

CHAPTER 2019-77

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 487

An act relating to carrying of firearms by tactical medical professionals; amending s. 790.25, F.S.; exempting certain licensed medical professionals from specified provisions concerning the carrying of firearms; requiring certain policies and procedures for law enforcement agencies; providing such professionals have no duty to retreat in certain circumstances; providing immunities and privileges for such professionals; providing construction; requiring the appointing law enforcement agency to issue to tactical medical professionals any firearm or ammunition; providing a definition; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (q) is added to subsection (3) of section 790.25, Florida Statutes, to read:

790.25 Lawful ownership, possession, and use of firearms and other weapons.—

(3) **LAWFUL USES.**—The provisions of ss. 790.053 and 790.06 do not apply in the following instances, and, despite such sections, it is lawful for the following persons to own, possess, and lawfully use firearms and other weapons, ammunition, and supplies for lawful purposes:

(q)1. A tactical medical professional who is actively operating in direct support of a tactical operation by a law enforcement agency provided that:

a. The tactical medical professional is lawfully able to possess firearms and has an active concealed weapons permit issued pursuant to s. 790.06.

b. The tactical medical professional is appointed to a law enforcement tactical team of a law enforcement agency by the head of the law enforcement agency.

c. The law enforcement agency has an established policy providing for the appointment, training, and deployment of the tactical medical professional.

d. The tactical medical professional successfully completes a firearms safety training and tactical training as established or designated by the appointing law enforcement agency.

e. The law enforcement agency provides and the tactical medical professional participates in annual firearm training and tactical training.

2. While actively operating in direct support of a tactical operation by a law enforcement agency, a tactical medical professional:

a. May carry a firearm in the same manner as a law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 943.10 and, notwithstanding any other law, at any place a tactical law enforcement operation occurs.

b. Has no duty to retreat and is justified in the use of any force which he or she reasonably believes is necessary to defend himself or herself or another from bodily harm.

c. Has the same immunities and privileges as a law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 943.10, in a civil or criminal action arising out of a tactical law enforcement operation when acting within the scope of his or her official duties.

3. This paragraph may not be construed to authorize a tactical medical professional to carry, transport, or store any firearm or ammunition on any fire apparatus or EMS vehicle

4. The appointing law enforcement agency shall issue any firearm or ammunition that the tactical medical professional carries in accordance with this paragraph.

5. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term “tactical medical professional” means a paramedic, as defined in s. 401.23, a physician, as defined in s. 458.305, or an osteopathic physician, as defined in s. 459.003, who is appointed to provide direct support to a tactical law enforcement unit by providing medical services at high-risk incidents, including, but not limited to, hostages incidents, narcotics raids, hazardous surveillance, sniper incidents, armed suicidal persons, barricaded suspects, high risk felony warrant service, fugitives refusing to surrender, and active shooter incidents.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor June 7, 2019.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 7, 2019.