

## CHAPTER 2025-94

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1487

An act relating to emergency services; amending s. 316.2398, F.S.; removing a limitation on the number of red or red and white warning signals that certain vehicles may display; amending s. 401.25, F.S.; revising the circumstances under which certain applicants for a specified license are exempt from a specified requirement; requiring an applicant seeking such exemption to submit a sworn affidavit to the Department of Health attesting to certain facts; revising the number of counties that may be granted such exemption; prohibiting a licensed volunteer ambulance service from applying for, receiving funds under, or participating in certain grant programs; amending s. 395.401, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 316.2398, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.2398 Display or use of red or red and white warning signals; motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters or medical staff.—

(1) A privately owned vehicle belonging to an active firefighter member of a regularly organized volunteer firefighting company or association, while en route to the fire station for the purpose of proceeding to the scene of a fire or other emergency or while en route to the scene of a fire or other emergency in the line of duty as an active firefighter member of a regularly organized firefighting company or association, may display or use red or red and white warning signals. A privately owned vehicle belonging to a medical staff physician or technician of a medical facility licensed by the state or of a volunteer ambulance service, while responding to an emergency in the line of duty, may display or use red warning signals. An organ transport vehicle, while transporting organs or surgical teams for organ donation or transplant while en route to a hospital, an airport, or other designated location, may display or use red warning signals. Warning signals must be visible from the front and from the rear of such vehicle, subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

~~(a) No more than two red or red and white warning signals may be displayed.~~

Section 2. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 401.25, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7) and (8), respectively, paragraph (d) of subsection (2) is amended, and a new subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

401.25 Licensure as a basic life support or an advanced life support service.—

(2) The department shall issue a license for operation to any applicant who complies with the following requirements:

(d) The applicant has obtained a certificate of public convenience and necessity from each county in which the applicant will operate. In issuing the certificate of public convenience and necessity, the governing body of each county shall consider the recommendations of municipalities within its jurisdiction.

1. An applicant that is an active first responder agency is exempt from this requirement if it:

a.1. Is a faith-based, not-for-profit charitable corporation registered under chapter 617 which has been responding to medical emergencies in this state for at least 15 ~~10~~ consecutive years.

b.2. Is not a parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of, or related to, any for-profit entity.

c.3. Provides basic life support services or advanced life support services solely through at least 150 ~~50~~ unpaid licensed emergency medical technician or paramedic volunteers in at least three counties at the time of application.

d.4. Is not operating for pecuniary profit or financial gain.

e.5. Does not distribute to or inure to the benefit of its directors, members, or officers or other related parties any part of its assets or income.

~~6.~~ ~~Does not receive any government funding. However, the volunteer ambulance service may receive funding from specialty license plate proceeds.~~

f.7. Has never had a license denied, revoked, or suspended.

g.8. Provides services at no cost to the patient ~~free of charge.~~

h.9. As part of its application for licensure, provides to the department a management plan that includes a training program, dispatch protocols, a complaint management system, an accident or injury handling system, a quality assurance program, and proof of adequate insurance coverage to meet state or county insurance requirements, whichever requirements are greater.

i.10. Provides a disclaimer on all written materials that the volunteer ambulance service is not associated with the state's 911 system.

2. An applicant seeking an exemption from this requirement must submit to the department a sworn affidavit that complies with s. 92.50(1) attesting that the applicant meets the requirements for an exemption

provided in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-i. A person who submits an affidavit fraudulently attesting to meeting such requirements violates s. 837.012 and commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

3. The exemption under subparagraph 1. ~~this paragraph~~ may be granted to no more than 15 ~~four~~ counties. This exemption notwithstanding, an applicant is not exempted from and must comply with all other requirements for licensure. An applicant must also take all reasonable efforts to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the emergency medical services licensee within whose jurisdiction the applicant will provide services in order to facilitate communications and coordinate emergency services for situations beyond the scope of the applicant's capacity and for situations of advanced life support that are deemed priority 1 or priority 2 emergencies.

(6) A volunteer ambulance service licensed under this section may not apply for, receive funds under, or participate in any grant program designed exclusively for publicly operated fire departments or emergency medical service agencies.

Section 3. Paragraph (1) of subsection (1) of section 395.401, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

395.401 Trauma services system plans; approval of trauma centers and pediatric trauma centers; procedures; renewal.—

(1)

(1) A county, upon the recommendations of the local or regional trauma agency, may adopt ordinances governing the transport of a patient who is receiving care in the field from prehospital emergency medical personnel when the patient meets specific criteria for trauma, burn, or pediatric centers adopted by the local or regional trauma agency. These ordinances must be consistent with s. 395.4045, ordinances adopted under s. 401.25(7) ~~s. 401.25(6)~~, and the local or regional trauma system plan and, to the furthest possible extent, must ensure that individual patients receive appropriate medical care while protecting the interests of the community at large by making maximum use of available emergency medical care resources.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 23, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 23, 2025.