



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 10 2013

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

Assembly Bill 704 would require the Emergency Medical Services Authority to adopt regulations to accept U.S. military experience and training toward the qualifications and prerequisites for emergency medical technician and paramedic certifications.

Current regulations already allow most military experience and training to count; and where there may be a discrepancy, the regulations allow an individual to petition they be accepted, or complete additional courses or training prior to testing for certification.

I strongly support efforts to adapt the skills and training veterans have acquired in the military to a civilian environment. Rather than signing this bill, however, I will direct the Emergency Medical Services Authority to act within its administrative authority to clarify the process for making prior experience count, without the cumbersome or overlong process that regulations would entail.

This will ensure that all veterans have the information they need – sooner rather than later – to apply proper credit for their military experience toward their desired certifications.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.