

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities offered the following substitute to SB 449:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 31-7-12.8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 certification as nursing aid and employer sponsored training and competency examination
3 program, so as to exempt certain military medical personnel from an examination
4 requirement to qualify as a certified nursing aide; to amend Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title
5 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to personnel regarding emergency
6 medical services, so as to exempt certain military medical personnel from certain
7 requirements to qualify as a paramedic, cardiac technician, or an emergency medical
8 technician; to amend Article 2 of Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia
9 Annotated, relating to licensed practical nurses, so as to exempt certain military medical
10 personnel from certain requirements to qualify as a licensed practical nurse; to provide for
11 a definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

13 **SECTION 1.**

14 Code Section 31-7-12.8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to certification
15 as nursing aide and employer sponsored training and competency examination program, is
16 amended by adding two subsections to read as follows:

17 "31-7-12.8.

18 (a) The department shall certify an applicant for certification as a certified nurse aide who
19 meets the following qualifications:

20 (1) Has relevant professional or educational experience as determined by the department;
21 and

22 (2) Has achieved a minimum score, as established by rule of the department, on a
23 certified nurse aide competency examination consisting of a written portion and a
24 skills-demonstration portion, as approved by the department.

25 (b) The department shall approve employer based programs sponsored by or offered in
26 assisted living communities, private home care providers, personal care homes, or other
27 long-term care facilities licensed by the department for certified nurse aide training and
28 competency examination programs, in the same manner as such programs are approved in
29 nursing homes, as determined by the department. The department shall require all
30 employer based programs to meet the requirements set forth in 42 C.F.R. 483.152 and other
31 applicable laws and regulations.

32 (c) The department, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Service, shall
33 establish a program through which military medical personnel may be certified as a nurse
34 aide without meeting the examination requirements provided for in paragraph (2) of
35 subsection (a) of this Code section.

36 (d) For purposes of this Code section, the term 'military medical personnel' means an
37 individual who has, within 24 months of seeking certification pursuant to this Code section,
38 served as a medic in the United States Army, medical technician in the United States Air
39 Force, or corpsman in the United States Navy or Coast Guard and who was discharged or
40 released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable."

SECTION 2.

Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to personnel regarding emergency medical services, is amended by revising Code Section 31-11-52, relating to certification and recertification of, and training for, paramedics and cardiac technicians and qualifications by felons, as follows:

"31-11-52.

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

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

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

(3) Submit to the department a fee as set forth in the regulations of the department; and

(4) Meet such other requirements as are set forth in the rules and regulations of the department.

(b) The department shall also adopt procedures and standards for its approval of paramedic training courses and cardiac technician training courses. The department shall adopt such regulations after consultation with appropriate public and private agencies and organizations concerned with medical education and the practice of medicine. Procedures and standards adopted by the department shall be consistent with the purposes and provisions of this chapter.

(c) An applicant convicted of a felony more than five but less than ten years prior to application shall not be disqualified for certification, provided that such applicant has:

(1) Successfully completed a training program approved by the department and sponsored by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Code Section 42-5-57; and

(2) Met all other requirements as set forth in this chapter.

(d) The department, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Service, shall establish a program through which military medical personnel may be certified or recertified as paramedics and cardiac technicians without meeting the requirements provided for in paragraphs (2) and (4) of subsection (a) of this Code section.

(e) For purposes of this Code section, the term 'military medical personnel' means an individual who has, within 24 months of seeking certification pursuant to this Code section, served as a medic in the United States Army, medical technician in the United States Air Force, or corpsman in the United States Navy or Coast Guard and who was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable."

SECTION 3.

Said article of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to personnel, is further amended by revising Code Section 31-11-53, relating to services which may be rendered by certified emergency medical technicians and trainees, by adding two new subsections to read as follows:

"31-11-53.

(a) Upon certification by the department, emergency medical technicians may do any of the following:

(1) Render first-aid and resuscitation services as taught in the United States Department of Transportation basic training courses for emergency medical technicians or an equivalent course approved by the department;

(2) Upon the order of a duly licensed physician, administer approved intravenous solutions and opioid antagonists; and

(3) Upon the order of a duly licensed physician during a public health emergency, as defined in Code Section 31-12-1.1, administer vaccines.

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

(c) The department, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Service, shall establish a program through which military medical personnel may be certified as emergency medical technicians without additional training, experience, or examination.

(d) For purposes of this Code section, the term 'military medical personnel' means an individual who has, within 24 months of seeking certification pursuant to this Code section, served as a medic in the United States Army, medical technician in the United States Air Force, or corpsman in the United States Navy or Coast Guard and who was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable."

SECTION 4.

Article 2 of Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to licensed practical nurses, is amended by revising Code Section 43-26-36, relating to application for licensure and examination, by adding new subsections to read as follows:

"(c) Notwithstanding Code Section 43-1-35, or any other provision of law, the board, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Service, shall establish a program through which military medical personnel may be licensed as a licensed practical nurse without meeting the requirements provided for in paragraphs (3), (5), and (6) of subsection (a) of this Code section.

(d) For purposes of this Code section, the term 'military medical personnel' means an individual who has, within 24 months of seeking licensure pursuant to this Code section, served as a medic in the United States Army, medical technician in the United States Air Force, or corpsman in the United States Navy or Coast Guard and who was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable."

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SECTION 5.

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