

SENATE, No. 4827

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator ANDREW ZWICKER
District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS
Establishes EMT Workforce Development Partnership in DOH, appropriates \$1.5 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning EMTs, supplementing Title 26 of the Revised
2 Statutes, and making an appropriation.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Department” means the Department of Health.

9 “Emergency medical technician” means a person trained in basic
10 life support care and validly certified or recognized by the
11 Commissioner of Health in accordance with the standards for
12 emergency medical technician certification as set forth at N.J.A.C.
13 8:40A.

14
15 2. a. The Commissioner of Health, in coordination with the
16 Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Higher Education, and
17 hospitals licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.),
18 shall establish the EMT Workforce Development Partnership,
19 through which students in secondary schools and institutions of
20 higher education, and residents of the communities served by the
21 institutions of higher education, may enroll in a training course, as
22 approved by the Department of Health, that will lead to certification
23 as an emergency medical technician.

24 b. A licensed hospital, agency, organization, or entity that has
25 been certified by the department as an emergency medical
26 technician training agency, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-3.1, shall
27 conduct the training and administer the standardized examination
28 required by the department for certification as an emergency
29 medical technician. In the case of a course for students enrolled in
30 secondary school, the training class shall be taught during the
31 school day.

32 c. (1) In order to enroll in a training course offered through the
33 EMT Workforce Development Partnership, a minor student shall be
34 at least 16 years of age by the first training class, and shall meet the
35 conditions established under N.J.A.C. 8:40A-5.2.

36 (2) The department shall provide provisional certification as an
37 emergency medical technician to a minor who has successfully
38 completed the requisite training course and has attained a passing
39 score on the standardized examination for emergency medical
40 technicians, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.4.

41 d. A hospital, agency, organization, or entity that has been
42 certified by the department as an emergency medical technician
43 training agency, a secondary school, or an institution of higher
44 education that participates in the EMT Workforce Development
45 Partnership shall not assess a fee for the cost of the emergency
46 medical technician training course or the standardized certification
47 exam for a student of a participating secondary school or institution
48 of higher education, or a resident of a community served by a

1 participating institution of higher education, provided the student or
2 resident:

- 3 (1) successfully completes the training course;
4 (2) attains a passing score on the standardized exam required by
5 the department for certification as an emergency medical
6 technician; and
7 (3) serves, for a period of no less than two years, as either a paid
8 or a volunteer emergency medical technician with a first aid,
9 ambulance, or rescue squad located in the municipality or county in
10 which the student's or resident's primary residence is located.

11 e. The Commissioner of Health shall establish a process by
12 which a student of a participating secondary school or institution of
13 higher education, or a resident of a community served by a
14 participating institution of higher education, who does not fulfill the
15 provisions of subsection d. of section 2 of this act, shall reimburse
16 the emergency medical technician training agency for the cost of
17 the emergency medical technician training course or the
18 standardized certification exam, or both.

19
20 3. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the
21 Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education,
22 shall develop and implement an emergency medical technician
23 recruitment campaign to inform licensed hospitals, agencies,
24 organizations, or entities that are certified by the Department of
25 Health as an emergency medical technician training agency,
26 secondary school educators, institutions of higher education, and
27 the public about the important role that emergency medical
28 technicians play in their communities, and about the benefits of
29 participating in the EMT Workforce Development Partnership.

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31 4. The Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of
32 Education, and the Secretary of Higher Education, shall, in
33 accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
34 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules and regulations as necessary
35 to implement the provisions of this act.

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37 5. There is appropriated \$1,500,000 from the General Fund to
38 the Department of Health to implement the provisions of this act.

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40 6. This act shall take effect immediately

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43 STATEMENT

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45 This bill establishes the EMT Workforce Development
46 Partnership (partnership) to provide a pathway for high school
47 students, ages 16 years and older, students of institutions of higher
48 education, and community residents to become certified emergency

1 medical technicians (EMTs). The partnership would be developed
2 by the Commissioner of Health (commissioner), in collaboration
3 with the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher
4 Education; licensed hospitals and other Department of Health
5 (DOH) certified EMT training agencies, secondary schools, and
6 institutions of higher education would be eligible to participate in
7 the partnership.

8 The bill provides that licensed hospitals, agencies, organizations,
9 and entities that are certified by the DOH as an EMT training
10 agency, will provide the EMT training course and administer the
11 standardized examination required for certification as an EMT. An
12 “emergency medical technician” is defined, under the bill, as a
13 person who is trained in basic life support care, and is certified or
14 recognized by the commissioner in accordance with the standards
15 for EMT certification provided at N.J.A.C. 8:40A.

16 In order to enroll in an EMT training course offered through the
17 partnership, a minor must be at least 16 years of age by the first
18 training class, and must meet other requirements in accordance with
19 State regulations. As provided in State regulations, a minor who
20 successfully completes the EMT training course and passes the
21 standardized examination for EMT certification will be granted
22 provisional EMT certification status until their 18th birthday.

23 The bill stipulates that a hospital, agency, organization, or entity
24 that is certified as an EMT training agency, a secondary school, or
25 an institution of higher education that participates in the partnership
26 may not charge a fee for either the training course or the
27 standardized certification exam, provided an enrolled student or
28 resident successfully completes the training course, passes the
29 standardized certification exam, and serves, for at least two years,
30 as either a paid or a volunteer EMT with a first aid, ambulance, or
31 rescue squad located in the municipality or county in which the
32 student or resident primarily resides. The commissioner will
33 establish a process by which a student or a resident, who does not
34 satisfy these conditions, will reimburse the licensed hospital or the
35 DOH-certified training agency for the cost of the EMT training
36 course or the standardized certification exam, or both.

37 The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
38 Education and the Secretary of Higher Education, will additionally
39 develop and implement an EMT recruitment campaign to inform
40 licensed hospitals, certified EMT training agencies, secondary
41 school educators, institutions of higher education, and the public
42 about the critical role that EMTs have in the community and the
43 benefits of participating in the partnership.

44 The bill provides a \$1.5 million appropriation from the General
45 Fund to the DOH to implement this initiative.