



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #455

Emergency Medical Services Fee Revenue (DHS -- Public Health)

[LFB 2009-11 Budget Summary: Page 336, #5 (part)]

CURRENT LAW

The Department of Health Services (DHS) issues licenses for four levels of emergency medical technicians (EMTs): basic, intermediate technician, intermediate, and paramedic. These levels are distinguished by the services or procedures an EMT is allowed to perform. All EMTs must apply for a license, and renew that license every two years before June 30 of each even-numbered year, as required by rule. Although DHS does not currently charge fees for these licenses or license renewals, the statutes permit DHS to charge a reasonable fee for a license or training permit. However, no fee may be charged to an employee of a public agency who works for volunteer or paid-on-call ambulance service providers and who is an applicant for a license as an EMT-basic or for a training permit.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$50,000 PR in 2009-10 and \$350,000 PR in 2010-11 to authorize DHS to expend anticipated EMS licensing fee revenue in the 2009-11 biennium.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. DHS and the EMS Advisory Board are currently revising four chapters of administrative rules relating to licensing and certification of EMS personnel (HS 110 through HS 113). DHS anticipates holding a series of town hall meetings to solicit public input on the proposals. Once the proposed rules are finalized, the rules would be subject to the Legislature's normal rule-making process.

2. While the final draft of the administrative rules has not yet been completed, it is anticipated that the rules will include new fees for EMS personnel, as shown in the following table.

EMS Fee Proposal

<u>Type of License</u>	<u>New Licensees</u>	<u>Biennial Renewal Fee</u>
EMT - Basic	\$55	\$30
EMT - Intermediate Technician	65	40
EMT - Intermediate	85	60
EMT - Paramedic	85	60

3. Based on the current timing of license renewals, DHS anticipates that, if approved, the fees would generate an additional \$350,000 PR in 2009-10 and \$50,000 PR in 2010-11, or \$400,000 in the 2009-11 biennium. Due to the timing of license renewals, the revenue from the fees would fluctuate from year to year -- DHS would collect much more in the first year of each biennium due to license renewals, and less in the second year of each biennium, due to the issuance of new licenses.

4. DHS indicates that it would use the additional fee revenue to support an EMS quality assurance initiative that would include two new EMS positions -- a data manager and first responder coordinator. No positions would be provided in the bill for this proposal, since DHS intends to reallocate existing vacant PR position authority in the Division of Public Health, and fund these positions with the EMS fee revenue.

Unlike the EMS fee revenue DHS would collect, the costs of supporting these positions would not change from year to year. AB 75 could be amended to better reflect the ongoing costs of supporting the expenditures DHS would make in each year (\$200,000 PR annually), based on estimated biennial revenues. Under this option (Alternative 1), funding could be increased by \$150,000 PR in 2009-10 and decreased by \$150,000 PR in 2010-11, for a net biennial change of \$0.

5. However, since the proposed rules have not yet been finalized or submitted to the Legislature for approval, the Committee may wish to delete the funding increase recommended by the Governor in the bill. Should the new EMS fees be approved, DHS could request additional expenditure authority to support the EMS program under s. 16.515 of the statutes. Under this approach (Alternative 2), the Legislature could weigh the funding needs for the program with the proposed fee increases as part of the rule-making process.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Modify the Governor's recommendations by increasing funding by \$150,000 PR in 2009-10 and reducing funding by \$150,000 PR in 2010-11 to better align the funding in the bill with the ongoing costs of supporting EMS activities recommended by the Governor.

2. Delete provision. Reduce funding in the bill by \$50,000 PR in 2009-10 and by \$350,000 PR in 2010-11.

ALT 2	Change to Bill Funding
PR	- \$400,000

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