

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

As Engrossed: H1/24/97 H2/11/97 H2/14/97

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1247

4 By: Representative Purdom, Lavery, Whorton, and Broadway

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM; TO
9 AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DIVISION OF
10 EMS & TRAUMA SYSTEMS, TO REGULATE FIRST RESPONDERS ; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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Subtitle

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"TO ESTABLISH THE FIRST RESPONDER
PROGRAM"

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19 SECTION 1. Definitions. As used in this act:

20 (1) "Certification" means official acknowledgment by the Department of
21 Health that an individual has demonstrated competence to perform the emergency
22 medical services required for certification, as provided in the rules,
23 regulations, and standards adopted by the State Board of Health, upon
24 recommendation by the council.

25 (2) "Council" means the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council as
26 established by Arkansas Code Annotated § 20-13-205.

27 (3) "Emergency Medical Services (EMS)" means the medical care provided
28 the critically ill and injured prior to the arrival at a medical facility by a
29 certified First Responder, EMT-Ambulance, EMT-Intermediate, or EMT-Paramedic.

30 (4) "First Responder" means an individual certified by the Department
31 of Health pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of
32 Health and who has completed required training.

33 (5) "First Responder Course" means instruction in basic knowledge and
34 skills necessary to provide emergency medical services to the sick and injured
35 before a licensed ambulance arrives.

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SECTION 2. This act establishes the First Responder Program and designates the Arkansas Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems, as the regulating entity in the state of Arkansas for First Responders.

SECTION 3. There is established on the books of the Treasurer of State, Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a special revenue fund to be known as the Emergency Medical Services First Responder Revolving Fund. The Emergency Medical Services First Responder Revolving Fund shall consist of those fees authorized by this act, to be used by the Department of Health, Division of EMS and Trauma Systems, for the sole purpose of supporting and operating the First Responder Program, as set out in this act.

SECTION 4. Fees. The State Board of Health shall establish the following fees to be charged by the Department of Health which are deemed necessary to defray the cost of administering and enforcing the provisions of this act:

(1) The testing fee for first responders shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) for the First Responder Exam;

(2) The certification fee for first responders shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00). The certification shall be valid for two (2) years.

(3) The biennial renewal of the first responder certification shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

(4) All moneys collected for the testing and certification of first responders shall only be used by the Department of Health, Division of EMS and Trauma Systems for the sole purpose of supporting and operating the First Responder Program.

(5) All First Responder certification and testing fees shall be special revenues and shall be deposited in the EMS First Responder Revolving Fund. All unexpended balances of the EMS First Responder Revolving Fund remaining at the close of each fiscal year shall be carried forward and made available in the next fiscal year for the sole purpose of supporting and operating the First Responder Program, as set out in this act.

1 SECTION 5. The Division of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma
2 Systems of the Department of Health is authorized to promulgate all rules and
3 regulations related to the First Responder Program.

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5 SECTION 6. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
6 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
7 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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9 SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
10 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
11 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
12 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
13 act are declared to be severable.

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15 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code Annotated § 20-13-203(b) is repealed.
16 ~~—— (b) Further, it is the intent of this subchapter that nothing contained~~
17 ~~in it applies by implication or otherwise to any municipal, county, or~~
18 ~~state-operated or sponsored rescue service which provides basic life support~~
19 ~~skills to the public in a "treat, no transport" fashion.~~

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21 SECTION 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
22 hereby repealed.

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24 SECTION 10. EMERGENCY. It is found and determined by the General
25 Assembly of the State of Arkansas that a carry-forward provision should apply
26 to application fees in the first responder program for the effective
27 administration of the program. Therefore an emergency is declared to exist
28 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
29 peace, health and safety shall become effective on the date of its approval by
30 the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it
31 shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time during which
32 the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the
33 veto is overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house
34 overrides the veto.

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/s/Rep. Purdom et al

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