
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7201

AN ACT CONCERNING A SUPPLEMENTAL PARAMEDIC.

SUMMARY

This bill allows UConn's emergency medical services (EMS) organization (i.e. the Storrs campus fire department) to apply to the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner for a certificate of authorization as a supplemental paramedic in a similar way as existing law allows for supplemental first responders (see BACKGROUND).

The bill defines "supplemental paramedic" as an EMS organization that holds a certificate of authorization from DPH and responds to the victim of a sudden illness or injury when available and called upon.

This certificate will allow UConn Fire Department paramedics to respond to emergency calls covered by another primary service area responder (PSAR). By law, a PSAR is a specific geographic area to which DPH assigns a designated EMS provider for each category of emergency medical response services (CGS § 19a-175). (Currently, UConn Fire Department is not the PSAR for paramedic services on the Storrs campus.)

The bill also specifies which first responders control and direct emergency activities while at the scene of an emergency medical call. Specifically, if any combination of a PSAR, supplemental paramedic, and supplemental first responder is at the scene at the same time, the PSAR must control and direct emergency activities. If a PSAR is not present, the supplemental paramedic must do so.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL PARAMEDIC APPLICATION

Under the bill, UConn's EMS organization may apply to the DPH commissioner for a supplemental paramedic certificate as she

prescribes, regardless of existing law's licensure requirements for ambulance and paramedic intercept services. The EMS organization must prove to the commissioner's satisfaction that it (1) meets the minimum standards for training, equipment, and personnel, and (2) has at least \$1 million in liability insurance.

Application Determinations

If the commissioner determines that UConn's EMS organization is qualified to be a supplemental paramedic, she must issue it a certificate that is valid for two years and may be renewed.

If the commissioner denies the application, she must notify the EMS organization in writing and include the reasons for the denial.

After receiving the notice, the EMS organization has 30 days to request a hearing in keeping with UAPA. If the commissioner's denial is upheld, the EMS organization cannot apply again for one year from the date the decision was upheld.

Certificate Revocation and Suspension

The bill allows the DPH commissioner to suspend or revoke UConn's certificate if its EMS organization (1) fails to maintain the minimum standards and liability insurance requirements described above or (2) violates the state's existing EMS laws. The bill requires DPH to give the EMS organization an opportunity to show its compliance with these requirements to keep its certificate.

BACKGROUND

Supplemental First Responders

Existing law allows any EMS organization to apply to the DPH commissioner for a certificate of authorization as a supplemental first responder in a municipality with a population of between 105,000 and 115,000 residents. The application process and related disciplinary actions are the same as those under the bill (CGS § 19a-180b).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 3 (03/18/2025)