



SB 173 License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics

31st Legislative Session

What It Does

- Transfers oversight and licensure of Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics from the State Medical Board to the Department of Health and Social Services effective January 1, 2021.
- Aligns all emergency medical services under an agency whose sole purpose is to ensure a comprehensive statewide EMS system.
- Promotes public safety for the patients while bringing new efficiencies to the EMS personnel licensure process.
- No fiscal impact.

Why It Matters

- Paramedics are an essential part of a comprehensive emergency medical services system.
- Integration increases participation in quality initiatives that improve patient care in areas such as stroke, cardiac arrest, trauma, telehealth, and community paramedicine.
- Use of the EMS data system provides transparency about a licensee's status and eliminates redundant data entry in multiple systems.
- The State Emergency Medical Services Office currently regulates all parts of the EMS system -- except for paramedic licensure -- requiring paramedics and the fire/emergency medical services that employ them to deal with the challenges of multi-agency regulation.

How It Works

- Maintains current scope of practice, licensure requirements, and fee structure.
- Medical direction is fulfilled by the Department of Health and Social Services' Chief Medical Officer and an EMS Medical Directors' Committee. All 11 committee members specialize in emergency medicine.
- Representation on the Governor's Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services.
- The State EMS Office is well-positioned to provide the efficiency, organization, and oversight required to support this change.
 - The office has the capacity. Taking on paramedic licensure can be accomplished with existing resources and does not require additional funding or staffing.
 - The office has the expertise. Six full-time employees, 5 of which are required to have paramedic experience, have more than 100 years of combined experience with the emergency medical services system.
 - The office has the infrastructure. Existing data systems are ready to incorporate paramedic licensure.
- To ensure a smooth transition, an existing biennial license is valid under the State Medical Board until the registration expires or is converted to a new license under the Department of Health and Social Services. There are about 600 licensed paramedics.
- To maintain continuity of licensing history, files of all pending records and proceedings related to paramedics, including applications and disciplinary actions, will be transferred to the Department of Health and Social Services.



Regulation of the EMS System

