



# HOUSE BILL 975: EMS Personnel/Allow Carry of Pepper Spray.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 3. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 16, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Scott, N. Jackson, Biggs	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Howard Marsilio
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 975 would prohibit rules promulgation prohibiting emergency medical services personnel from carrying concealed or openly any pepper spray.*

**CURRENT LAW:** There is no state law that addresses the use of pepper spray by emergency medical services personnel specifically, however, G.S. 14-401.6 makes it unlawful for a person to possess, use, store, or sell tear gas in North Carolina. There is, however, a self-defense exception which allows a person to possess a tear gas device not larger than roughly 5 ounces.

## **BILL ANALYSIS:**

**Sections 1 and 2** of the bill would prohibit the promulgation and enforcement of rules by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission or North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services that prohibit emergency medical services personnel from carrying concealed or openly any pepper spray as authorized by law for the purposes of self-defense.

**Section 3** of the bill would require the North Carolina Medical Care Commission and the Office of Emergency Medical Services to adopt rules consistent with the provisions of this act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective July 1, 2025.

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Director



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