

Committee on Judiciary

CS/HB 487 — Carrying of Firearms by Tactical Medical Professionals

by Criminal Justice Subcommittee and Reps. Smith, D., Gottlieb, and others (CS/CS/SB 722 by Rules Committee; Judiciary Committee; and Senator Hooper)

This bill expressly authorizes a “tactical medical professional” (TMP) who has a concealed weapons and firearms license to carry firearms, weapons, and ammunition when he or she is actively operating in direct support of a tactical law enforcement operation. However, for the authorization to apply, the bill also requires the law enforcement agency head to have appointed the TMP, the agency to have an established policy for these appointments, and the TMP to have completed two types of firearms training, one of which must be provided by the agency.

A TMP may carry a firearm in the same manner as a law enforcement officer and anywhere that a tactical law enforcement operation occurs. Additionally, a TMP has “the same immunities and privileges as a law enforcement officer . . . in a civil or criminal action arising out of a tactical law enforcement operation when acting within the scope of his or her official duties.”

The bill defines a TMP as a paramedic, physician, or osteopathic physician who is appointed to provide medical support to a tactical law enforcement unit engaged in high-risk incidents, such as drugs raids and hostage situations.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 39-1; House 106-7