

Assessment of State's initiatives re Veterans EMT Certification

QUERY: If your state has addressed the issue of certifying veterans (at any level as an EMS provider) through statute, rule or policy please respond back with a brief explanation of how this was achieved and link to any resources that you feel are helpful.

RESPONSES:

- **Utah:**

Here is the waiver of the rule. It is # 2 (red) as you scroll down. If you need something else let me know.

Title 26 Chapter 8a Section 106

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Title 26	Utah Health Code
Chapter 8a	Utah Emergency Medical Services System Act
Section 106	Waiver of rules.

26-8a-106. Waiver of rules.

(1) Upon application, the committee or department may waive the requirements of a rule it has adopted if:

(a) the person applying for the waiver satisfactorily demonstrates that:

(i) the waiver is necessary for a pilot project to be undertaken by the applicant;

(ii) in the particular situation, the requirement serves no beneficial public purpose; or

(iii) circumstances warrant that waiver of the requirement outweighs the public benefit to be gained by adherence to the rule; and

(b) for a waiver granted under Subsection (1)(a)(ii) or (iii), the committee or department:

(i) extends the waiver to similarly situated persons upon application; or

(ii) amends the rule to be consistent with the waiver.

(2) A waiver of education, licensing, or certification requirements may be granted to a veteran, as defined in Section **71-8-1**, if the veteran:

(a) provides to the committee or department documentation showing military education and training in the field in which certification or licensure is sought; and

(b) successfully passes any examination required.

(3) No waiver may be granted under this section that is inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

- **Colorado**

In the 2012 legislative session, the Colorado legislature amended the statute regarding EMS provider certification to be more military-friendly. There are three provisions that focus more on active duty military rather than veterans, but here they are for your information:

1. Provide for EMS provider reciprocity in Colorado for members of the armed forces and their spouses residing in Colorado who hold a valid EMS provider license or certification from another state and are in good standing in that state. So, in these situations, Colorado would grant certification to applicants who may or may not hold NREMT certification. That is a change for us as we have in the past required all new applicants to have NREMT. These applicants must still undergo a fingerprint-based criminal history record check.
2. Certain professional competency renewal requirements are waived for individuals called to federally funded active duty for 120 days to serve in a war, emergency or contingency.
3. Recognize continuing education provided to members of the armed forces for certification renewal purposes.

You can view the rules we developed to implement the statutory changes on our website at www.coems.info. Then scroll down to where it says "Draft rules, 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter One - Rules Pertaining to EMS Education and Certification.

- **New Jersey**

We've had legislation introduced (see attached), but it has not been voted upon. Operationally, we would need to review every applicant's military record to determine what civilian level of provider the applicant qualifies for. For EMT, it might be a bit easier, but by utilizing the NREMT paramedic examination process, as I understand it, the applicant would need to meet their requirements as well. (See attached file: Senate Bill 1905 - Military to Civilian EMS credential.pdf)

- **Missouri**

Missouri currently has proposed language to our regulation (19 CSR 30-40.342, which will provide certification/licensure for military personnel.

"Honorably Discharged enlisted medical personnel who have been separated for no more than two years, may have their training and education reviewed for equivalency, and if accepted may complete the licensure testing with National Registry of Emergency Medical technician." Qualifying documentation is required:

1. Honorable discharge from U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard, and
2. Documentation of graduation for aq approved technical school of their respective services' enlisted medical MOS/FSC/Rating.
3. Documentation of National Registry EMT certificate, if available or State EMT certificate or license.
4. State licensure as an EMT-I, EMT-P will be accepted for review of licensure at a level above EMT, or
5. Completion of a DOD approved EMT-I or Paramedic Program.
6. Documentation that the last two years of service were in primary medical MOS/AFSC/Rating that qualifies them for National Registry EMT at a minimum
7. Any documentation the applicant has regarding formal education at a level above their entry level technical training may be considered.

These documents shall be submitted to a Missouri accredited EMT program that is authorized to provide initial EMT training and NREMT testing at the EMT level. The accredited training shall ensure that the formal education meets or exceeds the National Standards for EMT. If a deficiency is noted in the applicant's education or skills

performance, the training entity will make available remedial classroom and psychomotor skills before documenting course completion, and approving the applicant for state approved EMT practical testing and the National Registry cognitive exam.

For consideration for advanced level licensure, the documents shall be submitted to a Missouri/ CoAEMSP accredited Paramedic program that is authorized to provide initial Paramedic training and NREMT testing at the Advanced level. The accredited training entity shall ensure that the formal education meets or exceeds all the National Standards for Advanced EMT/EMT-I or Paramedic. A skills assessment will be conducted at this time. Again in case of deficiency, remedial classroom and psychomotor skills before documentation of course completions and approving for the National Registry.

- **Arkansas**

20-13-214. Military emergency medical personnel.

(a) Military personnel who return to the State of Arkansas following active duty and who received emergency medical training on active duty shall be granted initial licensure from the Department of Health as emergency medical services personnel under this subchapter, upon proof from the military that the individual received emergency medical training while on active duty.

(b) Military personnel licensed under this section shall pay the fees for biennial renewal of the emergency medical services personnel license required under this subchapter.

- **Maine**

We provide a one year extension for military personnel whose license expired while they are serving overseas – I can find the reference when I get back to the office if you're interested.

We are usually able to process license applications with a 3-4 day turnaround, which also helps these folks get back in the groove.

- **Virginia**

I have pasted below the section of the Code of Virginia that authorized the certification and recertification of EMS personnel in Virginia. Our regulations go into much greater detail regarding personnel requirements, education and certification, certificate process and practice, educational programs and management, testing, etc. This was initiated by our office and met no resistance from our General Assembly members. This is also considered a "jobs creation" effort as well and supported our recruitment and retention efforts. Please let me know if you have any questions.

§ 32.1-111.5. Certification and recertification of emergency medical services personnel.

A. The Board shall prescribe by regulation the qualifications required for certification of emergency medical care attendants, including those qualifications necessary for authorization to follow Do Not Resuscitate Orders pursuant to § [54.1-2987.1](#). Such regulations shall include criteria for determining whether an applicant's relevant practical experience and didactic and clinical components of education and training completed during his service as a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States may be accepted by the Commissioner as evidence of satisfaction of the requirements for certification.

B. Each person desiring certification as emergency medical services personnel shall apply to the Commissioner upon a form prescribed by the Board. Upon receipt of such application, the Commissioner shall cause the applicant to be examined or otherwise determined to be qualified for certification. **When determining whether an applicant is qualified for certification, the Commissioner shall consider and may accept relevant practical**

experience and didactic and clinical components of education and training completed by an applicant during his service as a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States as evidence of satisfaction of the requirements for certification. If the Commissioner determines that the applicant meets the requirements for certification as emergency medical services personnel, he shall issue a certificate to the applicant. An emergency medical services personnel certificate so issued shall be valid for a period required by law or prescribed by the Board. The certificates may be renewed after successful reexamination of the holder. Any certificate so issued may be suspended at any time that the Commissioner determines that the holder no longer meets the qualifications prescribed for such emergency medical services personnel. The Commissioner may temporarily suspend any certificate without notice, pending a hearing or informal fact-finding conference, if the Commissioner finds that there is a substantial danger to public health or safety. When the Commissioner has temporarily suspended a certificate pending a hearing, the Commissioner shall seek an expedited hearing in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ [2.2-4000](#) et seq.).

C. The Board shall prescribe by regulation procedures and the qualifications required for the recertification of emergency medical services personnel. Such regulations shall include (i) authorization for continuing education and skills testing, in lieu of a written examination, with the signature of the relevant operational medical director; (ii) authorization for the relevant operational medical director to require the written examinations administered or approved by the Office of Emergency Medical Services, as deemed necessary, of certain emergency medical services personnel; (iii) authorization for exemptions from the written test for recertification by the relevant operational medical director; (iv) triennial recertification of advanced life support providers; (v) approval by the Office of Emergency Medical Services of continuing education modules in which each module may be tested separately; and (vi) effective on January 1, 1998, a sequential option for the completion of the skills tests for recertification.

D. The Commissioner may issue a temporary certificate when he finds that it is in the public interest. A temporary certificate shall be valid for a period not exceeding ninety days.

- **Tennessee**

This is from our rules which includes military:

Out-of-state requirements for License of federal or ex-federal employees. Any EMT or EMTParamedic who has successfully completed an approved U.S. Department of Transportation EMT Basic or EMT Paramedic course while employed with the federal government and who holds current certification from National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians for the Emergency Medical Technician-Basic or Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic may apply for Tennessee EMT or EMT-Paramedic license by complying with the following:

(a) conform to all license requirements for Tennessee Emergency Medical Technicians or EMT-Paramedics; and

(b) submit appropriate documentation of extended skills training conducted by an authorized instructor of a Tennessee Accredited EMS Training Institution; or

documentation of extended skills training from a federally approved training agency; and

(c) submit the appropriate application forms and fees, if applicable, to the Division of Emergency Medical Services.

- **California**

We do not yet have legislation, but we have become aware of potential legislation that would require us to develop regulations for a bridge training program for military medics. It will be loosely based on a program in Michigan that cuts paramedic training by 18 weeks for military combat medics. Our previous research on this topic showed a low demand for such a transitional program.

- **Nebraska**

Nebraska requires military trained medical personnel must have a current National Registry card to apply for a providers license in Nebraska. That is the only special requirement we have.

- **Alaska**

The Alaska Legislature has two-recently introduced bills, SB 4 and HB 84 addressing credit for military education training and the issuance of temporary licenses. The EMS office will be analyzing the bills next week. The text of the bills can be found at: <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/start.asp> Our regulations do not currently provide for temporary certification.

- **New Hampshire**

New Hampshire has no special considerations for military medical personnel. They have to have a National Registry card to get licensed in NH.

- **Wyoming**

Wyoming is alone in that military members must essentially follow the same path as everyone else. The two bills attached here are making their way through the legislature currently. I don't know that they are dramatically going to impact how we do business, since we have always accepted EMT courses done through the military and these bills seem to just say that "licensing boards must license these persons if they meet all the qualifications". Plus, there is some discussion about whether it would apply to us anyway since we aren't a "board". Other than that we don't have anything in rule that addresses military specifically. Just thought you might want to look at these (2 attachments)

- **Texas**

Military personnel shall follow the same application process as Out of State/Reciprocity applicants because Military courses are not Texas approved/certified courses and are therefore considered Out of State courses. Please use Reciprocity application and process to gain Texas Certification. **Military applicants must also submit documentation of completion of a military EMS course.**

- **Idaho**

Our answer here in Idaho is competency based education. There is incredible diversity of skill sets within the military enlisted medical MOS's. It would be very challenging to draw a straight line from the military to one of our EMS licenses. The best solution is to run them through the educational system filter and let that be the leveling mechanism. I would be very uneasy about putting language in code or rule that locks you into a specific translation process and then have to try to manage that as the branches make changes to their individual curricula.

- **Indiana**

Indiana's Rules provide for:

836 IAC 4-3-3 Certification based upon reciprocity

Authority: IC 16-31-2-7; IC 16-31-3-14; IC 16-31-3-14.5; IC 16-31-3-20

Affected: IC 16-31-3-8; IC 16-31-3-10

Sec. 3. (a) To obtain certification based upon reciprocity, an individual shall be a minimum of fourteen (14) years of age and meet one (1) of the following requirements:

(1) Be a person who:

(A) possesses a valid certificate or license as a first responder from another state;

(B) while serving in the military of the United States, successfully completed a course of training and study equivalent to the material contained in the Indiana first responder training course;

(C) holds a valid unlimited license to practice medicine in Indiana; or

(D) successfully completed a course of training and study equivalent to the material contained in the Indiana first responder training course and successfully completes the written and practical skills certification examinations prescribed by the commission.

(2) Be a person who:

(A) holds a current first responder registration issued by the National Registry; and

(B) has completed a course equivalent to Indiana approved curriculum.

(b) Any nonresident of Indiana who possesses a certificate or license as a first responder that is valid in another state, upon affiliation with an Indiana certified provider organization, may apply to the agency for temporary certification as a first responder. Upon receipt of a valid application and verification of valid status by the agency, the agency may issue temporary certification, which shall be valid for:...

The Indiana State Legislature is considering a bill that substantially says the same as our rule. The challenge, however, is that the training obtained in the military is not generally equivalent to Indiana's training requirements. Indiana is considering adopting transition courses that can provide credit for military trained personnel to move into civilian licenses without taking the entire course.

- **Maryland**

If they have national registry, then we give them reciprocity. If they don't and they are honorably discharged, we handle them as a health care provider that wishes to become an EMS provider. They are required to complete training, but we customize the training by allowing them to test out of appropriate modules.