



State of Maryland
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

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**SB 374 – State Emergency Medical Services Board –
Licenses and Certificates – Application Requirements**

Bill Summary: SB 374 prohibits the State Emergency Medical Services Board from requiring that an applicant provide proof of lawful presence in the United States or have a Social Security number or individual taxpayer identification number as condition for licensure or certification.

MIEMSS Position: Support

Rationale:

- Federal law generally denies eligibility to an alien who is not a “qualified alien” or “nonimmigrant” for many State or local public benefits – including obtaining a professional or commercial license – unless a state affirmatively acts to make such individuals eligible for licensure / certification. (8 U.S.C. § 1621(a), (d))
- Chapter 376 (HB 454) of the 2023 Session enacted a law which made such individuals eligible for licensure by Maryland’s Health Occupations Boards that license under the Health Occupations Article, (e.g., physicians and nurses) by affirmatively providing for such eligibility (*see* 8 U.S.C. § 1621(d)).
- EMS Clinicians – Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Responder, and Emergency Medical Dispatchers – are licensed or certified by the State Emergency Medical Services Board under the Education Article (Educ. § 13-516), not under the Health Occupations Article. Therefore, Ch. 376 of the 2023 Session did not apply to those seeking to be licensed or certified by the State EMS Board.
- SB 374 bill affirmatively provides for eligibility of aliens to be licensed or certified by the State EMS Board.
- The Commission to Advance & Strengthen Fire Fighting and Emergency Medical Services in Maryland (Ch. 655/SB 414 of the 2023 Session) noted in their report that “...Maryland’s Fire and Emergency Medical Services are facing crucial skilled labor shortages and major disruptions in hiring...” (p. 6)
- SB 374 will help ensure that all qualified individuals may apply for EMS licensure / certification in Maryland.

MIEMSS Supports SB 374 and Urges a Favorable Report