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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2991 Session of  
1992

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D. W. SNYDER, McCALL, GERLACH AND SERAFINI, NOVEMBER 16, 1992

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, NOVEMBER 16, 1992

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AN ACT

1 Providing for paramedic and emergency medical technician  
2 standards; implementing procedures for insuring competency;  
3 providing programs for continuing medical education;  
4 providing for certification and recertification and for  
5 competency-based assessment; and making repeals.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Paramedic and  
10 Emergency Medical Technician Standards Act.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
13 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Active status." A paramedic or emergency medical technician  
16 with medical command, actively practicing and functioning as a  
17 paramedic or emergency medical technician.

18 "Competency-based assessment." Evaluation of the mechanical,

1 technical, practical and assessment standards of skill, ability  
2 and knowledge required by United States Department of  
3 Transportation Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic National  
4 Standard Curriculum, in the case of paramedics, the United  
5 States Department of Transportation Emergency Medical Technician  
6 National Standard Curriculum, in the case of emergency medical  
7 technicians, and Department of Health regulations.

8 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

9 "Diagnosis." Recognizing emergencies, either medical or  
10 trauma, through knowledge of signs and symptoms.

11 "Division." The Division of Emergency Medical Services in  
12 the Department of Health.

13 "Emergency medical technician." An individual who is trained  
14 to provide emergency medical services and is certified as such  
15 by the Department of Health in accordance with United States  
16 Department of Transportation Emergency Medical Technician  
17 National Standard Curriculum and Department of Health  
18 regulations.

19 "Medical command." Any voice order or medical protocol given  
20 to a paramedic or emergency medical technician by an authorized  
21 medical command physician.

22 "Medical command facility medical director." A physician  
23 responsible for the medical direction and control of medical  
24 command physicians at an accredited medical command facility.

25 "Medical command physician." A licensed physician approved  
26 by the Department of Health to oversee and supervise  
27 implementation of approved medical protocols, interventions and  
28 practice of paramedic procedures.

29 "Medical protocols." Written prescribed emergency medical  
30 procedures approved by the Department of Health.

1 "Orders." Direct verbal or telephonic medical instructions  
2 supervised and implemented by a medical command physician.

3 "Paramedic." An emergency medical technician trained to  
4 provide advanced life support services in accordance with United  
5 States Department of Transportation Emergency Medical Technician  
6 Paramedic National Standard Curriculum and Department of Health  
7 regulations.

8 "Practice of professional paramedicine." The services  
9 performed in responding to the perceived needs of an individual  
10 for immediate medical care in order to prevent loss of life or  
11 aggravation of physiological or psychological illness or injury,  
12 delivered in a prehospital, interhospital or hospital emergency  
13 care setting.

14 "Treatment." The management of recognized emergencies  
15 through selection and performance of measures, protocols and  
16 execution of procedures prescribed by a medical command  
17 physician.

18 Section 3. Certification and recertification.

19 (a) Paramedic and emergency medical technician  
20 certification.--Paramedics and emergency medical technicians  
21 shall be certified for a period of three years by the department  
22 in accordance with United States Department of Transportation  
23 Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic National Standard  
24 Curriculum, in the case of paramedics, the United States  
25 Department of Transportation Emergency Medical Technician  
26 National Standard Curriculum, in the case of emergency medical  
27 technicians, and department regulations.

28 (b) Recertification.--

29 (1) Paramedics and emergency medical technicians shall  
30 be recertified on active status by the department upon

1 receipt of a competency-based assessment statement verified  
2 by an approved medical command facility medical director.  
3 Active status recertification shall be valid for a period of  
4 three years.

5 (2) Any paramedic or emergency medical technician  
6 certified under this act who fails to satisfy the  
7 requirements for active status recertification shall be  
8 automatically and involuntarily placed on inactive status.  
9 Any paramedic or emergency medical technician certified under  
10 this act may request application for inactive status.  
11 Application for inactive status shall be completed and  
12 returned to the department. Upon receipt of each application,  
13 the applicant shall be maintained on inactive status  
14 indefinitely and shall be entitled to apply for reactivation  
15 to active status at any time. Any paramedic or emergency  
16 medical technician who requests active status who has been in  
17 inactive status for a period of more than six months shall,  
18 prior to receiving active status, be issued a temporary  
19 practice permit pending competency-based assessment approval.

20 (3) Any paramedic or emergency medical technician  
21 certified under this act who is called to active military  
22 service shall retain their certification unexpired during the  
23 period within which they are on active military service.

24 (c) Temporary recertification.--A paramedic or emergency  
25 medical technician may be granted temporary recertification for  
26 a period not exceeding six months pending completion of  
27 competency-based assessment requirements at the discretion of an  
28 approved medical command physician.

#### 29 Section 4. Competency-based assessment.

30 (a) Approval.--Paramedic and emergency medical technician

1 recertification, temporary recertification or reciprocity shall  
2 be accompanied by a competency-based assessment statement from  
3 an approved medical command physician. Competency-based  
4 assessment of paramedics shall include verification of not less  
5 than 20 hours per year of accredited continuing medical  
6 education and competency-based assessment of emergency medical  
7 technicians shall include verification of not less than ten  
8 hours per year of accredited continuing medical education. When,  
9 upon request, a medical command physician does not approve a  
10 competency-based assessment statement, he shall submit written  
11 documentation to the department outlining the reasons for  
12 refusing to issue a statement.

13 (b) Continuing medical education.--The department shall  
14 establish and maintain procedures for evaluating and approving  
15 continuing medical education programs utilized as criteria for  
16 competency-based assessment.

17 (c) Appeal.--Any applicant who does not receive a  
18 competency-based assessment statement may appeal to the  
19 department for a competency evaluation hearing.

20 (d) Hearings.--All competency-based assessment evaluation  
21 hearings shall be initiated within 60 days of the request and  
22 resolved within 120 days. Witnesses as may be deemed necessary  
23 to a resolution shall be allowed to testify, either in person,  
24 by deposition or by affidavit.

25 (e) Disposition.--Upon conclusion of the hearing, the  
26 department shall issue a certificate of renewal or a temporary  
27 certificate or refuse to issue a certificate.

28 Section 5. Reciprocity and temporary practice permits.

29 (a) Reciprocity.--In order to obtain reciprocity to practice  
30 and engage in professional paramedicine for a one-year period, a

1 person who holds a current and valid license or certification  
2 issued by any other state, territory or possession of the United  
3 States or the Dominion of Canada, and who presents to the  
4 department a competency-based assessment or its equivalent from  
5 his most recent practice, may be issued by the department a  
6 temporary practice permit which is nonrenewable and valid for a  
7 period of one year, and during such additional period as the  
8 department may in each case especially permit. The temporary  
9 practice permit shall expire if the person fails to meet the  
10 standards and requirements for certification provided under  
11 section 3. Persons issued a temporary practice permit may be  
12 granted inactive status by the department, and shall be governed  
13 by the inactive status procedure when applying for active  
14 status. Persons issued a temporary practice permit under this  
15 subsection shall be required to be accompanied by an approved  
16 active status paramedic.

17 (b) Temporary practice permit.--

18 (1) In order for a paramedic or emergency medical  
19 technician to practice and engage in professional  
20 paramedicine for the one-year period from the completion of  
21 his education program, the department may issue a temporary  
22 practice permit, upon presenting to the department  
23 verification of course completion and a statement of  
24 competency-based assessment from an approved service medical  
25 director where the paramedic or emergency medical technician  
26 intends to practice. This permit shall be nonrenewable and  
27 valid for a period of one year, and during such additional  
28 period as the department may in each case especially permit,  
29 except that the permit shall expire and terminate if the  
30 person fails to meet the standards of the certification

1 examination. Holders of temporary practice permits must be  
2 accompanied by an approved active status paramedic until such  
3 time as they pass the certification examination and obtain  
4 active medical command status; or the permit expires or is  
5 terminated.

6 (2) A temporary practice permit shall also be issued by  
7 the department to any paramedic or emergency medical  
8 technician who requests to return to active status from  
9 inactive status. The permit shall remain valid for a period  
10 of one year, or until medical command is received from an  
11 approved service or medical director. Any paramedic or  
12 emergency medical technician not receiving medical command  
13 shall revert back to inactive status. Holders of temporary  
14 practice permits, pending medical command, must be  
15 accompanied by an approved active status paramedic.

16 Section 6. Director of Paramedic and Emergency Medical  
17 Technician Affairs.

18 The department shall select and appoint a full-time Director  
19 of Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician Affairs, who shall  
20 be a certified and an actively practicing paramedic in this  
21 Commonwealth.

22 Section 7. Use of title by certified paramedics and emergency  
23 medical technicians.

24 (a) Certified paramedics.--Any person who holds a  
25 professional paramedic certificate in this Commonwealth shall  
26 have the right to use the title "Certified Paramedic" and the  
27 abbreviation "C.P.". No other person may engage in the practice  
28 of professional paramedicine or use the title "Certified  
29 Paramedic" or the abbreviation "C.P." to indicate that the  
30 person is a certified paramedic. No person may sell or

1 fraudulently obtain or fraudulently furnish any paramedic  
2 diploma, certification, record of registration or aid or abet  
3 therein.

4 (b) Certified emergency medical technician.--Any person who  
5 holds an emergency medical technician certificate in this  
6 Commonwealth shall have the right to use the title "Emergency  
7 Medical Technician" and the abbreviation "E.M.T.". No other  
8 person may engage in the practice of technical emergency  
9 services or use the title "Emergency Medical Technician" or the  
10 abbreviation "E.M.T." to indicate that the person is a certified  
11 emergency medical technician. No person may sell or fraudulently  
12 obtain or fraudulently furnish any emergency medical technician  
13 diploma, certification, record of registration or aid or abet  
14 therein.

15 Section 8. Applicability.

16 (a) Retroactivity.--The provisions of section 3, relating to  
17 recertification, shall apply retroactively and be applicable to  
18 all paramedics and emergency medical technicians certified in  
19 Pennsylvania on the effective date of this act.

20 (b) Expired certification.--Paramedics and emergency medical  
21 technicians whose certification expired after January 1, 1985,  
22 shall be eligible to apply for inactive certification status in  
23 accordance with the provisions of section 3(b)(2).

24 Section 9. Repeals.

25 All acts and parts of acts are repealed insofar as they are  
26 inconsistent with this act.

27 Section 10. Effective date.

28 This act shall take effect in 60 days.