

# ***VERMONT2008***

## *Use of Military EMS Personnel*

Report to the Legislature on **Act 163 Section 47(a)**  
January 15, 2009



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Agency of Human Services**

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## **Executive Summary**

This report is made pursuant to Act 163 Sec. 47a which requires the Commissioner of the Department of Health to file a report with the House and Senate Government Operations Committees that *evaluates whether, and if so under what circumstances, an applicant for licensure as an emergency medical technician should be eligible for licensure, exemption from licensure when employed by certain health care facilities, if he or she has received comparable training and performed duties while enlisted in military service in lieu of satisfaction of a required educational or testing program, or both.*

All branches of the military require that their personnel who are qualified to perform emergency medical treatment obtain and maintain National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) certification. The NREMT certification is the foundation of Vermont EMS licensure (certification). Accordingly, a military member with NREMT certification is able to obtain Vermont EMT licensure (certification) without additional training or testing. The only additional qualifications required for EMS licensure (certification) in VT are having an EMS agency affiliation, verification of crime background and other legislatively imposed assurances such as verification of tax status, child support payments up to date, etc.

## ***Overview of Act 14, Section 47a related to EMS***

This portion of the act requires study about how personnel with military preparation for delivery of emergency care could be fast tracked into civilian service with a minimum of additional training, testing, or other perceived barriers to participation.

As a matter of public protection, it is important that all persons who serve vulnerable EMS patients hold certification from the VT Department of Health. The Department supports the entry of qualified military personnel into civilian EMS ranks provided they meet the currently required standards for training, testing, and certification required in the EMS Rules. Over the past several years, all branches of the military have revised their internal programs to meet the usual qualification requirements of most states, including testing and certification by the National Registry of EMTs. This step by the military has eliminated the need for VT (and most other states) to independently determine the comparability of military training with civilian training.

Additional requirements for any person to hold VT EMS certification relate to the EMS Rule requirements for age, affiliation with a licensed EMS agency, illegal drug use, crime background review and actions taken against any professional license or certification held by the applicant. There are additional statutory requirements for EMS certification that apply across all State licenses and certifications including taxes owed to the State (32 VSA Section 3113), child support payments (15 VSA Section 795), and unemployment compensation (21 VSA Section 1378). For most applicants, compliance with the aforementioned requirements amounts to a series of check offs and a signature on the application form.

## ***Conclusion***

The barriers to a current or former member of the military with EMS training and NREMT certification gaining VT EMT certification are minimal and relate to important matters of public protection, several of which are legislatively mandated. The Department processes EMT applications from military affiliates in a manner similar to a reciprocity application from a qualified person entering VT from another state. The process already in place allows VT to gain the benefits of persons who have EMT training in the military and have demonstrated competency through national certification without the need for additional training or testing.

## ***Recommendation***

The Department should continue to assure that all EMS personnel meet consistent qualifications that protect the public. To the extent that military training ending in national certification can be recognized for VT EMT certification, the Department should continue to do so in a manner consistent with processing of applicants from other states.