AN ACT

RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ACT TO PROVIDE FOR CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS OF PERSONS APPLYING FOR LICENSURE OR LICENSED TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 24-10B-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983, Chapter 190, Section 1) is amended to read:

"24-10B-1. SHORT TITLE.--Chapter 24, Article 10B NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Emergency Medical Services Act"."

SECTION 2. A new section of the Emergency Medical Services Act is enacted to read:

"CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND SCREENING. --

- A. The department is authorized to obtain the criminal history records of applicants and licensees and to exchange fingerprint data directly with the federal bureau of investigation, the department of public safety and any other law enforcement agency or organization. The department shall require fingerprinting of applicants and licensees for the purposes of this section.
- B. The secretary shall adopt and promulgate rules to:
- (1) require criminal history background checks for applicants and licensees;
- (2) identify the information from a criminal history background check that may form the basis of a denial, suspension or revocation of licensure or any other disciplinary action; and

- (3) otherwise carry out the provisions of this section.
- C. The department shall comply with applicable confidentiality requirements of the department of public safety and the federal bureau of investigation regarding the dissemination of criminal history background check information.
- D. An applicant or licensee whose license is denied, suspended or revoked, or who is otherwise disciplined based on information obtained in a criminal history background check, shall be entitled to review the information obtained pursuant to this section and to appeal the decision pursuant to the Uniform Licensing Act.

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- E. The applicant or licensee shall bear any costs associated with ordering or conducting criminal history background checks.
- F. The provisions of the Criminal Offender Employment Act shall govern any consideration of criminal history records required or permitted by the Emergency Medical Services Act.
 - G. As used in this section:
- (1) "applicant" means a person applying for licensure to provide emergency medical services under the Emergency Medical Services Act; and
- (2) "licensee" means a person that holds a license to provide emergency medical services pursuant to the Emergency Medical Services Act."
- SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2014.