



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

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**12 VAC 5-31 – Virginia Emergency Medical Services Regulations**  
**Virginia Department of Health**  
September 6, 2013

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### **Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation**

Pursuant to HB1622 and SB790 of the 2013 Acts of the General Assembly, the proposed regulations no longer require Emergency Services (EMS) providers to take a written examination for recertification.

### **Result of Analysis**

The benefits likely exceed the costs for all proposed changes.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

Pursuant to HB1622 and SB790 of the 2013 Acts of the General Assembly, the proposed regulations no longer require EMS providers to take a written examination for recertification. Under the current regulations, EMS providers are required to take a written examination for recertification. However, the written examination requirement may be waived by the relevant operational medical director. According to VDH, more than 90% of all recertification testing is currently being waived. With the proposed changes, recertification of EMS credentials will be based solely on completion of continuing education hours currently required.

The proposed changes will primarily affect EMS providers. EMS providers who are currently obtaining waivers will not have to seek waivers and the ones currently taking the exam will not have to take it under the proposed regulations. VDH estimates that during the five-month period from August to December 2013, approximately 2,137 providers will be required to take the test. Of these, approximately 1,991 will obtain waivers and about 145 will actually take the test. The proposed regulations will benefit the affected providers as they will no longer incur time and travel costs to take the exam or obtain a waiver. The test is administered by VDH free

of charge. Thus, VDH is also expected to realize cost savings from reduced administrative workload, reduced postage costs, and reduced printing costs.

### **Businesses and Entities Affected**

There are approximately 37,000 EMS providers in the Commonwealth. These providers work for approximately 684 agencies that are volunteer, commercial, and municipal entities.

### **Localities Particularly Affected**

The proposed regulations apply throughout the Commonwealth.

### **Projected Impact on Employment**

Proposed elimination of the recertification exam is expected to provide time savings to the providers as well as to VDH due to their reduced work load. Thus, a potential increase in supply of EMS providers and a potential decrease in demand for VDH administrative staff time may be expected.

### **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

The proposed regulations are not expected to have a significant effect on the value of private property.

### **Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects**

Some of the commercial agencies employing EMS providers may be small businesses. However, the proposed regulations do not have a direct impact on these agencies.

### **Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact**

The proposed regulations are not anticipated to have a direct impact on commercial agencies that may be small businesses.

### **Real Estate Development Costs**

No effect on real estate development costs is expected.

### **Legal Mandate**

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.04 of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 14 (10). Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact

analyses include, but need not be limited to, a determination of the public benefit, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has an adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.