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**SENATE BILL NO. 997**

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 12, 2015

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-111.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to emergency medical services personnel; background checks; process.*

Patrons—Stuart and Puller

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 32.1-111.5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 32.1-111.5. Certification and recertification of emergency medical services providers; appeals process.**

A. The Board shall prescribe by regulation the qualifications required for certification of emergency medical services providers, including those qualifications necessary for authorization to follow Do Not Resuscitate Orders pursuant to § 54.1-2987.1. Such regulations shall include criteria for determining whether an applicant's relevant practical experience and didactic and clinical components of education and training completed during his service as a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States may be accepted by the Commissioner as evidence of satisfaction of the requirements for certification.

B. Each person desiring certification as an emergency medical services provider shall apply to the Commissioner upon a form prescribed by the Board. Upon receipt of such application, the Commissioner shall cause the applicant to be examined or otherwise determined to be qualified for certification. When determining whether an applicant is qualified for certification, the Commissioner shall consider and may accept relevant practical experience and didactic and clinical components of education and training completed by an applicant during his service as a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States as evidence of satisfaction of the requirements for certification. If the Commissioner determines that the applicant meets the requirements for certification as an emergency medical services provider, he shall issue a certificate to the applicant. An emergency medical services provider certificate so issued shall be valid for a period required by law or prescribed by the Board. Any certificate so issued may be suspended at any time that the Commissioner determines that the holder no longer meets the qualifications prescribed for such emergency medical services provider. The Commissioner may temporarily suspend any certificate without notice, pending a hearing or informal fact-finding conference, if the Commissioner finds that there is a substantial danger to public health or safety. When the Commissioner has temporarily suspended a certificate pending a hearing, the Commissioner shall seek an expedited hearing in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.).

C. The Board shall prescribe by regulation procedures and the qualifications required for the recertification of emergency medical services providers.

D. The Commissioner may issue a temporary certificate when he finds that it is in the public interest. A temporary certificate shall be valid for a period not exceeding 90 days.

E. The State Board of Health shall require each person who, on or after July 1, 2013, applies to be a volunteer with or employee of an emergency medical services agency to submit fingerprints and provide personal descriptive information to be forwarded along with his fingerprints *(i) directly to the Department of State Police or the Federal Bureau of Investigation by the local government entity if the local government entity has procedures in place for the collection of fingerprints and personal descriptive information and the forwarding of such fingerprints and information to the Department of State Police or the Federal Bureau of Investigation or (ii) through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for the purpose of obtaining his criminal history record information. The In cases in which fingerprints and personal descriptive information have been forwarded to the Department of State Police or the Federal Bureau of Investigation by a local government entity pursuant to clause (i), the local government entity shall forward the results of the records search to the Commissioner or his designee, who shall be a governmental entity. In cases in which fingerprints and personal descriptive information have been forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation by the Central Criminal Records Exchange pursuant to clause (ii), the Central Criminal Records Exchange shall forward the results of the state and national records search to the Commissioner or his designee, who shall be a governmental entity. If an applicant is denied employment or service as a volunteer because of information appearing on his criminal history record and the applicant disputes*

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**59** the information upon which the denial was based, the *local government entity or the* Central Criminal  
**60** Records Exchange, *as appropriate*, shall, upon written request, furnish to the applicant the procedures  
**61** for obtaining a copy of the criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.