

Louisiana Legislature

Regular Session

BILL NO. _____

BY: [Author's Name or Committee]

AN ACT

To amend and reenact Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, by adding R.S. 33:2591.1, relative to emergency medical services; to provide for civil service protection for Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics assigned to ambulance duty; to extend such protections to private-sector personnel operating under public emergency response contracts; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 33:2591.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2591.1. Civil service coverage for Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics

A. Any Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, or other certified prehospital medical provider who is assigned to ambulance duty and who provides emergency medical services under the authority of a municipality, parish, or special service district—whether employed directly or through a contractual agreement—shall be afforded civil service—equivalent protections as provided in this Section.

B. For purposes of this Section, “ambulance duty” means the regular performance of emergency medical care, patient transport, or related duties in support of emergency response operations, including participation in 911 or other public emergency dispatch systems.

C. All such personnel shall enjoy, at minimum, the following rights and protections:

1. Protection against unjust disciplinary action or termination without cause;
2. Eligibility to appeal disciplinary actions through an administrative or civil service review process;
3. Merit-based opportunities for promotion and advancement;
4. Access to training, safety, and benefits comparable to those of other emergency response personnel employed by the same jurisdiction;
5. Protection against discrimination or retaliation in employment decisions.

D. Private companies or nonprofit entities contracting with a parish, municipality, or special district for the provision of ambulance or emergency medical services shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this Section as a condition of contract.

E. Nothing in this Section shall limit the right of a municipality, parish, or special district to manage or contract for the delivery of emergency medical services; however, all personnel engaged in public emergency medical response shall be guaranteed fair employment protections equivalent to civil service standards.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1 following enactment.

Summary of the Bill

This bill provides civil service–level job protection for all EMTs and Paramedics who serve the public on ambulances—whether they are directly employed by a city, parish, or district, or work for private EMS companies under public emergency response contracts (e.g., 911 systems). It ensures fairness and job security for all ambulance-based emergency responders while maintaining local flexibility in how EMS services are delivered.