



National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
Post Office Box 1400 * Clinton, Mississippi 39060-1400
Phone: 800-34-NAEMT or 601-924-7744 * Fax: 601-924-7325
Website: www.NAEMT.org

June 25, 2018

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Pan,

On behalf of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), we are writing to express opposition to California Legislature bill, AB 2293, which would amend Health and Safety Code Section 1798.200 to permit convicted felons, except when convicted of rape or murder, to obtain an EMT-I or EMT-II license, and severely restrict the ability of the CA Emergency Medical Service Authority and local EMS agencies to protect the public health and safety by denying licenses to applicants or imposing disciplinary action against EMT-Is or EMT-IIs.

Formed in 1975 and more than 65,000 members strong, NAEMT is the nation's only organization solely dedicated to representing the professional interests of all EMS practitioners, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders and other professionals working in emergency and mobile healthcare, including government service agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations, and in the military.

Existing statutory standards for discipline of prehospital personnel were developed in collaboration with numerous EMS stakeholders to ensure both patient safety and the opportunity for individuals to not be unnecessarily excluded from certification for past criminal convictions unrelated to the duties, qualifications and functions of prehospital medical care personnel.

NAEMT opposes this bill for the following reasons:

1. AB 2293 would eliminate safeguards that currently protect patients and the public at large. Prehospital personnel serve on ambulances, emergency response apparatus, and remote first-aid areas providing services to the most vulnerable in our society, including children, the elderly and disabled adults. To protect these most vulnerable patients, we believe that the standards for who is eligible for certification and licensure should remain high.
2. AB 2293 would strike the authority of local EMS agencies and the EMS Authority to deny licensure to any applicant regardless of the seriousness of past criminal history including violent assault, sex offenders and convicted pedophiles. While this may not be the intent of the bill, it would nevertheless become a consequence of this bill's passage.

3. AB 2293 would increase costs for local EMS agencies ranging in the tens of thousands of dollars due to required revisions to policies, an expected increase in the volume of applications from individuals with serious criminal histories requiring in depth evaluation, ensuring fire department and ambulance compliance with revised standards, and the potential for more complex and more frequent administrative law proceedings and the setting of new legal precedents.
- AB 2293 would in all likelihood result in CA EMT students not being able to sit for the National Registry of EMTs certification exam, a requirement to obtain a CA EMT license.
- AB 2293 would in all likelihood result in CA not being able to participate in the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate CompAct (REPLICA), the nation's only multi-state compact for the Emergency Medical Services profession to facilitate EMS license reciprocity across state lines.

While we recognize and appreciate the interest of CA legislators in reducing prison recidivism, AB 2293, if passed, would have severe consequences and repercussions for CA residents, and the EMS agencies that dutifully serve their patients and communities. We humbly ask that you reconsider this legislation.

Sincerely,



Dennis Rowe, EMT-P
President, NAEMT