

Response to Act 486 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session

*2025 Emergency Medical Services Occupational License: Workers with
Criminal Histories*

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Office of Public Health

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and the Emergency Medical Services Commission

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Executive Summary

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

As a vital component of health care services, public health, and public safety, EMS responds to calls for assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week. EMS protects individuals from life-threatening emergencies, such as heart attacks and strokes, and treats injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes, shootings, stabbings, and other violence. EMS also provides care for a wide range of acute and chronic conditions and delivers preventive services through community paramedicine and mobile integrated health care programs.

Pursuant to Act 486 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session, this report provides data regarding the number of licenses denied by BEMS at the direction of the EMS Commission. Under the 2022 amendment to Louisiana law, individuals with prior convictions may request a preliminary eligibility determination. This process allows applicants to determine whether a criminal record serves as a disqualifying factor before the formal licensing process begins.

In alignment with the mission to protect public health, BEMS exercises its regulatory authority to oversee the licensure and discipline of EMS practitioners whose prior convictions conflict with professional standards or whose criminal history renders them unfit for professional practice. The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, at the direction by the Emergency Medical Services Commission, conducts a comprehensive review of each case, including the circumstances of the incident, the relevance of the crime to the practice of EMS, and the applicant's subsequent rehabilitative efforts.

Under the guidance of the EMS Commission, BEMS maintains a low rate of application denials. This approach facilitates greater access to education programs, effectively increasing the state's EMS workforce while preserving rigorous public safety standards.

In 2025, application processing volumes mirrored 2024 levels, with total actions reaching 17,828, compared to 17,825 in 2024. A year-over-year comparison shows a slight downtick in initial applications (6,119 vs. 6,536), while renewals and revisions stayed relatively stable. Throughout this period, efficiency remained a hallmark of the process; standard applications continued to be finalized within an average of two business days.

The licensed EMS workforce includes a demographic composition of 35% female and 65% male practitioners. These figures provide a clear snapshot of the current gender distribution within the state's emergency medical services sector.

Section 1 – License Detail Report

The EMS Commission did not deny any applications based on criminal history during the 2025 calendar year. Therefore, there are no denials and no associated statutory violations to report.

In comparison, the denial rate for the 2024 calendar year remained low, with only two applications not meeting the criteria.

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