

Emergency Medical Services; SB 53

SB 53 creates and amends law related to emergency medical services and licensure by the Emergency Medical Services Board (Board).

Inactive Certificate

The bill creates the designation of inactive certificate and authorizes the Board to issue an inactive certificate to persons currently certified by the Board who make a written application on a Board form and pay the corresponding fee.

The bill authorizes the Board to issue such inactive certificates only to persons who are not directly providing emergency medical services (EMS) in the state and are not holding themselves out to the public as providing EMS. The bill further states possession of an inactive certificate does not allow the holder to engage in the practice of EMS.

Inactive certificates may be renewed pursuant to Board procedure and each certificate holder is subject to continuing laws regarding EMS, but inactive certificate holders are not required to complete any continuing education requirements set by the Board.

The bill allows inactive certificate holders to apply for an active certificate by filing a written application on a form prepared by the Board and paying the corresponding fee. The Board has the authority to require additional testing, training, or education as deemed necessary to establish the inactive certificate holder's ability to engage in the provision of EMS with reasonable skill and safety.

Board Meetings

The bill reduces the number of required Board meetings from six to four each year.

Emergency Medical Service Providers

The bill adds a definition for "emergency medical service provider," which means an emergency responder, advanced emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician, or paramedic certified by the Board.

The bill also establishes certain background check procedures for EMS provider certification applicants. The Board is allowed to require applicants to submit fingerprints and to submit to a state and national criminal history record check. The Board is allowed to submit such fingerprints to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for state and national criminal history record checks. The bill authorizes the Board to use information obtained from fingerprinting and background checks to verify the identity of the applicant and to determine the qualifications and fitness of the applicant to be issued or to maintain a certificate.

The bill requires local and state law enforcement to assist in taking fingerprints of applicants and the KBI to release to the Board all records of an applicant's adult convictions, non-convictions, or adjudications from any state.

Emergency Medical Services Criminal History and Fingerprinting Fund

The bill authorizes the Board to charge a fee equal to the cost of fingerprinting and state and federal background checks. The Board must remit such funds to the State Treasurer.

The bill creates the Emergency Medical Services Criminal History and Fingerprinting Fund (Fund), administered by the Board. The bill requires the State Treasurer to deposit the remitted funds into the Fund. The bill requires all moneys credited to the Fund be used only to pay the KBI for processing of fingerprints and criminal background checks. The bill requires expenditures from the Fund be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the Director of Accounts and Reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the Board chairperson.

Technical and Conforming Changes

The bill removes definitions for certain certification levels no longer certified by the Board, as well as corresponding statutory provisions related to those certification levels, and makes conforming technical changes to other statutory provisions.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.