

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 2574  
OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “EMS Counts Act”.

**3 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Emergency medical services (in this Act re-  
6 ferred to as “EMS”) personnel provide a critical role  
7 in emergency response. EMS consists of a diverse  
8 group of health care practitioners, such as para-  
9 medics, emergency medical technicians (in this Act  
10 referred to as “EMTs”), dual-role firefighter/EMTs,  
11 firefighter/paramedics, and volunteer personnel serv-  
12 ing in each of such roles.

13 (2) EMS is an integral component of the re-  
14 sponse capacity of the United States to disasters  
15 and public health crises, such as outbreaks of infec-  
16 tious diseases, bombings, mass shootings, earth-  
17 quakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. EMS personnel  
18 respond to more than 22,000,000 emergency calls

1 each year including strokes, heart attacks, cardiac  
2 arrest, and trauma.

3 (3) The Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles in-  
4 formation on the number of individuals working in  
5 roles across the entire United States workforce. The  
6 Bureau of Labor Statistics completes this work by  
7 maintaining the Standard Occupational Classifica-  
8 tion system which classifies workers and jobs into  
9 occupational categories for the purpose of collecting,  
10 calculating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

11 (4) The BLS fails to accurately count EMS  
12 practitioners because of its failure to include dual-  
13 role firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/paramedics in  
14 their count of EMS personnel.

15 (5) Accurately counting the EMS workforce is  
16 critical for government agencies in determining the  
17 needs of EMS agencies and practitioners. These  
18 data are also crucial for informing many aspects of  
19 policy including preparedness for natural disasters,  
20 public health emergencies, and acts of terrorism.

21 **SEC. 3. REVISION OF STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSI-**  
22 **FICATION SYSTEM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of  
24 Management and Budget (in this Act referred to as the  
25 “Director”) shall, as part of the first revision process of

1 the Standard Occupational Classification system occurring  
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, consider estab-  
3 lishing a separate code, as a subset of firefighter occupa-  
4 tions, for each of the following:

- 5 (1) Firefighters.
- 6 (2) Firefighter/EMTs.
- 7 (3) Firefighter/Paramedics.
- 8 (4) Firefighters, All Other.

9 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—If the Director decides  
10 not to establish the separate codes described in subsection  
11 (a), the Director shall, not later than 30 days after the  
12 Director announces in the Federal Register the final deci-  
13 sion of the revision process described in such subsection,  
14 submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-  
15 ernmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on  
16 Education and the Workforce of the House of Representa-  
17 tives a report explaining why such separate codes were not  
18 established.

