



**This Bill Analysis  
reflects the contents  
of the bill as it was  
presented in  
committee.**

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

2025-2026 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Judiciary 3. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 29, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Scott, N. Jackson, Biggs	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Aaron McGlothlin*
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 975 would prohibit the North Carolina Medical Care Commission or the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services from adopting rules prohibiting emergency medical services personnel from carrying pepper spray.*

## BILL ANALYSIS:

**Sections 1 and 2** of the bill would prohibit the adoption 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** 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.

## CURRENT LAW / BACKGROUND:

[G.S. 14-401.6](#) makes it unlawful for any unauthorized 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.

[Article 7 of Chapter 131E](#) of the General Statutes provides for the regulation of emergency medical services, and vests the North Carolina Medical Care Commission with authority to adopt rules establishing standards and criteria for the credentialing of emergency medical services personnel. The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Emergency Medical Services is responsible for implementing and enforcing the Commission's emergency medical services rules.

The Medical Care Commission has adopted the following rules related to pepper spray:

- [10A NCAC 13P .0216](#) prohibits anyone except law enforcement officers from bringing weapons, including pepper spray, aboard an ambulance when operating in any patient treatment or transport capacity.
- [10A NCAC 13P .1507](#) requires the Office of Emergency Medical Services to amend, deny, suspend, or revoke the credentials of any emergency medical services personnel for unauthorized possession of weapons, including pepper spray, while providing emergency medical services.

\* Howard Marsilio, staff attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this Summary.

Kara McCraw  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578