

SB 3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/10, 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires health benefit plans to cover emergency medical services transports. Defines "emergency medical services transports."

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of uncertainty of health insurance coverage of emergency medical services transports on patient receipt of care

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Emergency medical services (EMS) is the system that provides emergency medical care, usually in response to a call for help after an incident of serious illness or injury. This system also provides transportation services (ground, air, water) to hospitals for continuation of medical care. A variety of entities can provide EMS transportation, including fire departments, volunteers, municipal EMS providers, and private ambulance companies. Costs for EMS vary greatly depending on provider type, level of service, mode of transportation, and distance traveled.

Senate Bill 3 requires health benefit plans to cover emergency medical services transports.