

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1115

To require the Secretary of Labor to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System to accurately count the number of emergency medical services practitioners in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 30, 2023

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Labor to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System to accurately count the number of emergency medical services practitioners in the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “EMS Counts Act of
5 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Emergency medical services (referred to in
2 this Act as “EMS”) personnel provide a critical role
3 in emergency response. The EMS workforce consists
4 of a diverse group of health care practitioners, in-
5 cluding—

6 (A) paramedics, emergency medical techni-
7 cians (referred to in this Act as “EMTs”), and
8 dual-role firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/para-
9 medics; and

10 (B) volunteer personnel serving in each of
11 the roles described in subparagraph (A).

12 (2) EMS is an integral component of the re-
13 sponse capacity of the United States to disasters
14 and public health crises, such as outbreaks of infec-
15 tious diseases, bombings, mass shootings, earth-
16 quakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. EMS personnel
17 respond to more than 22,000,000 emergency calls
18 each year including strokes, heart attacks, cardiac
19 arrest, and trauma.

20 (3) The Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles in-
21 formation on the number of individuals working in
22 roles across the entire United States workforce. The
23 Bureau of Labor Statistics completes this work by
24 maintaining the Standard Occupational Classifica-
25 tion system, which classifies workers and jobs into

1 occupational categories for the purposes of col-
2 lecting, calculating, analyzing, and disseminating
3 data.

4 (4) The Bureau of Labor Statistics fails to ac-
5 curately count EMS practitioners because of its fail-
6 ure to include dual-role firefighter/EMTs and fire-
7 fighter/paramedics in their count of EMS personnel.

8 (5) Accurately counting the EMS workforce is
9 critical for government agencies in determining the
10 needs of EMS agencies and practitioners. These
11 data are also crucial for informing many aspects of
12 policy, including preparedness for natural disasters,
13 public health emergencies, and acts of terrorism.

14 **SEC. 3. RECOGNITION OF DUAL-ROLE FIREFIGHTERS AS**
15 **EMS PRACTITIONERS.**

16 Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment
17 of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall revise the broad
18 description under the occupational series “33–2011 Fire-
19 fighters” of the 2018 Standard Occupational Classifica-
20 tion System of the Bureau of Labor Statistics to include
21 the following detailed occupations:

- 22 (1) Firefighters.
- 23 (2) Firefighter/EMTs.
- 24 (3) Firefighter/Paramedics.
- 25 (4) Firefighters, All Other.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall submit to Con-
4 gress a report that describes—

5 (1) the actions taken in 2015 to expand the
6 definition “29–2040 Emergency Medical Technicians
7 and Paramedics” to separately account for the num-
8 bers of EMTs and paramedics; and

9 (2) the implementation of the revisions under
10 section 3.

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