



## 2023 South Dakota Legislature

# House Concurrent Resolution 6004

Introduced by: **Representative** Emery

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Encouraging the Executive Board of the Legislature**  
2 **to authorize an interim study of the licensure and nomenclature of emergency**  
3 **medical and advanced life support personnel.**

4 WHEREAS, a diverse array of terms has accumulated over time to describe the field of  
5 emergency medical services and its practitioners. First responder, emergency medical  
6 responder, emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician-intermediate,  
7 emergency medical technician-advanced, and emergency medical technician-paramedic are  
8 just several of the terms used in this state to describe emergency medical service  
9 practitioners. This acts to frequently confuse colleagues within the industry, providers of other  
10 public safety and health care agencies, the media, and the public; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2011, the organization, International Paramedic, stated that the profession  
12 was being harmed by the internal divisions and lack of clarity related to nomenclature.  
13 Paramedicine as a discipline is much broader than the current roles performed by EMS  
14 personnel and includes the totality of the roles and responsibilities of individuals trained,  
15 certified, licensed, and credentialed as EMS practitioners. Paramedicine is a professional space  
16 that begins with emergency medical response and intervention, but expands to a health  
17 profession focused on assisting individuals, families, and communities in attaining, re-  
18 attaining, and maintaining optimal health; and

19 WHEREAS, as with other disciplines and professions in society, standardized, generic  
20 terms should be established to describe them and their practitioners. There are efforts at the  
21 national and state level to officially recognize and use the term, paramedicine, to describe the  
22 distinct discipline and profession that has emerged within the out-of-hospital health care field;  
23 and

1        WHEREAS, the modernization of the licensure and certification levels of ambulance  
2 services, emergency medical services, and advanced life support personnel in South Dakota  
3 would provide a clearer and more beneficial system of care for its citizens, and keep the state  
4 current with industry standards:

5        NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-  
6 Eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the  
7 Executive Board of the Legislature establish an interim committee to study the licensure of  
8 providers of emergency medical services and advanced life support personnel in this state;  
9 and

10       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee make recommendations for  
11 statutory and regulatory changes to modernize the licensure levels and nomenclature to align  
12 with the standardization of paramedicine as a discipline.