



# HOUSE BILL 975: EMS Personnel Provisions.

2025-2026 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	June 18, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Scott, N. Jackson, Biggs	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Stewart Sturkie*
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Third Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

## **PART I. ALLOW EMS PERSONNEL TO CARRY PEPPER SPRAY**

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

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Part I would direct the Office and the 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.

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

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Part I 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 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 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.

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

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## **PART II. ALLOW EMS PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY AID AND TRANSPORT TO INJURED POLICE K-9 UNITS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS**

***OVERVIEW:*** *Part II would allow emergency medical services (EMS) personnel to transport or render aid to an injured police K-9 unit or search and rescue dog without being licensed by the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board (Board). EMS personnel who provide such assistance in good faith would not be subject to prosecution.*

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Part II would allow EMS personnel, except for emergency medical dispatchers, to provide emergency medical services to injured police K-9 units or search and rescue dogs without a license from the Board. EMS personnel would also be permitted to provide emergency medical transport to the injured animals.

The part would provide immunity for EMS personnel, except for emergency medical dispatchers, who provide transport or aid to an injured police K-9 unit or search and rescue dog. This immunity only applies if the personnel acted with good faith and would not apply if they acted with gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Part II would be effective 30 days after it becomes law and would apply to acts occurring on or after that date.