State of Louisiana

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JBE 2016-52

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, the Governor declared a state of emergency in Proclamation No. 111 JBE 2016;

WHEREAS, due to near unprecedented rainfall, portions of southeastern Louisiana are currently experiencing a flood of historical proportions, with thousands of homes flooded and thousands of people being rescued from flooded homes that can only be reached by boat or high water trucks;

WHEREAS, many of the rescued persons, together with others able to evacuate on their own, are utilizing emergency shelters to accommodate those who cannot remain in their homes;

WHEREAS, flooding is currently straining medical infrastructure in Regions 2, 4, and 9 with potential threat of storms likely straining infrastructure in Region 5;

WHEREAS, the flooding poses a threat to citizens and communities across southeastern Louisiana and creates conditions which place lives and property in a state in jeopardy;

WHEREAS, there is a need to immediately supplement the number of licensed Emergency Medical Technicians, including the designations of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT, Paramedic, EMT-Basic (EMT-B), EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I), and EMT-Paramedic (EMT-P), currently available to this state to respond to this emergency in order to serve those which might be

affected by this emergency;

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Technicians, including the designations of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT, Paramedic, EMT-Basic (EMT-B), EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I), and EMT-Paramedic (EMT-P), licensed in states other than Louisiana are available to provide medical aid and assistance to those persons affected by this emergency.

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 29:724 authorizes the Governor, during a declared state of emergency, to suspend the provisions of any state regulatory statute prescribing procedures for conducting state business, or the orders, rules or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provision of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department of Health and the State Health Officer have requested that Louisiana state statutes, laws, rules, and regulations related to licensing of Emergency Medical Technicians, including designations of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT, Paramedic, EMT-Basic (EMT-B), EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I), and EMT-Paramedic (EMT-P), be temporarily suspended for those such persons duly licensed to practice in other states who wish to provide their services in Louisiana to those persons needing medical services as a result of this emergency;

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 29:766 authorizes the Governor to declare a state of public health emergency if he finds a public health emergency as defined in La. R.S. 29:762 has occurred or the threat thereof is imminent; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 29:766 authorizes the Governor, during a declared state of public health emergency, to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing procedures for the conducting of state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, La. R.S. 29:760 *et seq.*, and more specifically, La. R.S. 29:766, a state of public health emergency is hereby declared.

SECTION 2: Louisiana state statutes, laws, rules, and regulations regarding the licensure of Emergency Medical Technicians, including designations of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT, Paramedic, EMT-Basic (EMT-B), EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I), and EMT-Paramedic (EMT-P), are hereby temporarily suspended for Emergency Medical Technicians duly licensed to practice in other states who wish to provide their services to those persons needing services as a

result of this declared emergency. An individual currently licensed and in good standing as an Emergency Medical Technician, including designations of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT, Paramedic, EMT-Basic (EMT-B), EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I), and EMT-Paramedic (EMT-P), in another state may practice in Louisiana, subject to the following conditions, qualifications, and parameters:

A. The individual must be duly licensed and in good standing in another state.

B. The individual shall not exceed the scope of practice applicable to his license, as provided for by applicable law of the state in which he is licensed; the individual must practice in good faith and within the reasonable scope of his/her skills, training. ability, and competency.

C. The individual must cease practicing in Louisiana upon the termination or rescission of this Order or of the declared state of emergency cited herein, or any extension thereof.

SECTION 3: This Order is effective upon signature and shall apply retroactively from August 13, 2016, until amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the governor, or terminated by operation of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 14th day of August, 2016.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE