

Senate Resolution 1293

By: Senators Douglas of the 17th, Grant of the 25th, Mullis of the 53rd, Chance of the 16th, Thompson of the 33rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Section of the Division of Public
2 Health to create state licensure examinations for emergency medical technicians and
3 paramedics; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Georgia has approximately 14,000 EMS personnel serving the citizens of this
5 state; and

6 WHEREAS, the number of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics serving
7 in Georgia has dramatically decreased in proportion to Georgia's rising population over the
8 past several years; and

9 WHEREAS, there is a critical need to ensure that there are enough EMS personnel to
10 continue providing quality pre-hospital care to the citizens of this state; and

11 WHEREAS, since 2001 the only examination available for certifying EMTs and paramedics
12 is the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exam; and

13 WHEREAS, because the National Registry exams are administered by a private and separate
14 entity, the curriculums for EMTs and paramedics programs which prepare students for taking
15 the exams are not completely comparable to the actual test questions; and

16 WHEREAS, on average in the State of Georgia for every three EMT and paramedic students
17 that begin taking courses, only one ends up becoming licensed as an EMT or paramedic; and

18 WHEREAS, the extremely low licensing rate for EMTs and paramedics who have graduated
19 from EMT and paramedic schools in Georgia is due, in large part, to the unavailability of
20 state examinations for such graduates; and

1 WHEREAS, other states, in an effort to increase the number of paramedics and EMTs in
2 their states, have developed and are administering their own state licensure examination
3 which better correlates to the state's EMT and paramedic curriculums; and

4 WHEREAS, the creation of state licensure exams for all levels of EMTs and paramedics that
5 can be taken as an alternative to the National Registry exams, while still giving students the
6 option to take the National Registry exams, will allow for exams that can directly follow the
7 curriculum taught to Georgia's EMS students; and

8 WHEREAS, providing state controlled examinations will allow for a more effective
9 continuous quality improvement (CQI) process without lowering the quality and rigor of the
10 curriculums and examinations for EMTs and paramedics.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body urges the
12 Georgia Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma to initiate the development of
13 new state licensure exams for EMTs and paramedics that can be taken by EMS students as
14 an alternative to the National Registry exams, and further recommends that the Emergency
15 Medical Services and Trauma Section of the Division of Public Health receive appropriate
16 funding for creating such exams.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
18 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Marty Billings, Director of the Georgia
19 Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Section of the Georgia Department of Human
20 Resources, Division of Public Health; Ronald Jackson, Commissioner of the Georgia
21 Department of Technical and Adult Education; Courtney Terwilliger, Chairman of the
22 Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services; and the Governor.