

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

13th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4897



Introduced by the Hon. Michael John "Jack" R. Duavit

EXPLANATORY NOTE

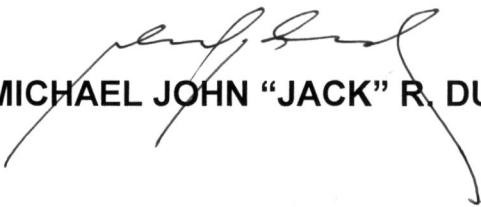
The field of Clinical and Academic Emergency Medicine has been an established specialty in many countries and has already been proven as an efficient means of improving emergency care. International studies show that patients seen and treated by a pre-hospital team within one hour of onset acute symptoms had a lower mortality than those patients from whom treatment was delayed for more than an hour. Evidence based research likewise supports the position that Paramedicine or assigning pre-hospital life support to specially trained rescue personnel can significantly reduce the loss of life.

In the United States, emergency medical services continue to evolve and become more sophisticated. Professional emergency medical service practitioners are now an essential component of the medical community. Employment of emergency medical technicians (EMT) and paramedics is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2010. This is primarily because the large segment of their aging population will further spur demand for EMT services as they become more likely to have medical emergencies.

In the Philippines, emergency medicine is still at its infancy. Pre-hospital care has not been systematically and fully developed to undertake a critical life saving task. Though the profession currently exists in respond to global trend of emergency medical services, there is no law that specifically advances the profession and practice of paramedicine.

To fully maximize the potential and capability of emergency medical technician in the country and in order to professionalize the practice of paramedicine, this measure proposes to establish and develop standards of knowledge and skills among its members, providing for their certification and re-certification. This bill if passed into law would ensure competency and likewise expand members' opportunities locally and internationally.

In view of the foregoing, approval of the proposed measure is earnestly sought.


MICHAEL JOHN "JACK" R. DUAVIT

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROFESSIONAL PARAMEDICINE
STANDARDS IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1, Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the **"Paramedicine
Standards Act of 2005"**.

SEC 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give priority, attention and support in professionalizing the practice of paramedicine in the Philippines.

Pursuant to the national policy, the government shall provide a program to set up a climate conducive to the practice of paramedicine and maximize the capability and potential of Emergency Medical Technician in the country.

SEC. 3. Objectives. – This Act provides for and shall govern:

- a. The program standardization of paramedicine;
- b. The certification and recertification of Emergency Medical Technician; and
- c. The supervision, control and regulation of the practice of the profession.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

(a). **Accredited Training Institution** – institution recognized and approved by the Department of Health and TESDA that offers training programs, courses and continuing education for Emergency Medical Technician.

(b) **Advance Life Support** - the advance prehospital and interhospital emergency medical care of serious illness or injury by trained and certified Emergency Medical Technician.

(c) **Advance Life Support Medical Director** – a licensed physician approved by the Department of Health who supervise the implementation of approved medical protocol and practice of emergency medicine.

(d). **Competency-based assessment** - verification by an approved advance life support service medical director which evaluates the technical and practical standards of skills, ability and knowledge of an Emergency Medical Technician as required by the Department of Health.

(e). **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)** – public safety and health care professional who is a bona fide holder of a valid Certificate of Registration/Identification Card issued by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) trained to perform advanced life support functions.

(f). **Medical Protocol** – written prescribed emergency medical procedures approved by the Department of Health.

(g.) **Paramedicine** - independent delivery of health care by Emergency Medical Technician usually in a mobile or community setting, in accordance with paramedic science and coordinated with physicians, nurses and other health care professionals.

SEC. 5. Scope of the Practice of Paramedicine. – The practice of paramedicine involves services performed in responding to the perceived needs of an individual for immediate medical care in order to prevent loss of life or aggravation of physiological or psychological illness or injury delivered in a prehospital, interhospital or hospital emergency care setting.

SEC. 6. Accredited Training Institution. – Training programs, courses and continuing education for Emergency Medical Technician may only be conducted by accredited institution that has a certificate of approval for its curriculum and training program from TESDA and the Department of Health.

SEC. 7. Certification and Recertification. Certification and recertification of Emergency Medical Technician (*Basic, Advance, Intermediate, Paramedic*) in the Philippines shall be governed by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in coordination with the Department of Health and other accredited professional organization. TESDA shall recertify Emergency Medical Technician upon submission of a competency-based assessment statement from an approved advanced life support service medical director. For these purposes, TESDA shall developed a qualifying system for registration and certification for the paramedics profession.

SEC. 8. Issuance of the Certificate of Registration and EMT Identification Card. – A Certification of Registration shall be issued to examinees who pass the EMT examination. The Certificate of Registration shall remain in full force and effect until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act. EMT Identification Card, bearing the registration number, date of issuance, expiry date, duly signed by TESDA Director General, shall likewise be issued to every registrant upon payment of the required fees, EMT Identification Card

shall be renewed every three (3) years and upon satisfying the requirements of TESDA.

SEC. 9. Refusal to Register. – TESDA shall not register and issue a Certification of Registration to any successful examinee who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude or has been found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct after investigation, or has been declared to be of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be set forth in writing.

SEC. 10. Revocation of Suspension of the Certificate of Registration, EMT Identification Card or Cancellation of Temporary/Special Permit. – TESDA may, after giving proper notice of hearing to the party concerned, revoke the Certificate of Registration and the EMT Identification Card of an Emergency Medical Technician or suspend him/her temporary/ special permit for any of the causes of grounds under Section 11 or upon unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, or violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and a Code of Ethics for the practice of paramedicine.

SEC. 11. Reinstatement, Reissuance or Replacement of Certificate of Registration, EMT Identification Card and Temporary/Special Permit, – TESDA, may, after two (2) years from the date of revocation of Certificate of Registration reinstate any revoked Certificate of Registration and reissue a suspended EMT Identification Card. A new Certificate of Registration or EMT Identification Card or temporary/Special permit may be issued to replace lost, destroyed or mutilated ones subjects to such rules as may be promulgated by TESDA.

SEC. 12. Roster of Certified Emergency Medical Technician. – TESDA, in coordination with the accredited professional organization, shall prepare, update and maintain a roster of certified Emergency Medical Technician which shall contain their names, their residence and office addresses, dates of registration or issuance of certificates, and other data which TESDA may deem pertinent.

SEC. 13. Issuance of Special or Temporary Permit. – Upon application and payment of the required fees, and subject to the approval of the Department of Health, the TESDA may issue special or temporary permits to emergency medical services personnel from foreign countries whose services are urgently needed in the absence or inadequacy of local emergency medical technician for the purpose of promoting or enhancing the practice of paramedicine in the Philippines.

SEC. 14. Prohibition Against the Unauthorized Practice of Paramedicine. – No person shall practice or offer to practice paramedicine in the Philippines or offer himself/herself as Emergency Medical Technician, or use the title, word, letter, figure, or any sign tending to convey the impression that one is an EMT, or advertise or indicate in any manner whatsoever that

one is qualified to practice paramedicine unless he/she has satisfactory passed the examination given by TESDA, and is a holder of a valid Certification of Registration and EMT Identification Card or a valid special/temporary permit duly issued to him/her by TESDA.

SEC. 15. Accredited Professional Organization. – All certified Emergency Medical Technician shall have one national organization, which shall be recognized as the one and only accredited EMT organization in the country. A certified EMT duly registered with TESDA shall automatically become a member of the accredited professional organization of Emergency Medical Technician and shall receive the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto.

SEC. 16. Code of Ethics of Emergency Medical Technician. – The Department of Health in coordination with the accredited professional organization shall adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards.

SEC. 17. Penal Provisions. – Any violation of this Act, including violation of implementing rules and regulations, shall be meted the penalty of a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand pesos (50,000.00) nor more than Five hundred thousand pesos (500,000.00), or imprisonment of not less than six (6) years, or both such fine and imprisonment upon the discretion of the court.

SEC. 18. Appropriations. – The Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall immediately include in the TESDA's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the current General Appropriations Act and thereafter.

SEC. 19. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – TESDA, in coordination with the Department of Health and accredited professional organization, shall promulgate the rules and regulations needed to implement the provision of this Act.

SEC. 20. Separability Clause. – If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impact any other part of this Act.

SEC. 21. Repealing Clause. - Any provision of laws, orders, agreements, rules or regulations contrary to and inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 22. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a major newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,