

Response to Act 253 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session

Licensing of EMS Practitioners

August 1, 2024, to February 12, 2025

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Emergency Medical Service Occupational Licenses

The Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, Bureau of EMS (BEMS) coordinates, develops, improves, and maintains a comprehensive emergency medical services system. This system ensures prompt, effective, and unimpeded service by appropriately educated and licensed emergency medical services (EMS) practitioners and EMS providers to all state residents and visitors.

As a vital component of healthcare, public health, and public safety, EMS responds to calls for help 24 hours a day, seven days a week. EMS saves lives from life-threatening emergencies such as heart attacks and strokes; treats injuries due to motor vehicle crashes, shootings, stabbings, and other violence; and provides care for the many different illnesses and injuries that occur daily. In addition, EMS provides care for chronic diseases and preventive care through community paramedicine and mobile integrated healthcare programs.

In accordance with [Executive Order JML 25-008](#) and related to the Welcome Home Act, [Act 253 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session](#), the following report outlines the requirements for obtaining an initial EMS practitioner license in the State of Louisiana, the policies or rules adopted by the EMS Commission, and efforts made to inform the public.

Emergency Medical Services Licensing Requirements

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services offers licensure by reciprocity for applicants currently licensed in another state. Louisiana licensure requirements apply to emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, and paramedics. All applicants must be certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians before licensure.

State licensure as a licensed EMS practitioner is issued only to applicants who qualify by examination or endorsement by [R.S. 40:1131.1](#), et seq. All applicants shall meet the same standards.

Reciprocity shall be granted to an applicant who submits evidence of licensing or certification in good standing from another state, territory, or country, or those who have received military training and certification or licensure as an emergency medical services practitioner, as outlined in [Title 46, Professional and Occupational Standards Part XXXVIII, §301](#).

The Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA) was enacted into state law under Act 31 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature. It may be found under [R.S. 40:1141](#).

EMS practitioners are required to meet the following qualifications to obtain an initial EMS practitioner license in the State of Louisiana:

- Complete an EMS practitioner course in a state-approved educational program ([R.S. 40:1133.6](#)).
- Complete the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) cognitive examination for both the advanced emergency medical technician and paramedic levels, as well as the psychomotor certification exam for the emergency medical technician level.
- Submit an EMS practitioner license application and pay the required fees.

- Obtain the criminal background information outlined in [R.S. 40:1141 et al.](#), which is not required at emergency medical responder level.
 - If answering affirmatively to criminal background questions, comply with the requests of the EMS Commission.

Emergency Medical Services Licenses Processed

From August 1, 2024, to February 11, 2025, 18 licenses were received, approved, and qualified by endorsement.

Emergency Medical Services Licensing Administrative Code

[Title 46, Professional and Occupational Standards, Part XXXVIII, §301](#) defines state licensure and national certification. Before implementing the Welcome Home Act, [Act 253 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session](#), the administrative code allowed for state licensure by endorsement and continues to offer the same.

Emergency Medical Services Dissemination of the Licensing Process

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services provides information on the licensing process through its webpage, specifically on the [EMS Credentialing | La Dept. of Health](#) page. This resource offers guidance for potential applicants seeking licensure.

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