

HOUSE BILL 1596

By Ramsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33;  
Title 53; Title 56; Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71,  
relative to health care.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Emergency medical technician" means a resident of this state who is licensed with cognitive knowledge and a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the National EMS Education Standards and National EMS Scope of Practice Model;

(2) "Healthcare services" means any service, treatment, or provision of product for the care of physical or mental disease, illness, injury, defect, or condition, or to otherwise maintain or improve physical or mental health, subject to all laws and rules regulating healthcare providers and products within this state;

(3) "Licensed practical nurse" means a resident of this state who is licensed to practice practical nursing pursuant to title 63, chapter 7;

(4) "Medical laboratory technician" means a resident of this state who is licensed as a medical laboratory technician pursuant to title 68, chapter 29;

(5) "Operator of X-ray equipment" means a resident of this state who is licensed pursuant to title 63, chapter 6, part 9;

(6) "Paramedic" means a resident of this state who is licensed with cognitive knowledge and a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the National EMS Education Standards and National EMS Scope of Practice Model;

(7) "Pharmacy technician" means a resident of this state who is specifically trained and designated to assist pharmacists in the practice of pharmacy under title 63, chapter 10, part 2;

(8) "Registered nurse" means a resident of this state who is licensed as a professional nurse pursuant to title 63, chapter 7; and

(9) "Respiratory care practitioner" means a resident of this state who is a registered respiratory therapist, a certified respiratory therapist, or a respiratory assistant licensed under title 63, chapter 27.

(b) The department of health shall provide each of the following persons who have provided healthcare services during the effective period of the state of emergency declared by the governor in Executive Order No. 14 on March 12, 2020, and any subsequent executive order extending the state of emergency, with a one-time stipend of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) within one (1) month of the effective date of this act:

- (1) Emergency medical technicians;
- (2) Licensed practical nurses;
- (3) Medical lab technicians;
- (4) Operators of X-ray equipment;
- (5) Paramedics;
- (6) Pharmacy technicians;
- (7) Registered nurses; and
- (8) Respiratory care practitioners.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of health shall promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this act. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.