

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to emergency services; amending s.
3 316.2398, F.S.; removing a limitation on the number of
4 red or red and white warning signals that certain
5 vehicles may display; amending s. 401.25, F.S.;
6 revising the circumstances under which certain
7 applicants for a specified license are exempt from a
8 specified requirement; requiring an applicant seeking
9 such exemption to submit a sworn affidavit to the
10 Department of Health attesting to certain facts;
11 revising the number of counties that may be granted
12 such exemption; prohibiting a licensed volunteer
13 ambulance service from applying for, receiving funds
14 under, or participating in certain grant programs;
15 amending s. 395.401, F.S.; conforming a cross-
16 reference; providing an effective date.

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18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19
20 **Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**
21 **316.2398, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

22 316.2398 Display or use of red or red and white warning
23 signals; motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters or medical
24 staff.—

25 (1) A privately owned vehicle belonging to an active

26 firefighter member of a regularly organized volunteer
27 firefighting company or association, while en route to the fire
28 station for the purpose of proceeding to the scene of a fire or
29 other emergency or while en route to the scene of a fire or
30 other emergency in the line of duty as an active firefighter
31 member of a regularly organized firefighting company or
32 association, may display or use red or red and white warning
33 signals. A privately owned vehicle belonging to a medical staff
34 physician or technician of a medical facility licensed by the
35 state or of a volunteer ambulance service, while responding to
36 an emergency in the line of duty, may display or use red warning
37 signals. An organ transport vehicle, while transporting organs
38 or surgical teams for organ donation or transplant while en
39 route to a hospital, an airport, or other designated location,
40 may display or use red warning signals. Warning signals must be
41 visible from the front and from the rear of such vehicle,
42 subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

43 ~~(a) No more than two red or red and white warning signals~~
44 ~~may be displayed.~~

45 **Section 2. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 401.25,**
46 **Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7) and (8),**
47 **respectively, paragraph (d) of subsection (2) is amended, and a**
48 **new subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:**

49 401.25 Licensure as a basic life support or an advanced
50 life support service.—

51 (2) The department shall issue a license for operation to
52 any applicant who complies with the following requirements:

53 (d) The applicant has obtained a certificate of public
54 convenience and necessity from each county in which the
55 applicant will operate. In issuing the certificate of public
56 convenience and necessity, the governing body of each county
57 shall consider the recommendations of municipalities within its
58 jurisdiction.

59 1. An applicant that is an active first responder agency
60 is exempt from this requirement if it:

61 a.1. Is a faith-based, not-for-profit charitable
62 corporation registered under chapter 617 which has been
63 responding to medical emergencies in this state for at least 15
64 ~~10~~ consecutive years.

65 b.2. Is not a parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of, or
66 related to, any for-profit entity.

67 c.3. Provides basic life support services or advanced life
68 support services solely through at least 150 ~~50~~ unpaid licensed
69 emergency medical technician or paramedic volunteers in at least
70 three counties at the time of application.

71 d.4. Is not operating for pecuniary profit or financial
72 gain.

73 e.5. Does not distribute to or inure to the benefit of its
74 directors, members, or officers or other related parties any
75 part of its assets or income.

76 ~~6. Does not receive any government funding. However, the~~
77 ~~volunteer ambulance service may receive funding from specialty~~
78 ~~license plate proceeds.~~

79 f.7. Has never had a license denied, revoked, or
80 suspended.

81 g.8. Provides services at no cost to the patient ~~free of~~
82 ~~charge.~~

83 h.9. As part of its application for licensure, provides to
84 the department a management plan that includes a training
85 program, dispatch protocols, a complaint management system, an
86 accident or injury handling system, a quality assurance program,
87 and proof of adequate insurance coverage to meet state or county
88 insurance requirements, whichever requirements are greater.

89 i.10. Provides a disclaimer on all written materials that
90 the volunteer ambulance service is not associated with the
91 state's 911 system.

92 2. An applicant seeking an exemption from this requirement
93 must submit to the department a sworn affidavit that complies
94 with s. 92.50(1) attesting that the applicant meets the
95 requirements for an exemption provided in sub-subparagraphs
96 1.a.-i. A person who submits an affidavit fraudulently attesting
97 to meeting such requirements violates s. 837.012 and commits a
98 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
99 775.082 or s. 775.083.

100 3. The exemption under subparagraph 1. ~~this paragraph~~ may

101 be granted to no more than 15 ~~four~~ counties. This exemption
102 notwithstanding, an applicant is not exempted from and must
103 comply with all other requirements for licensure. An applicant
104 must also take all reasonable efforts to enter into a memorandum
105 of understanding with the emergency medical services licensee
106 within whose jurisdiction the applicant will provide services in
107 order to facilitate communications and coordinate emergency
108 services for situations beyond the scope of the applicant's
109 capacity and for situations of advanced life support that are
110 deemed priority 1 or priority 2 emergencies.

111 (6) A volunteer ambulance service licensed under this
112 section may not apply for, receive funds under, or participate
113 in any grant program designed exclusively for publicly operated
114 fire departments or emergency medical service agencies.

115 **Section 3. Paragraph (1) of subsection (1) of section**
116 **395.401, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

117 395.401 Trauma services system plans; approval of trauma
118 centers and pediatric trauma centers; procedures; renewal.—

119 (1)

120 (1) A county, upon the recommendations of the local or
121 regional trauma agency, may adopt ordinances governing the
122 transport of a patient who is receiving care in the field from
123 prehospital emergency medical personnel when the patient meets
124 specific criteria for trauma, burn, or pediatric centers adopted
125 by the local or regional trauma agency. These ordinances must be

126 consistent with s. 395.4045, ordinances adopted under s.
127 401.25(7) ~~s. 401.25(6)~~, and the local or regional trauma system
128 plan and, to the furthest possible extent, must ensure that
129 individual patients receive appropriate medical care while
130 protecting the interests of the community at large by making
131 maximum use of available emergency medical care resources.

132 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.