

2021

SENATE BILL NO. ____

By Senator Francisco

AN ACT concerning emergency medical services; recognizing public safety telecommunicators as first responders; amending K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 48-949 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) The purpose of this section is to recognize public safety telecommunicators as first responders or emergency responders in Kansas. The inclusion of public safety telecommunicators as first responders or emergency responders, as evident in day-to-day operational functions of the position, shall be applied wherever necessitated and appropriate in both legislative and administrative contexts.

(b) As used in this section, "public safety telecommunicator" means a person employed by a public safety answering point or emergency service provider as a public safety telecommunicator or 911 operator whose duties and responsibilities include the answering, receiving, transferring and dispatching functions related to 911 calls and texts and the deployment of law enforcement officers, fire rescue services, emergency medical services and other public safety services to the scene of an emergency.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 48-949 is hereby amended to read as follows: 48-949. As used in this act:

(a) "Division" means the division of emergency management within the office of the adjutant general.

(b) "Emergency responder" means any person in the public or private sector who: (1) Has special skills, qualifications, training, knowledge and experience which would be beneficial to a participating political subdivision in response to a locally-declared emergency as defined in

any applicable law or ordinance or authorized drill or exercises; and (2) is requested or authorized, or both, to respond. An emergency responder may or may not be required to possess a license, certificate, permit or other official recognition for the emergency responder's expertise in a particular field or area of knowledge. "Emergency responder" may include, but is not limited to, the following: Law enforcement officers, ~~fire fighters~~ firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, public safety telecommunicators as defined in section 1, and amendments thereto, physicians, nurses, public health personnel, emergency management personnel, public works personnel and persons with skills or training in operating specialized equipment or other skills needed to provide aid in a declared emergency.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 48-949 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.