

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

Second Reg. SESSION, 2023

S. B. No. 23-52

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 1 CMC §§ 28002, 28004, and 28032, to certify non-emergency medical transport ambulances; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that in the last three  
2 decades our islands have experienced multitude level of economic development. Along  
3 with developing our economies, our communities have seen and experienced diverse  
4 population migration and needs, dynamic business activities, demands for roads and  
5 highways traffic management, including national public health emergency – the COVID  
6 19 pandemic, and natural disasters due to severe weather.

7           The Legislature also finds that there are private service providers of non-emergency  
8 medical transport ambulances servicing our residents to-and-from approved medical  
9 facilities that are critical collaborators during time of need and emergency situations in the  
10 CNMI. Thus, a modern robust program of emergency medical service is vital to the well-  
11 being of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is equally  
12 important that the CNMI maintain the most up-to-date and modern types of available  
13 emergency medical services for the people.

14           To this end, the Legislature also finds that the duties and responsibilities provided  
15 in Public Law 18-73 and codified under Title 1, Division 2, Chapter 18 do not fully  
16 encompass the scope of duties and responsibilities of the Department of Fire and  
17 Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS) to ensure the safety and to safely access healthcare  
18 facilities for our citizens in the Northern Mariana Islands. Accordingly, the Legislature  
19 finds it prudent to expand the DFEMS' duties and responsibilities to include certifying  
20 non-emergency medical transport ambulances.

21           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 1 CMC §§ 28002, 28004, and

1 28032 to ensure DFEMS' safety certification capabilities in inspecting ambulances and  
2 personnel that provide emergency and non-emergency services to the public in the  
3 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

4 **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 28002 is amended by adding a new subsection  
5 (p) to read as follows:

6 “(p) “Non-Emergency Medical Transport Ambulance shall mean NEMTA”.”

7 **Section 3. Amendment.** 1 CMC §§ 28004 (a)(8) and (10) are amended to add as  
8 follows:

9 “(8) To establish and participate in training and certification, and non-emergency  
10 medical transport ambulance certification, professional development, and educational  
11 programs relating to fire science, EMS, and other related matters;

12 (10) To provide and receive mutual aid to and from the Commonwealth Ports  
13 Authority and Aircraft Rescue Firefighting inclusive of the seaport; to establish and  
14 regulate the participation of EMS certified NEMTA to provide for the arrangement of  
15 personnel, facilities, and equipment for the effective coordinated delivery of healthcare  
16 services under emergency conditions, whether occurring as the result of a patient condition  
17 or of natural disaster or other causes such as the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Aircraft  
18 Rescue Firefighting inclusive of the seaport; and receive appropriate local and federal  
19 funding to provide for such aid; and”

20 **Section 4. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 28004(d) is amended to add as follows:

21 “(d) The Department of Fire and EMS, and EMS certified NEMTA ~~is~~ are  
22 considered essential services and in order to perform its mandate and uninterrupted  
23 emergency services to the community.”

24 **Section 5. Amendment.** 1 CMC §§ 28032(b) and (g) are amended to add as  
25 follows:

26 “(b) To provide emergency medical services training from EMR, EMT, Advance  
27 EMT, and paramedics; certification through the National Registry of EMT's; and license  
28 all CPR/First Aid, first responders, basic and advanced life support prehospital providers,  
29 and certification of private NEMTA in accordance to U.S. DOT EVOC – Ambulance  
30 (1995);”

1 (g) To regulate layperson CPR, first aid, emergency fire and medical dispatcher,  
2 basic and advanced life support training and certification including distance learning  
3 standards for first responders, prehospital healthcare professional, emergency dispatchers,  
4 non-emergency medical transport ambulance transporters, life guards, safety officers,  
5 industrial workers, boat operators, underwater divers, and other being administered by  
6 government educational or training institutions, and other government agencies conducting  
7 and performing life safety programs and functions and establish fees for such; provided  
8 that private operators or providers conducting and performing life safety programs and  
9 functions shall be under the Health Care Professional Licensing Board;”

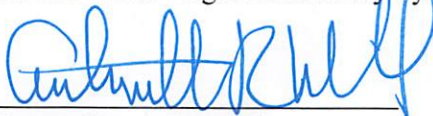
10 **Section 6. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
11 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
12 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
13 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

14 **Section 7. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not  
15 be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under  
16 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.  
17 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant  
18 to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any  
19 way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the  
20 date this Act becomes effective.

21 **Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
22 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

Date: 11/15/2023

Introduced By:   
Senator Corina L. Magofna

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:  
  
Senate Legal Counsel