



State Representative Nick Santucci

*House Bill 303 Sponsor Testimony
Homeland Security Committee
December 6, 2023*

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Homeland Security Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 303.

By way of background, The State Emergency, Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services Board (EMFTS) resides under the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Division of EMS and consists of 21 appointed members. Appointees represent Ohio's fire and emergency medical services, private medical transportation services, mobile intensive care providers, air medical providers, trauma programs, hospitals, emergency physicians, EMS training programs and the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

House Bill 303 will allow the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services (EMFTS) to establish a process for personnel to submit a petition for a specific topic to be included in a training course or continuing education program for first responders, EMTs, or paramedics to the EMFTS Board. The Board will either approve or deny the petition. If the petition is approved, the Board will require the topic to be included in the training or continuing education program and will adopt rules as necessary regarding the number of hours required for the training topic.

While the EMFTS Board already establishes training and certification standards for EMS personnel, Rep. Hall and I have the utmost confidence in the Board to approve or deny petitions for training subjects in a manner that will keep the training standards up-to-date and held to a standard in which Ohio can be proud of. The legislation will not only benefit Ohio's emergency services personnel, but the safety of our communities and the future of Ohio.

We are seeing numerous legislative proposals to establish new trainings for EMS personnel. While some of the trainings would be beneficial, not all of them are needed in every department in Ohio. Setting up this process will ensure that the highly educated and dedicated professionals at the Division of EMS are the ones that are making informed decisions about training and education standards.

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Homeland Security Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 303. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.