



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5523

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Dennis Tipsword

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

50 ILCS 705/10.28 new
55 ILCS 5/3-6012.3 new
65 ILCS 5/10-4-15 new
210 ILCS 50/3.5
210 ILCS 50/3.50

Amends the Illinois Police Training Act. Provides that the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board and the Department of Public Health shall jointly develop and establish a program of certification of tactical medical providers for the purpose of aiding special law enforcement teams involved in search and rescues, civil disturbances, bomb threat responses, tactical or special operations team deployments, hostage negotiations, hazardous material responses, executive and dignitary protection, counterterrorism, or other similar functions, as assigned and directed by a law enforcement agency that is recognized by the Board. Includes program requirements. Amends the Counties Code and the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that chiefs of police and sheriffs may employ tactical medical providers and provide tactical medical provider support to first responders. Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act to make conforming changes.

LRB104 20736 RTM 34239 b

1 AN ACT concerning local government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Police Training Act is amended by
5 adding Section 10.28 as follows:

6 (50 ILCS 705/10.28 new)

7 Sec. 10.28. Tactical medical providers.

8 (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the Board and the
9 Department of Public Health shall jointly develop and
10 establish a program of certification of tactical medical
11 providers for the purpose of aiding special law enforcement
12 teams involved in search and rescues, civil disturbances, bomb
13 threat responses, tactical or special operations team
14 deployments, hostage negotiations, hazardous material
15 responses, executive and dignitary protection,
16 counterterrorism, or other similar functions, as assigned and
17 directed by a law enforcement agency that is recognized by the
18 Board.

19 The Board, in conjunction with the Department of Public
20 Health, may establish any fees necessary to fund the training
21 and certification requirements of this Section and may
22 establish other entities to provide training to meet all or a
23 portion of the requirements of this Section.

1 (b) As part of the program of certification of tactical
2 medical providers, the Board shall develop or approve a
3 tactical medicine for special operators course. The course
4 shall be overseen by the EMS Medical Director. A tactical
5 medical provider may not work on a special response team until
6 the tactical medical provider has completed the tactical
7 medicine for special operators course.

8 (c) The tactical medical provider program certification
9 requirements shall, at a minimum, require an applicant who is
10 seeking the certification:

11 (1) to be an emergency medical technician, paramedic,
12 physician, physician's assistant, nurse, or other medical
13 professional licensed to practice in the State or to
14 possess a suitable license as determined by the Board and
15 the Department of Public Health;

16 (2) to have completed no less than a 40-hour basic
17 firearms certification program recognized by the Board;

18 (3) to have completed no less than 50 hours of
19 tactical medical training approved by the Board;

20 (4) to have attended no less than 40 hours of tactical
21 and firearms training, including use of force training;
22 and

23 (5) to operate within the EMS system in the State that
24 is licensed by the Department of Public Health.

25 (d) The Board and the Department of Public Health shall
26 establish annual requirements for certification of tactical

1 medical providers, including proof that the tactical medical
2 provider:

3 (1) holds a valid license or certification as a
4 medical professional licensed or certified to practice in
5 the State;

6 (2) operates within the EMS system in the State that
7 is licensed by the Department of Public Health;

8 (3) completes, on an annual basis, no less than 50
9 hours of tactical medical training;

10 (4) completes, on an annual basis, no less than 40
11 hours of tactical and firearms training, including use of
12 force training; and

13 (5) satisfies any additional qualifications or
14 licensing, certification, or training standards deemed
15 necessary by the Board and the Department of Public
16 Health.

17 Section 10. The Counties Code is amended by adding Section
18 3-6012.3 as follows:

19 (55 ILCS 5/3-6012.3 new)

20 Sec. 3-6012.3. Tactical medical provider support. A
21 sheriff may employ and provide tactical medical provider
22 support to first responders with tactical medical providers
23 certified under Section 10.28 of the Illinois Police Training
24 Act. In addition to any other requirements, the tactical

1 medical providers shall participate in routine, ongoing
2 tactical and medical training with the first responders that
3 the tactical medical providers shall support and shall meet
4 any additional training, certification, and licensing
5 standards that the sheriff deems appropriate.

6 Section 15. The Illinois Municipal Code is amended by
7 adding Section 10-4-15 as follows:

8 (65 ILCS 5/10-4-15 new)

9 Sec. 10-4-15. Tactical medical provider support. A
10 municipality may provide tactical medical provider support to
11 first responders with tactical medical providers certified
12 under Section 10.28 of the Illinois Police Training Act. In
13 addition to any other requirements, the tactical medical
14 providers shall participate in routine, ongoing tactical and
15 medical training with the first responders that the tactical
16 medical providers shall support and shall meet any additional
17 training, certification, and licensing standards that the
18 chief of police deems appropriate.

19 Section 20. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems
20 Act is amended by changing Sections 3.5 and 3.50 as follows:

21 (210 ILCS 50/3.5)

22 Sec. 3.5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

1 "Clinical observation" means the ongoing observation of a
2 patient's medical or mental health condition by a licensed
3 health care professional utilizing a medical skill set while
4 continuing assessment and care.

5 "Department" means the Illinois Department of Public
6 Health.

7 "Director" means the Director of the Illinois Department
8 of Public Health.

9 "Emergency" means a medical condition of recent onset and
10 severity that would lead a prudent layperson, possessing an
11 average knowledge of medicine and health, to believe that
12 urgent or unscheduled medical care is required.

13 "Emergency Medical Services personnel" or "EMS personnel"
14 means persons licensed as an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
15 (First Responder), Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD),
16 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Emergency Medical
17 Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I), Advanced Emergency Medical
18 Technician (A-EMT), Paramedic (EMT-P), Emergency
19 Communications Registered Nurse (ECRN), Pre-Hospital
20 Registered Nurse (PHRN), Pre-Hospital Advanced Practice
21 Registered Nurse (PHAPRN), ~~or~~ Pre-Hospital Physician Assistant
22 (PHPA), or Tactical Medical Providers (TMP).

23 "Exclusive representative" has the same meaning as defined
24 in Section 3 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act.

25 "Health care facility" means a hospital, nursing home,
26 physician's office or other fixed location at which medical

1 and health care services are performed. It does not include
2 "pre-hospital emergency care settings" which utilize EMS
3 personnel to render pre-hospital emergency care prior to the
4 arrival of a transport vehicle, as defined in this Act.

5 "Hospital" has the meaning ascribed to that term in the
6 Hospital Licensing Act.

7 "Labor organization" has the same meaning as defined in
8 Section 3 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act.

9 "Medical monitoring" means the performance of medical
10 tests and physical exams to evaluate an individual's ongoing
11 exposure to a factor that could negatively impact that
12 person's health. "Medical monitoring" includes close
13 surveillance or supervision of patients liable to suffer
14 deterioration in physical or mental health and checks of
15 various parameters such as pulse rate, temperature,
16 respiration rate, the condition of the pupils, the level of
17 consciousness and awareness, the degree of appreciation of
18 pain, and blood gas concentrations such as oxygen and carbon
19 dioxide.

20 "NREMT" means the National Registry of Emergency Medical
21 Technicians.

22 "Silver spanner program" means a program in which a member
23 under a fire department's or fire protection district's
24 collective bargaining agreement works on or at the EMS System
25 under another fire department's or fire protection district's
26 collective bargaining agreement and (i) the other fire

1 department or fire protection district is not the member's
2 full-time employer and (ii) any EMS services not included
3 under the original fire department's or fire protection
4 district's collective bargaining agreement are included in the
5 other fire department's or fire protection district's
6 collective bargaining agreement.

7 "Trauma" means any significant injury which involves
8 single or multiple organ systems.

9 (Source: P.A. 103-521, eff. 1-1-24; 103-689, eff. 1-1-25;
10 104-362, eff. 8-15-25.)

11 (210 ILCS 50/3.50)

12 Sec. 3.50. Emergency Medical Services personnel licensure
13 levels.

14 (a) "Emergency Medical Technician" or "EMT" means a person
15 who has successfully completed a course in basic life support
16 as approved by the Department, is currently licensed by the
17 Department in accordance with standards prescribed by this Act
18 and rules adopted by the Department pursuant to this Act, and
19 practices within an EMS System. A valid Emergency Medical
20 Technician-Basic (EMT-B) license issued under this Act shall
21 continue to be valid and shall be recognized as an Emergency
22 Medical Technician (EMT) license until the Emergency Medical
23 Technician-Basic (EMT-B) license expires.

24 (b) "Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate" or "EMT-I"
25 means a person who has successfully completed a course in

1 intermediate life support as approved by the Department, is
2 currently licensed by the Department in accordance with
3 standards prescribed by this Act and rules adopted by the
4 Department pursuant to this Act, and practices within an
5 Intermediate or Advanced Life Support EMS System.

6 (b-5) "Advanced Emergency Medical Technician" or "A-EMT"
7 means a person who has successfully completed a course in
8 basic and limited advanced emergency medical care as approved
9 by the Department, is currently licensed by the Department in
10 accordance with standards prescribed by this Act and rules
11 adopted by the Department pursuant to this Act, and practices
12 within an Intermediate or Advanced Life Support EMS System.

13 (c) "Paramedic (EMT-P)" means a person who has
14 successfully completed a course in advanced life support care
15 as approved by the Department, is licensed by the Department
16 in accordance with standards prescribed by this Act and rules
17 adopted by the Department pursuant to this Act, and practices
18 within an Advanced Life Support EMS System. A valid Emergency
19 Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) license issued under this
20 Act shall continue to be valid and shall be recognized as a
21 Paramedic license until the Emergency Medical
22 Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) license expires.

23 (c-3) "Tactical Medical Provider" means a person who has
24 successfully completed certification under Section 10.28 of
25 the Illinois Police Training Act.

26 (c-5) "Emergency Medical Responder" or "EMR (First

1 Responder)" means a person who has successfully completed a
2 course in emergency medical response as approved by the
3 Department and provides emergency medical response services in
4 accordance with the level of care established by the National
5 EMS Educational Standards Emergency Medical Responder course
6 as modified by the Department, or who provides services as
7 part of an EMS System response plan, as approved by the
8 Department, of that EMS System. The Department shall have the
9 authority to adopt rules governing the curriculum, practice,
10 and necessary equipment applicable to Emergency Medical
11 Responders.

12 On August 15, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act
13 98-973), a person who is licensed by the Department as a First
14 Responder and has completed a Department-approved course in
15 first responder defibrillator training based on, or equivalent
16 to, the National EMS Educational Standards or other standards
17 previously recognized by the Department shall be eligible for
18 licensure as an Emergency Medical Responder upon meeting the
19 licensure requirements and submitting an application to the
20 Department. A valid First Responder license issued under this
21 Act shall continue to be valid and shall be recognized as an
22 Emergency Medical Responder license until the First Responder
23 license expires.

24 (c-10) All EMS Systems and licensees shall be fully
25 compliant with the National EMS Education Standards, as
26 modified by the Department in administrative rules, within 24

1 months after the adoption of the administrative rules.

2 (d) The Department shall have the authority and
3 responsibility to:

4 (1) Prescribe education and training requirements,
5 which includes training in the use of epinephrine, for all
6 levels of EMS personnel except for EMRs, based on the
7 National EMS Educational Standards and any modifications
8 to those curricula specified by the Department through
9 rules adopted pursuant to this Act.

10 (A) A failure rate per course of 30% or greater at
11 the first attempt on the licensure examination shall
12 require the EMS System to submit a quality improvement
13 plan to the Department. The EMS System shall share
14 failure rates with the EMS Lead Instructor quarterly.
15 Neither the EMS System nor the Department may take
16 licensure action against an EMS Lead Instructor based
17 solely on first-attempt pass rates.

18 (B) Candidates shall complete the licensure
19 examination within the timeline required by the NREMT.

20 (C) An accredited Paramedic program shall be
21 conducted only by an EMS System or an academic
22 institution whose curriculum has been approved by the
23 EMS System. An EMS System associate hospital may allow
24 students from an EMS System-approved and
25 Department-approved Paramedic course to complete
26 clinical rotations as approved by the EMS System

1 Medical Director. The approval by the EMS System
2 Medical Director may not be unreasonably denied.

3 (2) Prescribe licensure testing requirements for all
4 levels of EMS personnel, which shall include a requirement
5 that all phases of instruction, training, and field
6 experience be completed before taking the appropriate
7 licensure examination. Candidates shall take the
8 appropriate National Registry examination. In prescribing
9 licensure testing requirements for honorably discharged
10 members of the armed forces of the United States under
11 this paragraph (2), the Department shall ensure that a
12 candidate's military emergency medical training, emergency
13 medical curriculum completed, and clinical experience, as
14 described in paragraph (2.5), are recognized.

15 (2.5) Review applications for EMS personnel licensure
16 from honorably discharged members of the armed forces of
17 the United States with military emergency medical
18 training. Applications shall be filed with the Department
19 within one year after military discharge and shall
20 contain: (i) proof of successful completion of military
21 emergency medical training; (ii) a detailed description of
22 the emergency medical curriculum completed; and (iii) a
23 detailed description of the applicant's clinical
24 experience. The Department may request additional and
25 clarifying information. The Department shall evaluate the
26 application, including the applicant's training and

1 experience, consistent with the standards set forth under
2 subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of Section 3.10. If the
3 application clearly demonstrates that the training and
4 experience meet such standards, the Department shall offer
5 the applicant the opportunity to successfully complete a
6 Department-approved EMS personnel examination for the
7 level of license for which the applicant is qualified.
8 Upon passage of an examination, the Department shall issue
9 a license, which shall be subject to all provisions of
10 this Act that are otherwise applicable to the level of EMS
11 personnel license issued.

12 (3) License individuals as an EMR, EMT, EMT-I, A-EMT,
13 or Paramedic who have met the Department's education,
14 training and examination requirements.

15 (4) Prescribe annual continuing education and
16 relicensure requirements for all EMS personnel licensure
17 levels.

18 (5) Relicense individuals as an EMD, EMR, EMT, EMT-I,
19 A-EMT, PHRN, PHAPRN, PHPA, TMP, or Paramedic every 4
20 years, based on their compliance with continuing education
21 and relicensure requirements as required by the Department
22 pursuant to this Act. Every 4 years, a Paramedic shall
23 have 100 hours of approved continuing education, an EMT-I
24 and an advanced EMT shall have 80 hours of approved
25 continuing education, and an EMT shall have 60 hours of
26 approved continuing education. An Illinois licensed EMR,

1 EMD, EMT, EMT-I, A-EMT, Paramedic, ECRN, PHPA, TMP,
2 PHAPRN, or PHRN whose license has been expired for less
3 than 36 months may apply for reinstatement by the
4 Department. Reinstatement shall require that the applicant
5 (i) submit satisfactory proof of completion of continuing
6 medical education and clinical requirements to be
7 prescribed by the Department in an administrative rule;
8 (ii) submit a positive recommendation from an Illinois EMS
9 Medical Director attesting to the applicant's
10 qualifications for retesting; and (iii) pass a Department
11 approved test for the level of EMS personnel license
12 sought to be reinstated.

13 (6) Grant inactive status to any EMR, EMD, EMT, EMT-I,
14 A-EMT, Paramedic, ECRN, PHAPRN, PHPA, TMP, or PHRN who
15 qualifies, based on standards and procedures established
16 by the Department in rules adopted pursuant to this Act.

17 (7) Charge a fee for EMS personnel examination,
18 licensure, and license renewal.

19 (8) Suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew the
20 license of any licensee, after an opportunity for an
21 impartial hearing before a neutral administrative law
22 judge appointed by the Director, where the preponderance
23 of the evidence shows one or more of the following:

24 (A) The licensee has not met continuing education
25 or relicensure requirements as prescribed by the
26 Department;

1 (B) The licensee has failed to maintain
2 proficiency in the level of skills for which he or she
3 is licensed;

4 (C) The licensee, during the provision of medical
5 services, engaged in dishonorable, unethical, or
6 unprofessional conduct of a character likely to
7 deceive, defraud, or harm the public;

8 (D) The licensee has failed to maintain or has
9 violated standards of performance and conduct as
10 prescribed by the Department in rules adopted pursuant
11 to this Act or his or her EMS System's Program Plan;

12 (E) The licensee is physically impaired to the
13 extent that he or she cannot physically perform the
14 skills and functions for which he or she is licensed,
15 as verified by a physician, unless the person is on
16 inactive status pursuant to Department regulations;

17 (F) The licensee is mentally impaired to the
18 extent that he or she cannot exercise the appropriate
19 judgment, skill and safety for performing the
20 functions for which he or she is licensed, as verified
21 by a physician, unless the person is on inactive
22 status pursuant to Department regulations;

23 (G) The licensee has violated this Act or any rule
24 adopted by the Department pursuant to this Act; or

25 (H) The licensee has been convicted (or entered a
26 plea of guilty or nolo contendere) by a court of

1 competent jurisdiction of a Class X, Class 1, or Class
2 2 felony in this State or an out-of-state equivalent
3 offense.

4 (9) Prescribe education and training requirements in
5 the administration and use of opioid antagonists for all
6 levels of EMS personnel based on the National EMS
7 Educational Standards and any modifications to those
8 curricula specified by the Department through rules
9 adopted pursuant to this Act.

10 (d-5) An EMR, EMD, EMT, EMT-I, A-EMT, Paramedic, ECRN,
11 PHAPRN, PHPA, TMP, or PHRN who is a member of the Illinois
12 National Guard or an Illinois State Trooper or who exclusively
13 serves as a volunteer for units of local government with a
14 population base of less than 5,000 or as a volunteer for a
15 not-for-profit organization that serves a service area with a
16 population base of less than 5,000 may submit an application
17 to the Department for a waiver of the fees described under
18 paragraph (7) of subsection (d) of this Section on a form
19 prescribed by the Department.

20 (d-10) A person who is not an EMS personnel may operate an
21 EMS vehicle pursuant to this Act if the following requirements
22 are met: (i) the person meets the requirements of Section
23 11-1421 of the Illinois Vehicle Code; (ii) 2
24 Department-licensed EMS personnel are present and have met
25 educational requirements prescribed by the Department; and
26 (iii) the clinical condition of the patient necessitates the

1 involvement of additional licensed personnel to ensure
2 appropriate assessment, treatment, and patient safety. If a
3 waiver is issued by the Department, the person who is not an
4 EMS personnel may operate the EMS vehicle if only one EMS
5 personnel is present. Upon request, the Department may issue a
6 retroactive waiver when appropriate.

7 The education requirements prescribed by the Department
8 under this Section must allow for the suspension of those
9 requirements in the case of a member of the armed services or
10 reserve forces of the United States or a member of the Illinois
11 National Guard who is on active duty pursuant to an executive
12 order of the President of the United States, an act of the
13 Congress of the United States, or an order of the Governor at
14 the time that the member would otherwise be required to
15 fulfill a particular education requirement. Such a person must
16 fulfill the education requirement within 6 months after his or
17 her release from active duty.

18 (e) In the event that any rule of the Department or an EMS
19 Medical Director that requires testing for drug use as a
20 condition of the applicable EMS personnel license conflicts
21 with or duplicates a provision of a collective bargaining
22 agreement that requires testing for drug use, that rule shall
23 not apply to any person covered by the collective bargaining
24 agreement.

25 (f) At the time of applying for or renewing his or her
26 license, an applicant for a license or license renewal may

1 submit an email address to the Department. The Department
2 shall keep the email address on file as a form of contact for
3 the individual. The Department shall send license renewal
4 notices electronically and by mail to a licensee who provides
5 the Department with his or her email address. The notices
6 shall be sent at least 60 days prior to the expiration date of
7 the license.

8 (Source: P.A. 104-362, eff. 8-15-25.)