EMS MEMO

Date: 05/29/2024

To: Minnesota Ambulance Services, Minnesota EMS Regional Systems

From: Dylan Ferguson, Executive Director

RE: 2024 Legislative Changes Update

On May 23, 2024, the Governor signed HF4738 into law. This legislation institutes many changes to the EMS system in Minnesota. We know there will be many questions over the coming months as provisions within this legislation come into effect. EMSRB staff is dedicated to answering as many of your questions as we can, and we commit to communicating early and often over the coming months.

The EMS Specialist team is reviewing all legislative changes, developing new processes and procedures to address these changes, and will do our best to ensure efficient implementation and transparency of any changes. Additionally, our team plans to hold multiple webinars to walk through these changes. Once scheduled, we will send an announcement via email and will post the meeting schedule to the EMSRB website.

Please ensure that your contact information is up to date and correct in the eLicense Portal to ensure you receive all communications. Also, please monitor your emails and the EMSRB Website closely for updates and additional information. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to your EMS Specialist with questions.

Below you will find a summary of changes found in HF4738 that will be implemented in the coming months. These changes include:

- Changes to staffing variances and creation of driver registration,
- Expanded re-entry and new reinstatement period, and
- Changes to RN EMS credentialing.

Thank you,

Dylan Ferguson
Executive Director
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Changes to Staffing Variances and Creation of Driver Registration

**BLS Staffing Variance**

Beginning July 1, 2024, BLS ambulance services will have the ability to apply to the EMSRB for a variance to staff their ambulances with one individual who is an EMT, or an RN or PA that meets the requirements described in the previous section, AND the service may substitute a registered EMR driver with a driver that meets the following requirements:

- Holds a valid driver’s license from any state, and
- Has attended an emergency vehicle driving course approved by the ambulance service, and
- Has completed a course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation approved by the ambulance service, and
- Register with the EMRSB.

Ambulance services wishing to apply for the variance must complete an initial application that must go to the full Board for approval. Services will also be required to reapply for the variance every two years during the ambulance service license renewal process.

Please note: The Board must approve all variance applications before it takes effect. The next board meeting is on July 18, 2024, and applications must be received by the EMSRB by the close of business on July 9, 2024, to be included in the agenda.

**Ambulance Driver Registration**

Drivers will have to register with the EMSRB through an application in the eLicense Public Portal. Applicants must provide the following with their application:

- Copy of a valid driver’s license from any state, and
- Proof of completion of the agency approved driving course, and
- Proof of completion of the agency approved CPR course, and
- Answer criminal history disclosure questions.

**Staffing Hardship Variance – Removal of Geographic Restrictions**

Starting July 1, 2024, HF4738 removes all geographic restrictions on which ambulance services are eligible to apply for a staffing hardship variance. This means that ALL services can apply for the appropriate staffing hardship variance. After application and upon approval by the Board, an ALS service can staff with a paramedic and an EMR driver and BLS services can staff with an EMT and non-credentialed driver. Services will be required to re-apply for the staffing variance when they renew their ambulance service license. The Board will review and act on all staffing variance renewal applications.
Expanded Re-Entry/Reinstatement Period for Expired Credentials

EMR and Community Paramedic

HF4738 also brings some changes to the reinstatement process for EMRs and Community Paramedics. The new legislation extends the grace-period for EMRs from 1 year to 4 years.

Please note: an individual with an expired certification is NOT able to work on an ambulance as part of the minimum required staffing while in their grace period.

The new legislation also adds language that requires Community Paramedics to meet the education requirements for renewal when applying for reinstatement.

Extended Reinstatement Window (EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, and Community Paramedic)

HF4738 also creates a new window of reinstatement for individuals that have an EMS credential that has been expired for more than 4 years, but less than 10 years. Beginning July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, individuals with an expired EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, or Community Paramedic certification may apply for reinstatement by completing the following:

1. Provide evidence of completion of the appropriate education requirements within 24-months prior to the date of application, and
2. After course completion and approval from the education program, complete a reinstatement application in the e-License Portal, and
3. Submit a recommendation from an ambulance service medical director.

This program will expire on December 31, 2025.

Changes to RN EMS Credentialing

HF4738 introduces several changes to how RNs are credentialed to work on an ambulance service responding to 911 calls for service. The following sections will describe what credentials an RN will need to work on an ALS and BLS ambulance.

Basic Life Support (BLS) Services

To work for a basic life support licensed ambulance service and RN will need to meet one of the following requirements:

1. Have an EMT certification,

OR

2. Have a valid Minnesota RN license AND a valid Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) or Certified Flight Nurse (CFN) credential AND complete the Prehospital RN application in the eLicense portal (see “New Applications” section below for more details.)
Advanced Life Support (ALS) Services

To be eligible to work on an ALS ambulance and provide advanced level care, there are still two pathways, but the requirements are slightly different than for the BLS level. To provide advanced level care, the RN must be currently practicing nursing and have either of the following:

1. An EMT certification, approval from the ambulance service medical director, AND complete the Advanced RN-EMT/PA-EMT application in the eLicense portal (see “New Applications” section below for more details.)

OR

2. Have a Certified Emergency Nurse or Certified Flight Nurse credential AND complete the Prehospital RN application in the eLicense portal (see “New Applications” section below for more details.)

Physician Assistants with EMT Certification

Physician Assistants (PA) are allowed to work on ambulance services with the same requirements as an RN-EMT. To work on a BLS ambulance, the PA will need an EMT certification and to provide advanced level care for an ALS ambulance service, the PA will be required to be currently practicing as a PA and have ambulance service medical director approval. PAs will also be required to complete the Advanced RN-EMT/PA-EMT application in the eLicense portal.

New Applications

To assist in tracking and providing a certification number for these individuals, on July 1, 2024, the EMSRB will be introducing two new applications:

Advanced RN-EMT/PA-EMT Application

RNs and PAs with a current EMT certification that wish to provide advanced level care will need to provide the following documentation:

- Proof of valid MN RN or PA license, and
- A letter (on employer letterhead) confirming the RN or PA is currently practicing as an RN or PA, and
- A letter of support from an ambulance service medical director.

These applicants, once approved, will be registered with the EMSRB as an Advanced RN-EMT or Advanced PA-EMT.

Prehospital RN (BLS and ALS)

RNs that possess a CEN or CFN credential will need to provide the following documentation with their application:

- Proof of valid RN license, and
- Letter (on employer letterhead) confirming RN is currently practicing nursing, and
• Proof of valid CEN or CFN credential.

Prehospital RNs will be assigned an expiration date that matches the expiration date of their RN license or CEN/CFN credential whichever expires first. Upon approval, these applicants will be registered with the EMSRB as a Prehospital RN.