

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2971

To require the Secretary of Labor to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System to accurately count the number of emergency medical services practitioners in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7, 2021

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Labor to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System to accurately count the number of emergency medical services practitioners in the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “EMS Counts Act of
5 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Emergency Medical Services (in this Act re-
2 ferred to as “EMS”) personnel provide a critical role
3 in emergency response. EMS consists of a diverse
4 group of health care practitioners, such as para-
5 medics, emergency medical technicians (in this Act
6 referred to as “EMTs”), dual-role firefighter/EMTs,
7 firefighter/paramedics, and volunteer personnel serv-
8 ing in each of such roles.

9 (2) EMS is an integral component of the re-
10 sponse capacity of the United States to disasters
11 and public health crises, such as outbreaks of infec-
12 tious diseases, bombings, mass shootings, earth-
13 quakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. EMS personnel
14 respond to more than 22,000,000 emergency calls
15 each year including strokes, heart attacks, cardiac
16 arrest, and trauma.

17 (3) The Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles in-
18 formation on the number of individuals working in
19 roles across the entire United States workforce. The
20 Bureau of Labor Statistics completes this work by
21 maintaining the Standard Occupational Classifica-
22 tion system which classifies workers and jobs into
23 occupational categories for the purpose of collecting,
24 calculating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

1 (4) The BLS fails to accurately count EMS
 2 practitioners because of its failure to include dual-
 3 role firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/paramedics in
 4 their count of EMS personnel.

5 (5) Accurately counting the EMS workforce is
 6 critical for government agencies in determining the
 7 needs of EMS agencies and practitioners. These
 8 data are also crucial for informing many aspects of
 9 policy including preparedness for natural disasters,
 10 public health emergencies, and acts of terrorism.

11 **SEC. 3. RECOGNITION OF DUAL-ROLE FIREFIGHTERS AS**
 12 **EMS PRACTITIONERS.**

13 Not later than 120 days after the date of the enact-
 14 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in collaboration
 15 with the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
 16 et, shall revise the broad description under the occupa-
 17 tional series “33–2011 Firefighters” of the 2018 Stand-
 18 ard Occupational Classification System of the Bureau of
 19 Labor Statistics to include the following detailed occupa-
 20 tions:

- 21 (1) Firefighters.
- 22 (2) Firefighter/EMTs.
- 23 (3) Firefighter/Paramedics.
- 24 (4) Firefighters, All Other.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

2 Not later than 270 days after the enactment of this
3 Act, the Secretary of Labor, in collaboration with the Di-
4 rector of the Office of Management and Budget, shall sub-
5 mit to Congress a report that details—

- 6 (1) the actions taken in 2015 to expand the
7 definition “29–2040 Emergency Medical Technicians
8 and Paramedics” to separately account for the num-
9 bers of EMTs and paramedics; and
10 (2) the implementation of the revisions under
11 section 3.

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