

**GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING
SENATE BILL NO. 3241
(First Reprint)**

Today I am signing Senate Bill No. 3241 (First Reprint), which extends temporary waivers of certain basic life support services and specialty care transport unit crewmember requirements for EMTs. This time-limited legislation has afforded our health care systems the flexibility to provide non-emergency basic life support in the wake of an Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") workforce shortage resulting from the Coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic. Unfortunately, recent data from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development indicates that the EMT workforce has not grown in the past year. Therefore, I am signing Senate Bill No. 3241 (First Reprint) to extend the temporary waivers for one additional year, so that they will expire on January 1, 2024 instead of January 1, 2023.

In doing so, I want to be clear that this is the final extension I will sign into law. While these waivers helped facilitate the delivery of basic life support services during the worst moments of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have also placed increased pressure on an already stretched workforce. We cannot forget that these waivers require one EMT to fulfill the tasks that have traditionally relied on the support of two. Any additional extension will only exacerbate worker fatigue and complicate our State's efforts to recruit and retain new EMTs.

I am hopeful the Legislature will spend the next year working with the Department of Health and industry stakeholders on long-term solutions designed to strengthen New Jersey's EMT workforce.

Date: December 22, 2022

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor