



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

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 29, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Scott, N. Jackson, Biggs	Prepared by:	Aaron McGlothlin
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 975 would direct the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services and the Medical Care Commission to adopt rules to permit emergency medical services personnel to carry pepper spray.*

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 975 would direct the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services and the Medical Care Commission to adopt rules to permit emergency medical services personnel to carry, openly or concealed, any pepper spray consistent with G.S. 14-401.6. These rules may provide for any of the following: (i) a requirement that emergency medical services personnel complete training in the use of pepper spray, not to exceed NC Basic Law Enforcement Training standards; (ii) a requirement that emergency medical services personnel obtain the approval of the affiliated EMS provider prior to carrying pepper spray; and (iii) a prohibition against discharging pepper spray in the ambulance compartment during transport of the patient.

This bill would define "pepper spray" as "a chemical irritant such as mace, oleoresin capsicum or pepper spray, or tear gas."

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.

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