

Definitions of 'First Responder' in HB 451

According to HB 451 (2024), 'First responder' in OCGA 45-25-2 means any of the following:

(A) 'Communications officer' as defined in Code Section 37-12-1;

(5) "Communications officer" means and includes any person employed by a public safety agency to receive, process, or transmit public safety information and dispatch law enforcement officers, firefighters, medical personnel, or emergency management personnel.

(B) 'Correctional officer' as defined in Code Section 45-1-8;

(a)(1) "Correctional officer" means any person who is authorized to exercise the power of arrest and who is employed or appointed by the Department of Corrections or the State Board of Pardons and Paroles.

(C) 'Emergency medical professional' as defined in Code Section 16-10-24.2;

(a)(1) "Emergency medical professional" means any person performing emergency medical services who is licensed or certified to provide health care in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 11, Chapter 26, or Chapter 34 of Title 43.

(D) 'Emergency medical technician' as defined in Code Section 16-10-24.2;

(a)(2) "Emergency medical technician" means any person who has been certified as an emergency medical technician, cardiac technician, paramedic, or first responder pursuant to Chapter 11 of Title 31.

(E) 'Firefighter' as defined in Code Section 25-4-2;

(6) "Firefighter" means a recruit or a trained individual who is a full-time employee, part-time employee, or volunteer for a municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department and as such has duties of responding to mitigate a variety of emergency and nonemergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk, which may include without limitation fire suppression; fire prevention activities; emergency medical services; hazardous materials response and preparedness; technical rescue operations; search and rescue; disaster management and preparedness; community service activities; response to civil disturbances and terrorism incidents; nonemergency functions including training, preplanning, communications, maintenance, and physical conditioning; and other related emergency and nonemergency duties as may be assigned or required; provided, however, that a firefighter's assignments may vary based on geographic, climatic, and demographic conditions or other factors including training, experience, and ability.

(F) 'Highway emergency response operator' as defined in Code Section 45-1-8;

(a)(5) "Highway emergency response operator" means a person employed by the Department of Transportation who operates a towing or recovery vehicle or highway maintenance vehicle.

(G) 'Jail officer' as defined in Code Section 45-1-8;

(a)(6) "Jail officer" means any person who is employed or appointed by a county or municipality and who has the responsibility of supervising inmates confined in a municipal or county detention facility.

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(H) 'Juvenile correctional officer' as defined in Code Section 45-1-8;

(a)(7) "Juvenile correctional officer" means any person employed or appointed by the Department of Juvenile Justice whose primary responsibility is the supervision and control of youth confined in its programs and facilities.

(I) 'Peace officer' as defined in Code Section 35-8-2;

(8) "Peace officer" means, for purposes of this chapter only:

(A) An agent, operative, or officer of this state, a subdivision or municipality thereof, or a railroad who, as an employee for hire or as a volunteer, is vested either expressly by law or by virtue of public employment or service with authority to enforce the criminal or traffic laws through the power of arrest and whose duties include the preservation of public order, the protection of life and property, and the prevention, detection, or investigation of crime;

(B) An enforcement officer who is employed by the Department of Transportation in its Office of Permits and Enforcement and any person employed by the Department of Juvenile Justice who is designated by the commissioner to investigate and apprehend delinquent children and any child with a pending juvenile court case alleging the child to be a child in need of services;

(B.1) Personnel who are authorized to exercise the power of arrest, who are employed or appointed by the Department of Juvenile Justice, and whose full-time duties include the preservation of public order, the protection of life and property, the detection of crime, the supervision of delinquent children in the department's institutions, facilities, or programs, or the supervision of delinquent children under intensive supervision in the community;

(C) Personnel who are authorized to exercise the power of arrest and who are employed or appointed by the Department of Corrections, the Department of Community Supervision, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, municipal correctional institutions employing 300 or more correctional officers, county probation systems, and county correctional institutions; and

(D) An administrative investigator who is an agent, operative, investigator, or officer of this state whose duties include the prevention, detection, and investigation of violations of law and the enforcement of administrative, regulatory, licensing, or certification requirements of his or her respective employing agency.

Law enforcement support personnel are not peace officers within the meaning of this chapter, but they may be certified upon voluntarily complying with the certification provisions of this chapter.

(J) 'Probation officer' as defined in Code Section 45-1-8; and

(a)(8) "Probation officer" means a community supervision officer, county or Department of Juvenile Justice juvenile probation officer, or probation officer serving pursuant to Article 6 of Chapter 8 of Title 42.

(K) Law enforcement officer with the Department of Natural Resources.