

To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System to accurately count the number of EMS personnel or EMTs and paramedics in the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “EMS Counts Act of 2019.”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel provide a critical role in our nation’s emergency response. EMS consists of a diverse group of healthcare practitioners including paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), dual-role Firefighter/EMTs, Firefighter/paramedics, and volunteer EMS personnel serving in all of the above mentioned roles.

(2) EMS is an integral component of our nation’s capacity to respond to disasters and public health crises such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, wildfires, bombings, mass shootings, and outbreaks of infectious diseases. EMS personnel respond to more than 22 million emergency medical calls each year for patients suffering strokes, cardiac arrest, trauma, , asthma attacks, allergic reactions and hundreds of other medical issues.

(3) The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) compiles information on the number of individuals working in various occupations across the entire United States. The BLS completes this work by maintaining the Standard Occupational Classification system which classifies workers and jobs into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

(4) The BLS fails to accurately count EMS personnel due to its failure to count dual-role firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/paramedics and in failing to count volunteer EMS personnel.

(5) Accurately counting the EMS workforce is critical for government agencies in determining EMS systems needs nationwide. This data is crucial in developing national preparedness strategies, policies and plans to ensure our nation’s capacity to respond to natural and manmade disasters, public health emergencies, and acts of terrorism.

SEC. 3. Recognition of Dual-Role Firefighters as EMS Practitioners

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall revise the broad description within the occupational series “33-2010 Firefighters” to include the following detailed occupations:

- i. 33-2010 Firefighters
- ii. 33-2011 Firefighter/EMTs
- iii. 33-2012 Firefighter/Paramedics
- iv. 33-2013 Firefighters, All Other

SEC. 4. Recognition of EMS Volunteer Personnel

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall develop an adjustment to the Standard Occupational Classification system which includes volunteer EMS personnel, including volunteer dual-role firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/paramedics in the assessment of the number of EMS personnel in the United States

SEC. 5. Reports to Congress

Not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit a report to Congress which details the actions taken in 2021 to expand the definition “29-2040 Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics” to separately account for the numbers of Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics.

Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit a report to the Congress which details the Director’s implementation of the changes described in Section IV of this act.