

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 975
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/29/25
Senate Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 6/17/25

Short Title: EMS Personnel Provisions.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 14, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO ALLOW EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL, WHILE ON
DUTY, TO CARRY PEPPER SPRAY OPENLY OR CONCEALED, AND TO PROVIDE
AN EXEMPTION TO THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE FOR
EMERGENCY PERSONNEL WHO RENDER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO
AN INJURED K-9 POLICE ANIMAL OR AN INJURED SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG
AT THE SCENE OF AN EMERGENCY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. ALLOW EMS PERSONNEL TO CARRY PEPPER SPRAY

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 131E-158 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(c) The North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services and the Commission shall adopt rules to permit emergency medical services personnel to carry, openly or concealed, any pepper spray consistent with G.S. 14-401.6(a)(7). The rules adopted may require emergency medical services personnel to complete training which shall not exceed NC Basic Law Enforcement Training standards in the use of pepper spray and obtain the approval of the affiliated EMS provider pursuant to its policy regarding use prior to carrying pepper spray and prohibit the discharge of pepper spray in the ambulance compartment during transport of the patient. For purposes of this subsection, the term "pepper spray" means a chemical irritant such as mace, oleoresin capsicum or pepper spray, or tear gas."

SECTION 1.(b) This Part becomes effective July 1, 2025.

**PART II. ALLOW EMS PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY AID AND
TRANSPORT TO INJURED POLICE K-9 UNITS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS**

SECTION 2.(a) G.S. 90-187.10 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-187.10. Necessity for license; certain practices exempted.

No individual shall engage in the practice of veterinary medicine without having a veterinary license from the Board. No person, as defined in G.S. 90-181(5), may own a veterinary facility without having a veterinary facility permit from the Board.

Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prohibit:

...

(13) Emergency medical services personnel, as defined in G.S. 131E-155, except that individuals solely credentialed as emergency medical dispatchers shall not be considered emergency medical services personnel for purposes of this subdivision, who may provide emergency medical transport or emergency



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1 medical services to an injured K-9 police unit animal or an injured certified
2 search and rescue dog deployed by or contracted to work with a federal, State,
3 or local agency or department at the scene of an emergency."

4 **SECTION 2.(b)** Article 7 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes is amended by
5 adding a new section to read:

6 "**§ 131E-155.2. Emergency medical treatment for K-9 unit or search and rescue dog;**
7 **limited immunity.**

8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, emergency medical services personnel shall not
9 be prosecuted for providing emergency medical transport or emergency medical services to an
10 injured K-9 police unit animal or an injured search and rescue dog if the emergency medical
11 services personnel acted in good faith when providing emergency medical transport or
12 emergency medical services to an injured K-9 police unit animal or an injured search and rescue
13 dog at the scene of an emergency. The immunity established by this section does not extend to
14 gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing that would otherwise be actionable.
15 For purposes of this section, a search and rescue dog is defined as a dog certified by any national
16 certification organization that is deployed by or contracted to work with a federal, State, or local
17 agency or department, and individuals solely credentialed as emergency medical dispatchers
18 shall not be considered emergency medical services personnel."

19 **SECTION 2.(c)** This Part is effective 30 days after becoming law and applies to acts
20 on or after that date.

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22 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

23 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
24 law.