

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H2/17/15 H2/23/15 S3/12/15*
90th General Assembly **A Bill**
Regular Session, 2015

HOUSE BILL 1133

By: Representative Baltz

By: Senator Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE A PROGRAM FOR LICENSURE OF COMMUNITY
PARAMEDICS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE A PROGRAM FOR LICENSURE OF
COMMUNITY PARAMEDICS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-13-202 is amended to read as follows:

20-13-202. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Air ambulance" means an aircraft, fixed or rotary wing, utilized for on-scene responses or transports deemed necessary by a physician and licensed by the Department of Health;

(2) "Air ambulance services" means those services authorized and licensed by the department to provide care and air transportation of patients;

(3) "Ambulance" means a vehicle used for transporting any person by stretcher or gurney upon the streets or highways of Arkansas, excluding vehicles intended solely for personal use by immediate family members;

(4) "Ambulance services" means those services authorized and licensed by the department to provide care and transportation of patients upon the streets and highways of Arkansas;

~~(5) "Board" means the State Board of Health;~~

~~(6) "Council" means the Emergency Medical Services Advisory~~



~~Council;~~

~~(7)~~(5) "Emergency medical services" means:

(A) The transportation and medical care provided the ill or injured before arrival at a medical facility by a licensed emergency medical services personnel or other health care provider; ~~and~~

(B) Continuation of the initial emergency care within a medical facility subject to the approval of the medical staff and governing board of that facility; and

(C) *Integrated* medical care in emergency and nonurgent settings with the oversight of a physician;

~~(8)~~(A)(6)(A) "Emergency medical services personnel" means an individual licensed by the department at any level established by the rules adopted by the ~~board~~ State Board of Health under this subchapter and authorized to perform those services set forth in the rules.

(B) These shall include without limitation EMT, Advanced EMT, Paramedic, EMS Instructor, or EMS Instructor Trainer;

~~(9)~~(7) "Licensure" means official acknowledgment by the department that an individual has demonstrated competence to perform the emergency medical services required for licensure under the rules, regulations, and standards adopted by the board upon recommendation by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council; and

~~(10)~~(8) "Medical facility" means any hospital, medical clinic, physician's office, nursing home, or other health care facility.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 13, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 16 – Community Paramedics

20-13-1601. Definition.

As used in this subchapter, "Community Paramedic" means an individual who:

(1) Is licensed as a paramedic;

(2) Meets the requirements for additional licensure as a community paramedic under this subchapter; and

(3) Provides services to:

(A) Discharged inpatients who:

- (i) Have been screened for home health or hospice;
and
- (ii)(a) Do not qualify for home health or hospice services; or
 - (b) Are documented as having declined home health hospice services;
 - (B) Discharged emergency department patients; and
 - (C) Pre-hospital patients.

20-13-1602. Community Paramedic – Licensure – Services.

(a) To be eligible for licensure by the Department of Health under the Section of Emergency Medical Services as a Community Paramedic, an individual shall:

- (1)(A) Be currently licensed as a paramedic;
- (B) Have two (2) years of full-time service as a paramedic; and
- (C) Be actively employed by a licensed paramedic ambulance service; and
- (2) Successfully complete a community paramedic training program from an accredited college or university approved by the Department of Health under the Section of Emergency Medical Services.

(b) The training program for the Community Paramedic shall consist of a minimum of three hundred (300) hours of classroom and clinical education as follows:

- (1) Clinical experience that is provided under the supervision of a community paramedic service medical director, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or home health nurse; and
- (2) Areas of clinical experience including at a minimum:
 - (A) Emergency department services;
 - (B) Home health services;
 - (C) Hospital case management; and
 - (D) Public health agencies services.

(c) A community paramedic may provide services as directed by a patient care plan after the plan has been developed, approved, or both by the patient's physician in conjunction with the Community Paramedic service's medical director.

(d) An individual is an eligible patient for Community Paramedic services if the individual has been identified by the individual's treating physician as an individual for whom Community Paramedic services would likely:

(1) Prevent admission to or allow discharge from a nursing facility; or

(2) Prevent readmission to a hospital or nursing home.

(e) Community Paramedic services are limited to:

(1) Coordination of community services;

(2) Chronic disease monitoring and education;

(3) Health assessment;

(4) Hospital discharge follow-up care;

(5) Laboratory specimen collection; and

(6) Medication compliance.

(f) For purposes of relicensure a Community Paramedic shall:

(1) Complete an additional fifteen (15) hours training beyond the relicensure requirements as a paramedic; and

(2) Be active in performing the skills of a Community Paramedic.

20-13-1603 Rules.

(a) The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and the State Board of Health shall adopt rules to implement this subchapter;

(b) The rules shall consider quality assurance and adequate data collection to evaluate the utilization and effectiveness of the community paramedic program.

/s/Baltz