

JAN 19 2010

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



MILLAGE PEAKS
FIRE CHIEF

January 8, 2010

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 10-004

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Millage Peaks, Fire Chief *ml.P.*

SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY BILL 2917 COMPLIANCE – BACKGROUND CHECK
REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Recommendations: That the Board:

1. Approve the attached Resolution authorizing the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to access State and Federal level summary criminal history information and subsequent State arrest notification for Emergency Medical Technician I (EMT-I) personnel certified by the LAFD.
2. Direct the Commission Executive Assistant II to forward this Resolution to the City Council and Mayor for consideration and approval.

Summary:

On September 25, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 2917 (Attachment 2) mandating new background check requirements for agencies that certify EMT-Is.

Assembly Bill 2917 requires that, effective July 1, 2010, all EMT-Is and EMT-IIs in the State shall have California Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal background checks. AB 2917 also requires subsequent arrest notification from California DOJ.

The California Emergency Medical Services Authority has advised the LAFD that, per California Penal Code Sections 11105(b)(11) and 13300(b)(11) [Attachments 3 and 4 respectively], authorization from the governing body of a city, county, or district is required to access summary criminal history information for employment, licensing, or certification purposes.

Background:

According to the State Assembly Committee on Health's analysis of AB 2917, Assembly Member Alberto Torrico authored the bill "... because there is currently no statewide standard or requirement for background checks of EMTs, nor is there a repository of information that allows local certifying authorities to see whether an EMT has been subject to disciplinary action, such as revocation or suspension of the EMT certificate."

AB 2917 is a multi-faceted bill addressing State and local certification regulations and disciplinary guidelines for EMTs. Pursuant to AB 2917, the State Emergency Medical Services Authority is required to establish and maintain a centralized registry of the status of EMT licenses and certificates, and "certifying entities" are required to conduct State and Federal level criminal background checks on EMT-I and EMT-II personnel.

An LAFD workgroup has been convened to coordinate the certification, recertification, logistical, employee relations, funding, disciplinary, and legal impacts of AB 2917 compliance. This report is to initiate City approval of the Resolution allowing the LAFD to access State and Federal level summary criminal history information for EMT certification and re-certification purposes.

The Personnel Department's Background Investigation Manager reports that the current background investigation process for LAFD sworn new hires (Since July 1999) includes California Department of Justice Live Scan checks for conviction information only and subsequent arrest information, but does not send to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

As previously stated, effective July 1, 2010, all EMT-I's and EMT-II's in the State will need California Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal background checks (i.e., Live Scan) with subsequent arrest notification from the State. However, a provision of AB 2917 allows for the "grandfathering" of current EMTs to undergo California Department of Justice background checks only if completed prior to March 31, 2010. With approximately 2,600 LAFD EMT-I members, the workgroup is discussing the logistical and employee relations aspects of meeting this "grandfathering" clause for the affected members.

CONCLUSION:

Assembly Bill 2917 was passed to help ensure continued safety of the public by Emergency Medical Technician personnel throughout California. As a "certifying entity" of EMT personnel, the Los Angeles Fire Department hereby initiates our formal compliance with the provisions of AB 2917.

Board report prepared by Lorraine Kwiatkowski, Management Analyst II, Chief of Staff's Office.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution
Assembly Bill No. 2917, Chapter 274
CA Penal Code Sections 11100-11112
CA Penal Code Sections 13300-13305

RESOLUTION NO.

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AUTHORIZING THE LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS TO STATE
AND FEDERAL SUMMARY CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION, INCLUDING
SUBSEQUENT ARREST NOTIFICATION, FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OR
CERTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN I PERSONNEL**

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 2917 (Chapter 274, Statutes of 2008) requires State and Federal criminal background checks, including subsequent arrest notification, of Emergency Medical Technician personnel after July 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) is a certifying entity of Emergency Medical Technician I personnel, and certifies Emergency Medical Technician I members of the LAFD; and

WHEREAS, Penal Code Sections 11105(b)(11) and 13300(b)(11) authorize cities, counties, and districts to access State and local summary criminal history information for employment, licensing, or certification purposes; and

WHEREAS, Penal Code Section 11105(b)(11) authorizes cities, counties, counties, and districts to access Federal level criminal history information by transmitting fingerprint images and related information to the Department of Justice to be transmitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, Penal Code Sections 11105(b)(11) and 13300(b)(11) require that there be a requirement or exclusion from employment, licensing, or certification based on specific criminal conduct on the part of the subject of the record; and

WHEREAS, Penal Code Sections 11105(b)(11) and 13300(b)(11) require the city council, board of supervisors, or governing body of a city, county, or district to specifically authorize access to summary criminal history information for employment, licensing, or certification purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Fire Department currently conducts background checks involving only State summary criminal background checks for conviction information with subsequent arrest notification for new LAFD sworn members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles Fire Department is hereby authorized, upon approval by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, to access State and Federal level summary criminal history information, including subsequent arrest notification, for the employment or certification of Emergency Medical Technician I personnel of the LAFD, and may not disseminate the information to a private entity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles Fire Department shall not consider a person who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude eligible for employment or certification, except that such conviction may be disregarded if it is determined that mitigating circumstances exist, or that the conviction is not related to the employment or certification in question.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles at its meeting held _____.

BLANCA GOMEZ-REVELLES
Commission Executive Assistant II

12/8/09

Assembly Bill No. 2917**CHAPTER 274**

An act to amend Sections 1797.101, 1797.170, 1797.172, 1797.216, and 1798.200 of, to add Sections 1797.61, 1797.117, 1797.118, 1797.184, 1797.211, 1797.217, and 1797.219 to, and to repeal and add Section 1797.62 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to emergency medical services.

[Approved by Governor September 25, 2008. Filed with
Secretary of State September 25, 2008.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2917, Torrico. Emergency medical services personnel.

Under existing law, the Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act, the Emergency Medical Services Authority is responsible for establishing minimum standards and promulgating regulations for the training and scope of practice for emergency medical technicians-paramedic (EMT-P). Violation of the act is a misdemeanor. Under existing law, these standards and regulations would be applicable to local governments, agencies, and other organizations that provide this training.

The act also provides for the certification of emergency medical technicians through the issuance of certificates, including EMT-I and EMT-II certificates, by local entities, known as local EMS agencies, which are designated by counties. Existing law also permits public safety agencies, for public safety personnel, and the State Board of Fire Services, for fire safety personnel, to issue EMT-I certificates. Existing law provides that the medical director of a local EMS agency or the Emergency Medical Services Authority may deny, suspend, or revoke certificates issued under these provisions, or may place a certificate holder on probation, upon the occurrence of any of specified events.

This bill would, among other things, require the authority to establish and maintain a centralized system for monitoring and tracing EMT-I and EMT-II certification status and EMT-P licensure status to be used by certifying entities, as defined, and would require specified fees to be collected and expended, upon appropriation, for related purposes. The bill would require the authority to adopt regulations regarding the submission of fingerprint images and related information to the Department of Justice.

This bill would require the authority to establish EMT-I and EMT-II certification and disciplinary guidelines. This bill would authorize an EMT-I or EMT-II employer to investigate and discipline those EMT-I and EMT-II employees who commit specified acts. This bill would require the medical director to investigate and discipline specified EMT-Is and EMT-IIs. By

imposing new duties upon local officials, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

By changing the definition of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

This bill would make the operation of its provisions contingent upon the enactment of SB 997 of the 2007–08 Regular Session.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The health and safety of Californians often depends on the timely response and competent care of emergency medical service (EMS) personnel.

(b) Whether it is an automobile accident, heart attack, near drowning, unscheduled childbirth, gunshot wound, or other life critical incident, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) provide vital, lifesaving, prehospital attention to the public and assist in transporting the sick or injured to an appropriate medical facility.

(c) Maintaining consistent and accountable supervision of EMT certificate holders requires that pertinent information about certification be available to all EMS providers prior to the employment of an EMT.

(d) Ensuring the safety of the public, as well as that of first responders, requires that any entity that employs EMTs have access to pertinent information concerning any applicant's background and criminal history as a condition of his or her employment.

(e) Local EMS agencies have a role to play in maintaining the consistency of department policies and in conforming to the legal requirements necessary to provide appropriate medical oversight and protect the public safety.

SEC. 2. Section 1797.61 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1797.61. (a) "Certificate" or "license" means a specific document issued to an individual denoting competence in the named area of prehospital service.

(b) "Certificate status" or "license status" means the active, expired, denied, suspended, revoked, or placed on probation designation applied to a certificate or license issued pursuant to this division.

SEC. 3. Section 1797.62 of the Health and Safety Code is repealed.

SEC. 4. Section 1797.62 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1797.62. "Certifying entity" means a public safety agency or the office of the State Fire Marshal if the agency has a training program for EMT-I personnel that is approved pursuant to the standards developed pursuant to Section 1797.109, or the medical director of a local EMS agency.

SEC. 5. Section 1797.101 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1797.101. The Emergency Medical Services Authority shall be headed by the Director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority who shall be appointed by the Governor upon nomination by the Secretary of California Health and Human Services. The director shall be a physician and surgeon licensed in California pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, and who has substantial experience in the practice of emergency medicine.

SEC. 6. Section 1797.117 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1797.117. (a) The authority shall establish and maintain a centralized registry system for the monitoring and tracking of each EMT-I and EMT-II certificate status and each EMT-P license status. This centralized registry system shall be used by the certifying entities as part of the certification process for an EMT-I and EMT-II and by the authority as part of the licensure process for an EMT-P license. The authority shall, by regulation, specify the data elements to be included in the centralized registry system, the requirements for certifying entities to report the data elements for inclusion in the registry, including reporting deadlines, the penalties for failure of a certifying entity to report certification status changes within these deadlines, and requirements for submission to the Department of Justice fingerprint images and related information required by the Department of Justice of, except as otherwise provided in this division, EMT-I and EMT-II certificate candidates or holders and EMT-P license candidates or holders for the purposes described in subdivision (c). The data elements to be included in the centralized registry system shall include, but are not limited to, data elements that are to be made publicly available pursuant to subdivision (b).

(b) The information made available to the public through the centralized registry system shall include all of the following data elements: the full name of every individual who has been issued an EMT-I or EMT-II certificate or EMT-P license, the name of the entity that issued the certificate or license, the certificate or license number, the date of issuance of the license or certificate, and the license or certificate status.

(c) (1) As part of the centralized registry system, the authority shall electronically submit to the Department of Justice fingerprint images and related information required by the Department of Justice of all EMT-I and EMT-II certificate candidates or holders, and of all EMT-P license applicants, for the purposes of obtaining information as to the existence and content of a record of state or federal convictions and state or federal arrests and also information as to the existence and content of a record of state or

federal arrests for which the Department of Justice establishes that the person is free on bail or on his or her recognizance pending trial or appeal.

(2) When received, the Department of Justice shall forward to the Federal Bureau of Investigation requests for federal summary criminal history information received pursuant to this subdivision. The Department of Justice shall review the information returned from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and compile and electronically disseminate a primary response to the authority and electronically disseminate a dual response to one government agency certifying entity.

(3) The Department of Justice shall electronically provide the primary response to the authority and also electronically, the dual response to one certifying entity that is a government agency, pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code.

(d) The authority shall request the Department of Justice to provide subsequent arrest notification service, as provided pursuant to Section 11105.2 of the Penal Code, for persons described in subdivision (c). All subsequent arrest notifications provided to the authority for persons described in subdivision (c) shall be electronically submitted to one government agency certifying entity, as a dual response by the Department of Justice.

(e) The Department of Justice shall charge a fee sufficient to cover the cost of processing the request described in this section.

SEC. 7. Section 1797.118 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1797.118. (a) On and after July 1, 2010, and except as provided in subdivision (b), every EMT-I and EMT-II certificate candidate or holder shall have their fingerprint images and related information submitted to the authority for submission to the Department of Justice pursuant to the regulations adopted pursuant to Section 1797.117 for a state and federal level criminal offender record information search, including subsequent arrest information.

(b) If a state level criminal offender record information search, including subsequent arrest information, has been conducted on a currently certified EMT-I or EMT-II, who was certified prior to July 1, 2010, for the purposes of employment or EMT-I or EMT-II certification, then the certifying entity or employer as identified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 1798.200 shall verify in writing to the authority pursuant to regulations adopted pursuant to Section 1797.117 that a state level criminal offender record information search, including subsequent arrest information, has been conducted and that nothing in the criminal offender record information search precluded the individual from obtaining EMT-I or EMT-II certification.

SEC. 8. Section 1797.170 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1797.170. (a) The authority shall develop and, after approval by the commission pursuant to Section 1799.50, adopt regulations for the training and scope of practice for EMT-I certification.

(b) Any individual certified as an EMT-I pursuant to this division shall be recognized as an EMT-I on a statewide basis, and recertification shall be based on statewide standards. Effective July 1, 1990, any individual certified as an EMT-I pursuant to this act shall complete a course of training on the nature of sudden infant death syndrome which is developed by the California SIDS program in the State Department of Public Health in consultation with experts in the field of sudden infant death syndrome.

SEC. 9. Section 1797.172 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1797.172. (a) The authority shall develop and, after approval by the commission pursuant to Section 1799.50, adopt minimum standards for the training and scope of practice for EMT-P.

(b) The approval of the director, in consultation with a committee of local EMS medical directors named by the EMS Medical Directors Association of California, is required prior to implementation of any addition to a local optional scope of practice for EMT-Ps proposed by the medical director of a local EMS agency.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authority shall be the agency solely responsible for licensure and licensure renewal of EMT-Ps who meet the standards and are not precluded from licensure because of any of the reasons listed in subdivision (d) of Section 1798.200. Each application for licensure or licensure renewal shall require the applicant's social security number in order to establish the identity of the applicant. The information obtained as a result of a state and federal level criminal offender record information search shall be used in accordance with Section 11105 of the Penal Code, and to determine whether the applicant is subject to denial of licensure or licensure renewal pursuant to this division. Submission of fingerprint images to the Department of Justice may not be required for licensure renewal upon determination by the authority that fingerprint images have previously been submitted to the Department of Justice during initial licensure, or a previous licensure renewal, provided that the license has not lapsed and the applicant has resided continuously in the state since the initial licensure.

(d) The authority shall charge fees for the licensure and licensure renewal of EMT-Ps in an amount sufficient to support the authority's licensure program at a level that ensures the qualifications of the individuals licensed to provide quality care. The basic fee for licensure or licensure renewal of an EMT-P shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) until the adoption of regulations that specify a different amount that does not exceed the authority's EMT-P licensure, license renewal, and enforcement programs. The authority shall annually evaluate fees to determine if the fee is sufficient to fund the actual costs of the authority's licensure, licensure renewal, and enforcement programs. If the evaluation shows that the fees are excessive or are insufficient to fund the actual costs of the authority's EMT-P licensure, licensure renewal, and enforcement programs, then the fees shall be adjusted accordingly through the rulemaking process described in the Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section

11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). Separate additional fees may be charged, at the option of the authority, for services that are not shared by all applicants for licensure and licensure renewal, including, but not limited to, any of the following services:

- (1) Initial application for licensure as an EMT-P.
- (2) Competency testing, the fee for which shall not exceed thirty dollars (\$30), except that an additional fee may be charged for the cost of any services that provide enhanced availability of the exam for the convenience of the EMT-P, such as on-demand electronic testing.
- (3) Fingerprint and criminal record check. The applicant shall, if applicable according to subdivision (c), submit fingerprint images and related information for criminal offender record information searches with the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- (4) Out-of-state training equivalency determination.
- (5) Verification of continuing education for a lapse in licensure.
- (6) Replacement of a lost licensure card. The fees charged for individual services shall be set so that the total fees charged to EMT-Ps shall not exceed the authority's actual total cost for the EMT-P licensure program.
- (e) The authority may provide nonconfidential, nonpersonal information relating to EMS programs to interested persons upon request, and may establish and assess fees for the provision of this information. These fees shall not exceed the costs of providing the information.
- (f) At the option of the authority, fees may be collected for the authority by an entity that contracts with the authority to provide any of the services associated with the EMT-P program. All fees collected for the authority in a calendar month by any entity designated by the authority pursuant to this section to collect fees for the authority shall be transmitted to the authority for deposit into the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Fund within 30 calendar days following the last day of the calendar month in which the fees were received by the designated entity, unless the contract between the entity and the authority specifies a different timeframe.

SEC. 10. Section 1797.184 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1797.184. The authority shall develop and, after approval by the commission pursuant to Section 1799.50, adopt all of the following:

- (a) Guidelines for disciplinary orders, temporary suspensions, and conditions of probation for EMT-I and EMT-II certificate holders that protects the public health and safety.
- (b) Regulations for the issuance of EMT-I and EMT-II certificates by a certifying entity that protects the public health and safety.
- (c) Regulations for the recertification of EMT-I and EMT-II certificate holders that protect the public health and safety.
- (d) Regulations for disciplinary processes for EMT-I and EMT-II applicants and certificate holders that protect the public health and safety. These disciplinary processes shall be in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

SEC. 11. Section 1797.211 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1797.211. Each local EMS agency shall submit certificate status updates to the authority within three working days after a final determination is made regarding a certification disciplinary action taken by the medical director that results in a change to an EMT-I or EMT-II certificate status.

SEC. 12. Section 1797.216 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1797.216. Public safety agencies that are certifying entities may certify and recertify public safety personnel as EMT-I. The state fire marshal, subject to policy guidance and advice from the State Board of Fire Services, may certify and recertify fire safety personnel as EMT-I. All persons certified shall have completed a program of training approved by the local EMS agency or the authority and have passed a competency-based examination.

SEC. 13. Section 1797.217 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1797.217. (a) Every certifying entity shall submit to the authority certification data required by Section 1797.117.

(b) The authority shall collect fees from each certifying entity for the certification and certification renewal of each EMT-I and EMT-II in an amount sufficient to support the authority's central registry program and the local EMS agency administrative law judge reimbursement program. Separate additional fees may be charged, at the option of the authority, for services that are not shared by all applicants.

(c) The authority's fees shall be established in regulations, and fees charged for individual services shall be set so that the total fees charged shall not exceed the authority's actual total cost for the authority's central registry program, state and federal criminal offender record information search response program, and the local EMS agency administrative law judge reimbursement program.

(d) In addition to any fees collected by EMT-I or EMT-II certifying entities to support their certification, recertification, or enforcement programs, EMT-I or EMT-II certifying entities shall collect fees to support the authority's central registry program, and the local EMS agency administrative law judge reimbursement program. In lieu of collecting fees from an individual, pursuant to an employer choice, a collective bargaining agreement, or other employment contract, the certifying entity shall provide the appropriate fees to the authority pursuant to this subdivision.

(e) All fees collected for or provided to the authority in a calendar month by an EMT-I or EMT-II certifying entity pursuant to this section shall be transmitted to the authority for deposit into the Emergency Medical Technician Certification Fund within 30 calendar days following the last day of the calendar month in which the fees were received by the certifying entity, unless a contract between the certifying entity and the authority specifies a different timeframe.

(f) At the option of the authority, fees may be collected for the authority by an entity that contracts with the authority to provide any of the services

associated with the registry program, or the state and federal criminal offender record information search response program, or the local EMS agency administrative law judge reimbursement program. All fees collected for the authority in a calendar month by any entity designated by the authority pursuant to this section to collect fees for the authority shall be transmitted to the authority for deposit into the Emergency Medical Technician Certification Fund within 30 calendar days following the last day of the calendar month in which the fees were received by the designated entity, unless the contract between the entity and the authority specifies a different timeframe.

(g) The authority shall annually evaluate fees to determine if the fee is sufficient to fund the actual costs of the authority's central registry program, state and federal criminal offender record information search response program, and local EMS agency administrative law judge reimbursement program. If the evaluation shows that the fees are excessive or are insufficient to fund the actual costs of these programs, then the fees will be adjusted accordingly through the rulemaking process as outlined in the Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(h) The Emergency Medical Technician Certification Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury. All moneys deposited in the fund shall be made available, upon appropriation, to the authority for purposes of the central registry program, state and federal criminal offender record information search response program, and the local EMS agency administrative law judge reimbursement program. The local EMS agency administrative law judge reimbursement program is solely for the purpose of making reimbursements to local emergency medical service agencies for actual administrative law judge costs regarding EMT-I or EMT-II disciplinary action appeals. Reimbursement to the local emergency medical service agencies shall only be made if adequate funds are available from fees collected for the authority's local EMS agency administrative law judge reimbursement program.

(i) The authority may transfer unused portions of the Emergency Medical Technician Certification Fund to the Surplus Money Investment Fund. Funds transferred to the Surplus Money Investment Fund shall be placed in a separate trust account, and shall be available for transfer to the Emergency Medical Technician Certification Fund, together with interest earned, when requested by the authority.

(j) The authority shall maintain a reserve balance in the Emergency Medical Technician Certification Fund of 5 percent of annual revenues. Any increase in the fees deposited in the Emergency Medical Technician Certification Fund shall be effective upon a determination by the authority that additional moneys are required to fund expenditures of this section.

SEC. 14. Section 1797.219 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1797.219. All investigatory and disciplinary processes for EMT-I and EMT-II certificate holders shall be, subject to Chapter 9.6 (commencing

with Section 3250) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code, with respect to certificate holders who are firefighters otherwise subject to these provisions, and Chapter 9.7 (commencing with Section 3300) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code, with respect to certificate holders who are peace officers otherwise subject to these provisions.

SEC. 15. Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1798.200. (a) (1) (A) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an employer of an EMT-I or EMT-II may conduct investigations, as necessary, and take disciplinary action against an EMT-I or EMT-II who is employed by that employer for conduct in violation of subdivision (c). The employer shall notify the medical director of the local EMS agency that has jurisdiction in the county in which the alleged violation occurred within three days when an allegation has been validated as a potential violation of subdivision (c).

(B) Each employer of an EMT-I or EMT-II employee shall notify the medical director of the local EMS agency that has jurisdiction in the county in which a violation related to subdivision (c) occurred within three days after the EMT-I or EMT-II is terminated or suspended for a disciplinary cause, the EMT-I or EMT-II resigns following notification of an impending investigation based upon evidence that would indicate the existence of a disciplinary cause, or the EMT-I or EMT-II is removed from EMT-related duties for a disciplinary cause after the completion of the employer's investigation.

(C) At the conclusion of an investigation, the employer of an EMT-I or EMT-II may develop and implement, in accordance with the guidelines for disciplinary orders, temporary suspensions, and conditions of probation adopted pursuant to Section 1797.184, a disciplinary plan for the EMT-I or EMT-II. Upon adoption of the disciplinary plan, the employer shall submit that plan to the local EMS agency within three working days. The employer's disciplinary plan may include a recommendation that the medical director of the local EMS agency consider taking action against the holder's certificate pursuant to paragraph (3).

(2) If an EMT-I or EMT-II is not employed by an ambulance service licensed by the Department of the California Highway Patrol or a public safety agency or if that ambulance service or public safety agency chooses not to conduct an investigation pursuant to paragraph (1) for conduct in violation of subdivision (c), the medical director of a local EMS agency shall conduct the investigations, and, upon a determination of disciplinary cause, take disciplinary action as necessary against this EMT-I or EMT-II. At the conclusion of these investigations, the medical director shall develop and implement, in accordance with the recommended guidelines for disciplinary orders, temporary orders, and conditions of probation adopted pursuant to Section 1797.184, a disciplinary plan for the EMT-I or EMT-II. The medical director's disciplinary plan may include action against the holder's certificate pursuant to paragraph (3).

(3) The medical director of the local EMS agency may, upon a determination of disciplinary cause and in accordance with regulations for

disciplinary processes adopted pursuant to Section 1797.184, deny, suspend, or revoke any EMT-I or EMT-II certificate issued under this division, or may place any EMT-I or EMT-II certificate holder on probation, upon the finding by that medical director of the occurrence of any of the actions listed in subdivision (c) and the occurrence of one of the following:

(A) The EMT-I or EMT-II employer, after conducting an investigation, failed to impose discipline for the conduct under investigation, or the medical director makes a determination that the discipline imposed was not according to the guidelines for disciplinary orders and conditions of probation and the conduct of the EMT-I or EMT-II certificate holder constitutes grounds for disciplinary action against the certificate.

(B) Either the employer of an EMT-I or EMT-II further determines, after an investigation conducted under paragraph (1), or the medical director determines after an investigation conducted under paragraph (2), that the conduct requires disciplinary action against the certificate.

(4) The medical director of the local EMS agency, after consultation with the employer of an EMT-I or EMT-II, may temporarily suspend, prior to a hearing, any EMT-I or EMT-II certificate or both EMT-I and EMT-II certificates upon a determination that both of the following conditions have been met:

(A) The certificate holder has engaged in acts or omissions that constitute grounds for revocation of the EMT-I or EMT-II certificate.

(B) Permitting the certificate holder to continue to engage in the certified activity without restriction would pose an imminent threat to the public health or safety.

(5) If the medical director of the local EMS agency temporarily suspends a certificate, the local EMS agency shall notify the certificate holder that his or her EMT-I or EMT-II certificate is suspended and shall identify the reasons therefor. Within three working days of the initiation of the suspension by the local EMS agency, the agency and employer shall jointly investigate the allegation in order for the agency to make a determination of the continuation of the temporary suspension. All investigatory information not otherwise protected by law held by the agency and employer shall be shared between the parties via facsimile transmission or overnight mail relative to the decision to temporarily suspend. The local EMS agency shall decide within 15 calendar days, whether to serve the certificate holder with an accusation pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. If the certificate holder files a notice of defense, the hearing shall be held within 30 days of the local EMS agency's receipt of the notice of defense. The temporary suspension order shall be deemed vacated if the local EMS agency fails to make a final determination on the merits within 15 days after the administrative law judge renders the proposed decision.

(6) The medical director of the local EMS agency shall refer, for investigation and discipline, any complaint received on an EMT-I or EMT-II to the relevant employer within three days of receipt of the complaint, pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

(b) The authority may deny, suspend, or revoke any EMT-P license issued under this division, or may place any EMT-P license issued under this division, or may place any EMT-P licenseholder on probation upon the finding by the director of the occurrence of any of the actions listed in subdivision (c). Proceedings against any EMT-P license or licenseholder shall be held in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(c) Any of the following actions shall be considered evidence of a threat to the public health and safety and may result in the denial, suspension, or revocation of a certificate or license issued under this division, or in the placement on probation of a certificate or licenseholder under this division:

(1) Fraud in the procurement of any certificate or license under this division.

(2) Gross negligence.

(3) Repeated negligent acts.

(4) Incompetence.

(5) The commission of any fraudulent, dishonest, or corrupt act that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of prehospital personnel.

(6) Conviction of any crime which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of prehospital personnel. The record of conviction or a certified copy of the record shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction.

(7) Violating or attempting to violate directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate, any provision of this division or the regulations adopted by the authority pertaining to prehospital personnel.

(8) Violating or attempting to violate any federal or state statute or regulation that regulates narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances.

(9) Addiction to, the excessive use of, or the misuse of, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances.

(10) Functioning outside the supervision of medical control in the field care system operating at the local level, except as authorized by any other license or certification.

(11) Demonstration of irrational behavior or occurrence of a physical disability to the extent that a reasonable and prudent person would have reasonable cause to believe that the ability to perform the duties normally expected may be impaired.

(12) Unprofessional conduct exhibited by any of the following:

(A) The mistreatment or physical abuse of any patient resulting from force in excess of what a reasonable and prudent person trained and acting in a similar capacity while engaged in the performance of his or her duties would use if confronted with a similar circumstance. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit an EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P from assisting a peace officer, or a peace officer who is acting in the dual capacity of peace officer and EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P, from using that force that is reasonably necessary to effect a lawful arrest or detention.

(B) The failure to maintain confidentiality of patient medical information, except as disclosure is otherwise permitted or required by law in Sections 56 to 56.6, inclusive, of the Civil Code.

(C) The commission of any sexually related offense specified under Section 290 of the Penal Code.

(d) The information shared among EMT-I, EMT-II, and EMT-P employers, medical directors of local EMS agencies, the authority, and EMT-I and EMT-II certifying entities shall be deemed to be an investigative communication that is exempt from public disclosure as a public record pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 6254 of the Government Code. A formal disciplinary action against an EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P shall be considered a public record available to the public, unless otherwise protected from disclosure pursuant to state or federal law.

(e) For purposes of this section “disciplinary cause” means an act that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of an EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P and is evidence of a threat to the public health and safety described in subdivision (c).

SEC. 16. This act shall become operative only if Senate Bill 997 of the 2007–08 Regular Session is enacted and becomes effective on or before January 1, 2009.

SEC. 17. This act shall not be construed to limit or otherwise impair the medical control of the medical director of a local EMS agency granted pursuant to Section 1798 of the Health and Safety Code.

SEC. 18. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 15 of this act, which amends Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code, imposes a limitation on the public’s right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest: emergency medical technicians serve a critical role in the state’s emergency response network. The public safety is best protected when appropriate and consistent disciplinary standards are applied. When accusations have been made against a certified EMT-I or EMT-II, the individual must be given the investigatory and due process protection that is offered to other licensed and certified professionals such as paramedics, physicians, nurses, and other health care providers. The public shall have certification, licensure, disciplinary and other information readily available with the implementation of the EMT-I, EMT-II, and EMT-P registry as created by Section 1797.117 of the Health and Safety Code.

SEC. 19. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution for certain costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district because, in that regard, this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

However, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

PENAL CODE

SECTION 11100-11112

11100. The Attorney General shall provide for the installation of a proper system and file in the office of the bureau, cards containing an outline of the method of operation employed by criminals in the commission of crime.

11101. The Attorney General shall procure from any available source, and file for record and report in the office of the bureau, all descriptions, information, photographs, and measurements of all persons convicted of a felony, or imprisoned for violating any of the military, naval, or criminal laws of the United States, and of all well-known and habitual criminals.

11102. The department may use the following systems of identification: the Bertillon, the fingerprint system, and any system of measurement that may be adopted by law in the various penal institutions of the state.

11102.1. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, the Department of Justice shall establish, implement, and maintain a certification program to process fingerprint-based criminal background clearances on individuals who roll fingerprint impressions, manually or electronically, for non-law-enforcement purposes. Except as provided in paragraph (2), no person shall roll fingerprints for non-law-enforcement purposes unless certified.

(2) The following persons shall be exempt from this section if they have received training pertaining to applicant fingerprint rolling and have undergone a criminal offender record information background investigation:

(A) Law enforcement personnel and state employees.

(B) Employees of a tribal gaming agency or a tribal gaming operation, provided that the fingerprints are rolled and submitted to the Department of Justice for purposes of compliance with a tribal-state compact.

(3) The department shall not accept fingerprint impressions for non-law-enforcement purposes unless they were rolled by an individual certified or exempted pursuant to this section.

(b) Individuals who roll fingerprint impressions, either manually or electronically, for non-law-enforcement purposes, must submit to the Department of Justice fingerprint images and related information, along with the appropriate fees and documentation. The department shall retain one copy of the fingerprint impressions to process a state level criminal background clearance, and it shall submit one copy of the fingerprint impressions to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to process a federal level criminal background clearance.

(c) The department shall retain the fingerprint impressions for subsequent arrest notification pursuant to Section 11105.2.

(d) Every individual certified as a fingerprint roller shall meet

the following criteria:

(1) Be a legal resident of this state at the time of certification.

(2) Be at least 18 years of age.

(3) Have satisfactorily completed a notarized written application prescribed by the department to determine the fitness of the person to exercise the functions of a fingerprint roller.

(e) Prior to granting a certificate as a fingerprint roller, the department shall determine that the applicant possesses the required honesty, credibility, truthfulness, and integrity to fulfill the responsibilities of the position.

(f) (1) The department shall refuse to certify any individual as a fingerprint roller, and shall revoke the certification of any fingerprint roller, upon either of the following:

(A) Conviction of a felony offense.

(B) Conviction of any other offense that both involves moral turpitude, dishonesty, or fraud, and bears on the applicant's ability to perform the duties or responsibilities of a fingerprint roller.

(2) A conviction after a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction for purposes of this subdivision.

(g) In addition to subdivision (f), the department may refuse to certify any individual as a fingerprint roller, and may revoke or suspend the certification of any fingerprint roller upon any of the following:

(1) Substantial and material misstatement or omission in the application submitted to the department.

(2) Arrest pending adjudication for a felony.

(3) Arrest pending adjudication for a lesser offense that both involves moral turpitude, dishonesty, or fraud, and bears on the applicant's ability to perform the duties or responsibilities of a fingerprint roller.

(4) Revocation, suspension, restriction, or denial of a professional license, if the revocation, suspension, restriction, or denial was for misconduct, dishonesty, or for any cause substantially related to the duties or responsibilities of a fingerprint roller.

(5) Failure to discharge fully and faithfully any of the duties or responsibilities required of a fingerprint roller.

(6) When adjudged liable for damages in any suit grounded in fraud, misrepresentation, or in violation of the state regulatory laws, or in any suit based upon a failure to discharge fully and faithfully the duties of a fingerprint roller.

(7) Use of false or misleading advertising in which the fingerprint roller has represented that he or she has duties, rights, or privileges that he or she does not possess by law.

(8) Commission of any act involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit with the intent to substantially benefit the fingerprint roller or another, or to substantially injure another.

(9) Failure to submit any remittance payable upon demand by the department or failure to satisfy any court ordered money judgment, including restitution.

(h) The Department of Justice shall work with applicant regulatory entities to improve and make more efficient the criminal offender record information request process related to employment, licensing, and certification background investigations.

(i) The Department of Justice may adopt regulations as necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

(j) The department shall charge a fee sufficient to cover its costs under this section.

11103. The Attorney General shall keep on file in the office of the bureau a record consisting of duplicates of all measurements, processes, operations, signalitic cards, measurements, and descriptions of all persons confined in penal institutions of the state as far as possible, in accordance with whatever system or systems may be commonly used in the state.

11104. The Attorney General shall file all measurements, information and descriptions received and shall make a complete and systematic record and index, providing a method of convenience, consultation, and comparison.

11105. (a) (1) The Department of Justice shall maintain state summary criminal history information.

(2) As used in this section:

(A) "State summary criminal history information" means the master record of information compiled by the Attorney General pertaining to the identification and criminal history of any person, such as name, date of birth, physical description, fingerprints, photographs, date of arrests, arresting agencies and booking numbers, charges, dispositions, and similar data about the person.

(B) "State summary criminal history information" does not refer to records and data compiled by criminal justice agencies other than the Attorney General, nor does it refer to records of complaints to or investigations conducted by, or records of intelligence information or security procedures of, the office of the Attorney General and the Department of Justice.

(b) The Attorney General shall furnish state summary criminal history information to any of the following, if needed in the course of their duties, provided that when information is furnished to assist an agency, officer, or official of state or local government, a public utility, or any other entity, in fulfilling employment, certification, or licensing duties, Chapter 1321 of the Statutes of 1974 and Section 432.7 of the Labor Code shall apply:

(1) The courts of the state.

(2) Peace officers of the state, as defined in Section 830.1, subdivisions (a) and (e) of Section 830.2, subdivision (a) of Section 830.3, subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 830.5, and subdivision (a) of Section 830.31.

(3) District attorneys of the state.

(4) Prosecuting city attorneys of any city within the state.

(5) City attorneys pursuing civil gang injunctions pursuant to Section 186.22a, or drug abatement actions pursuant to Section 3479 or 3480 of the Civil Code, or Section 11571 of the Health and Safety Code.

(6) Probation officers of the state.

(7) Parole officers of the state.

(8) A public defender or attorney of record when representing a person in proceedings upon a petition for a certificate of rehabilitation and pardon pursuant to Section 4852.08.

(9) A public defender or attorney of record when representing a person in a criminal case, or parole revocation or revocation extension proceeding, and if authorized access by statutory or decisional law.

(10) Any agency, officer, or official of the state if the criminal history information is required to implement a statute or regulation

that expressly refers to specific criminal conduct applicable to the subject person of the state summary criminal history information, and contains requirements or exclusions, or both, expressly based upon that specified criminal conduct. The agency, officer, or official of the state authorized by this paragraph to receive state summary criminal history information may also transmit fingerprint images and related information to the Department of Justice to be transmitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(11) Any city or county, city and county, district, or any officer or official thereof if access is needed in order to assist that agency, officer, or official in fulfilling employment, certification, or licensing duties, and if the access is specifically authorized by the city council, board of supervisors, or governing board of the city, county, or district if the criminal history information is required to implement a statute, ordinance, or regulation that expressly refers to specific criminal conduct applicable to the subject person of the state summary criminal history information, and contains requirements or exclusions, or both, expressly based upon that specified criminal conduct. The city or county, city and county, district, or the officer or official thereof authorized by this paragraph may also transmit fingerprint images and related information to the Department of Justice to be transmitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(12) The subject of the state summary criminal history information under procedures established under Article 5 (commencing

PENAL CODE

SECTION 13300-13305

13300. (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Local summary criminal history information" means the master record of information compiled by any local criminal justice agency pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 13100) of Title 3 of Part 4 pertaining to the identification and criminal history of any person, such as name, date of birth, physical description, dates of arrests, arresting agencies and booking numbers, charges, dispositions, and similar data about the person.

(2) "Local summary criminal history information" does not refer to records and data compiled by criminal justice agencies other than that local agency, nor does it refer to records of complaints to or investigations conducted by, or records of intelligence information or security procedures of, the local agency.

(3) "Local agency" means a local criminal justice agency.

(b) A local agency shall furnish local summary criminal history information to any of the following, when needed in the course of their duties, provided that when information is furnished to assist an agency, officer, or official of state or local government, a public utility, or any entity, in fulfilling employment, certification, or licensing duties, Chapter 1321 of the Statutes of 1974 and Section 432.7 of the Labor Code shall apply:

(1) The courts of the state.

(2) Peace officers of the state, as defined in Section 830.1, subdivisions (a) and (d) of Section 830.2, subdivisions (a), (b), and (j) of Section 830.3, and subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) of Section 830.5.

(3) District attorneys of the state.

(4) Prosecuting city attorneys of any city within the state.

(5) City attorneys pursuing civil gang injunctions pursuant to Section 186.22a, or drug abatement actions pursuant to Section 3479 or 3480 of the Civil Code, or Section 11571 of the Health and Safety Code.

(6) Probation officers of the state.

(7) Parole officers of the state.

(8) A public defender or attorney of record when representing a person in proceedings upon a petition for a certificate of rehabilitation and pardon pursuant to Section 4852.08.

(9) A public defender or attorney of record when representing a person in a criminal case and when authorized access by statutory or decisional law.

(10) Any agency, officer, or official of the state when the local summary criminal history information is required to implement a statute, regulation, or ordinance that expressly refers to specific criminal conduct applicable to the subject person of the local summary criminal history information, and contains requirements or exclusions, or both, expressly based upon the specified criminal conduct.

(11) Any city, county, city and county, or district, or any officer or official thereof, when access is needed in order to assist the agency, officer, or official in fulfilling employment, certification, or licensing duties, and when the access is specifically authorized by the city council, board of supervisors, or governing board of the city, county, or district when the local

summary criminal history information is required to implement a statute, regulation, or ordinance that expressly refers to specific criminal conduct applicable to the subject person of the local summary criminal history information, and contains requirements or exclusions, or both, expressly based upon the specified criminal conduct.

(12) The subject of the local summary criminal history information.