

Emergency Medical Technicians for a two year period. Re-training and testing is required every two years.

To prepare the proposed amendment, the Department of Health followed procedures mandated by the Minnesota Administrative Procedures Act and the rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings. A notice to solicit outside opinion concerning the proposed amendment was published in the State Register on Monday, May 8, 1989. The proposed rule amendment developed as a result of discussions and subsequent recommendation to the commissioner by the EMS Statewide Advisory Task Force, convened in October of 1987. The proposed rule amendment has been reviewed and approved by staff of the Emergency Medical Services Section, Community Health Services Division, Minnesota Department of Health, 393 North Dunlap St., Box 64900, St. Paul, Mn. 55164. Following publication of the notice of intent to solicit outside opinion, comments received were reviewed and considered by staff of the Emergency Medical Services Section prior to completion of the proposed rule amendment.

This statement of need and reasonableness must be read in conjunction with a copy of the proposed amendment to rule. Copies of the amendment to rule are available from the Emergency Medical Services Section of the Department of Health.

IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS

Minnesota Statutes, section 14.115, subdivision 2, requires

a state agency to consider the methods for reducing the impact of proposed state rules on small businesses.

This proposed amendment pertaining to reinstatement of expired emergency medical technician certification does not require any business to change the way it operates. The amendment will permit individuals to seek re-certification as emergency medical technicians. The proposed rule change will not burden licensed ambulance services with new expenditures that will be detrimental to their continued operation. The proposed rule will enable ambulance services to identify an additional pool of properly trained personnel to serve as attendants on their ambulance service, most of whom are volunteers.

Minnesota Statutes, section 14.115, subdivision 4, requires the state agency to have small businesses participate in rule making. This requirement has been satisfied by mailing the notice of intent to solicit outside opinion to all licensed ambulance services in the state.

NEED AND REASONABLENESS OF AMENDMENTS

The Department of Health finds that some ambulance services throughout the state are experiencing difficulty in maintaining and recruiting a sufficient number of Emergency Medical Technicians to serve as ambulance attendants. The Department also finds that many persons formerly certified as Emergency

Medical Technicians have, for a variety of reasons, chosen to voluntarily allow their certification to expire. This issue of volunteer recruitment and retention is not unique to the prehospital emergency medical care; however, it has impacted this technical field especially in more rural areas of Greater Minnesota. The Department finds that many former EMT's have allowed their certification to expire over the past several years. It has also been found that, throughout the state, many former EMT's are willing to re-enter the prehospital EMS system if a re-entry provision is provided, along with other continuing education incentives under discussion by the Department of Health.

It is the finding of the Department of Health that the best interest of pre-hospital emergency medical care in the state would be served by identifying persons with expired emergency medical technician certificates, and encouraging these persons to seek re-certification under provisions of this proposed amendment to rule. The recruitment of personnel in this fashion will enable many ambulance services to have available additional EMT's within the communities they serve.

The proposed amendment to Minnesota Rule Chapter 4690.5000 would permit an applicant to renew a lapsed emergency medical technician certificate with an expiration date of December 31, 1988 or earlier. The proposed new alternative would be by petition to the Commissioner for reinstatement as a state-certified emergency medical technician. Proper evidence would be

submitted at the time of petition, consisting of the following:

- 1) A copy of an Emergency Medical Technician - Ambulance or Non-Ambulance registration issued by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians; or
- 2) A copy of a Minnesota emergency medical care certificate issued by the commissioner pursuant to Minnesota Rule 4690.4600; or
- 3) A statement from an approved training institution documenting past status as an emergency medical technician pursuant to 1) and 2), and signed by the medical advisor or medical director and the chief administrative representative of an ambulance service licensed by the commissioner to operate within Minnesota.

This amendment to Minnesota rule is proposed to expire August 1, 1994. Applicants enrolled in an approved emergency medical care refresher course on or after April 27, 1989, are eligible to apply for reinstatement under provisions of this proposed rule change. The Statewide Emergency Medical Services Task Force recommendation to proceed with promulgation of this re-entry rule was approved by the Commissioner of Health on this date.

With the date of August 1, 1994 set as the point at which Minnesota ambulance services will be staffed by all emergency medical technicians, this proposed amendment to rule is particularly timely and needed.

Comments received in response to the Notice to Solicit Outside Opinion indicate that this amendment to rule would have a positive impact on local ambulance services, particularly in the more rural areas of the state, where volunteers make up the majority of staff. Written comments in support of this proposed amendment to rule were received from the Renville Ambulance Service, Inc.; the City of Minnesota Ambulance Service; Tri-County Ambulance Service District, Inc., Karlstad; Department of Fire and Safety Services, City of St. Paul; Minneapolis Fire Department; and one individual from outside of Minnesota.

Former emergency medical technicians with many years of dedicated service and experience would be able to return to active service if they so choose. A qualified applicant would be required to successfully complete a 24-hour "refresher" course, including written and practical examination, in order to regain certification as a state emergency medical technician. The successful applicant would regain former skills, and be able to provide service to his or her community once again as a valuable member of the local ambulance service, most likely as a volunteer. By successfully completing a 24-hour "refresher" course, including the required written and practical examinations, the general public is assured that acceptable quality care is being offered and delivered by pre-hospital personnel with appropriate and current skills.

In summary, comments received to date indicate that this is one

of the most important rule changes that the Department has considered in recent years. It is a rule change that will greatly benefit the emergency medical care system within the state.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed amendment to rule will not result in an increase in spending of public money by any public bodies, because the amendment will not affect the operation of the regulatory agency, in this case, the Department of Health. Therefore, the fiscal note requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 14.11, subdivision 1 do not apply to this proposed rule amendment.

EXPERT WITNESSES

The Department of Health will not present expert witnesses from outside the Department to testify concerning the provisions of this proposed amendment to rule on behalf of the department.

DATE: 12/14/89

Sister Mary Madonna Ashton

**SISTER MARY MADONNA ASHTON
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH**