation.

1 (b) While in training preparatory to becoming certified, cardiac technician trainees may
 2 perform any of the functions specified in this Code section under the direct supervision of
 3 a duly licensed physician or a registered nurse."

4 SECTION 6.

5 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 31-11-57, relating to revocation of
 6 certificates issued to paramedics and cardiac technicians, and inserting in its place the
 7 following:

8 "31-11-57.

9 Certificates issued to paramedics and cardiac technicians pursuant to this chapter may be
 10 revoked for good cause by the ~~composite board~~ department in accordance with established
 11 rules and regulations, after notice to the certificate holder of the charges and an opportunity
 12 for hearing. Such proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title
 13 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act.' The ~~composite board~~ department shall
 14 have the authority to conduct investigations and subpoena any documents relating to the
 15 fitness of paramedics and cardiac technicians. Such documents may be used in any hearing
 16 conducted by the ~~composite board~~ department."

17 SECTION 7.

18 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 31-11-58.1, relating to
 19 recertification of paramedics and cardiac technicians and applicable continuing education
 20 requirements, and inserting in its place the following:

21 "31-11-58.1.

22 (a) The ~~composite board~~ department shall be authorized to require paramedics and cardiac
 23 technicians seeking recertification under this chapter to complete department approved
 24 continuing education of not less than 40 hours biennially. The department shall be
 25 authorized to approve courses including but not limited to courses offered by the
 26 department, the number of hours required, and the category in which these hours should
 27 be earned.

28 (b) The ~~composite board~~ department shall be authorized to waive the continuing education
 29 requirement in cases of hardship, disability, illness, or under such other circumstances as
 30 the ~~composite board~~ department deems appropriate.

31 (c) The ~~composite board~~ department shall be authorized to promulgate rules and
 32 regulations to implement and ensure compliance with the requirements of this Code
 33 section.

34 (d) This Code section shall apply to each ~~certification and~~ recertification cycle which
 35 begins after the ~~1992-1993 renewal~~ deadline in 2000."

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SECTION 8.

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.