

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2122

H.P. 1346

House of Representatives, January 3, 2024

An Act to Create Parity in the Licensing of Emergency Medical Services Professionals and Other Health Care Professionals Who Enter Private Residences

Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 203. Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative CYRWAY of Albion.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §9067 is enacted to read:
3	§9067. Background checks for emergency medical services persons and emergency
4	medical services ambulance operators
5 6	<u>1. Definitions.</u> As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.
7 8	A. "Emergency medical services ambulance operator" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 83, subsection 12-A.
9 10	<u>B. "Emergency medical services person" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 83, subsection 12.</u>
11 12	<u>C. "Maine Emergency Medical Services" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section</u> <u>83, subsection 16-A.</u>
13 14 15 16 17	2. Authorization. For the purposes of this chapter, Maine Emergency Medical Services may function as an employer to seek background check information through the Background Check Center on an applicant for licensure or relicensure under Title 32, chapter 2-B as an emergency medical services ambulance operator or an emergency medical services person.
18 19 20 21 22 23	3. Background check report content. Maine Emergency Medical Services is entitled to all information obtained through the background check and rap back monitoring program, including offenses that would not be considered disqualifying or potentially disqualifying offenses under this chapter, for an applicant for licensure or relicensure under Title 32, chapter 2-B as an emergency medical services ambulance operator or an emergency medical services person.
24 25 26 27	4. Fees. Maine Emergency Medical Services may pass any fees or charges associated with participation in the Background Check Center on to an applicant for licensure or relicensure under Title 32, chapter 2-B as an emergency medical services ambulance operator or an emergency medical services person.
28 29	5. Waiver of penalties. Maine Emergency Medical Services is not subject to the penalties specified in section 9062.
30 31	Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §85, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2013, c. 267, Pt. B, §25, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:
32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39	The board shall obtain criminal history record information containing a record of public criminal history record information as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 9 $\underline{8}$ for an applicant seeking licensure under this subsection. Information obtained pursuant to this subsection is confidential and may be used only to determine suitability for issuance of a license to provide emergency medical services. The results of criminal history record information checks received by the board are for official use only and may not be disseminated outside the board. The applicant for licensure shall pay the expense of obtaining the information required by this subsection. The board may use the Background
40 41	<u>Check Center as defined in Title 22, section 9053, subsection 4 to conduct background</u> checks for initial licensure of an emergency medical services person.

1 Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §85, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2011, c. 271, §9, is further 2 amended by enacting a new first blocked paragraph to read:

3 The board shall obtain criminal history record information containing a record of public criminal history record information as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 8 for an 4 applicant seeking relicensure under this subsection. Information obtained pursuant to this 5 subsection is confidential and may be used only to determine suitability for renewal of a 6 license to provide emergency medical services. The results of criminal history record 7 information checks received by the board are for official use only and may not be 8 9 disseminated outside the board. The applicant for relicensure shall pay the expense of 10 obtaining the information required by this subsection. The board may use the Background Check Center as defined in Title 22, section 9053, subsection 4 to conduct background 11 12 checks for relicensure.

 13
 Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §85-B, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 220, §3, is amended to

 14
 read:

15 2. Background check. The board shall obtain criminal history record information containing a record of public criminal history record information as defined in Title 16, 16 section 703, subsection 8 for an applicant for licensure under this section. Information 17 18 obtained pursuant to this subsection is confidential and may be used only to determine 19 suitability for issuance of a license to operate an emergency medical services ambulance. The results of criminal history record information checks received by the board are for 20 official use only and may not be disseminated outside the board. The applicant for licensure 21 shall pay the expense of obtaining the information required by this subsection. The board 22 23 may use the Background Check Center as defined in Title 22, section 9053, subsection 4 to conduct background checks for initial licensure or relicensure of an emergency medical 24 25 services ambulance operator.

26

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the use of the Background Check Center within the Department of Health and Human Services by Maine Emergency Medical Services within the Department of Public Safety to conduct background checks for persons seeking to be licensed or relicensed as an emergency medical services person or an emergency medical services ambulance operator.