

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5940

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As of January 10, 2024

**Title:** An act relating to creating a medical assistant-EMT certification.

**Brief Description:** Creating a medical assistant-EMT certification.

**Sponsors:** Senators Van De Wege, Hasegawa, Keiser, Lovick, Muzzall and Wagoner.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long Term Care: 1/11/24.

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| <p><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creates a medical assistant-emergency medical technician certification.</li></ul> |
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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE

**Staff:** Julie Tran (786-7283)

**Background:** The Department of Health licenses several different types of medical assistants (MAs) as well as several types of emergency medical services (EMS) providers such as emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics.

An EMT is a person authorized by the Secretary of Health (Secretary) to render emergency medical care under the responsible supervision and direction of an approved Medical Program Director (MPD), which may include: Participating in an emergency services supervisory organization or a community assistance referral and education services program; or providing collaborative medical care if the participation or provision of collaborative medical care does not exceed the participant's training and certification.

A paramedic is a person who has been trained in an approved program to perform all phases of prehospital emergency medical care, including advanced life support, under an MPD's or approved physician delegate's written or oral authorization, and examined and certified by

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

the Secretary.

**Summary of Bill:** A medical assistant-EMT (MA-EMT) is defined as a registered person who holds either an EMT certification or a paramedic certification, and who performs the authorized duties under the supervision of a health care practitioner.

Certification. Any person with an EMT or paramedic certification is eligible for a MA-EMT certification with no additional training or examination requirements if the EMT or paramedic certification is in good standing. The Secretary must issue an MA-EMT certification to any person who meets the MA-EMT qualifications. The qualifications must be consistent with the qualifications for the EMT certification or the paramedic certification.

No individual may practice as an MA-EMT unless the individual is certified.

An MA-EMT certification is transferable between licensed hospitals in the state.

Authorized Duties. MA-EMTs may perform the following duties delegated by, and under the supervision of, a health care practitioner if the duties are within the scope and training of the MA-EMT's EMT or paramedic certification:

- fundamental procedures: disposing of biohazardous materials and practicing standard precautions;
- clinical procedures: taking vital signs; IV insertion and removal; preparing patients for examination; observing and reporting patients' signs or symptoms; eye irrigation; hemorrhage control with direct pressure or hemostatic gauze; spinal and extremity motion restriction and immobilization; oxygen administration; airway maintenance, stabilization, and suctioning; cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and use of automated external defibrillators and semiautomated external defibrillators;
- specimen collection: capillary puncture and venipuncture; obtaining specimens for microbiological testing; and instructing patients in proper technique to collect urine and fecal specimens;
- diagnostic testing: electrocardiography; and respiratory testing, including nasopharyngeal swabbing for COVID-19;
- patient care: telephone and in-person screening, limited to intake and gathering of information without requiring the exercise of judgment based on clinical knowledge; obtaining vital signs; obtaining and recording patient history; preparing and maintaining examination and treatment areas; preparing patients for, and assisting with, routine and specialty examinations, procedures, treatments, and minor office surgeries; and maintaining medication and immunization records; and
- administering medications, limited to intramuscular vaccinations, intramuscular and oral opioid antagonists, and oral glucose.

The Secretary may adopt rules to establish additional duties that an MA-EMT may perform as deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 3, 2024.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.