

## Legislative Fiscal Office

Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE, H-178  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1828



## Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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**To:** Human Services Subcommittee

**From:** Tom MacDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Date:** June 15, 2021

**Subject:** HB 2910 – Relating to emergency medical services providers  
Work Session Recommendations

HB 2910 authorizes the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to request approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to administer an assessment and reimbursement program for nonfederal or nonpublic emergency medical service (EMS) providers. Upon CMS approval, OHA is directed to assess a quality assurance fee related to each provider's emergency and transportation services, or "EMS transport." The fee must be equal to five percent of the projected total gross receipts for an EMS provider for the following 12-month period, divided by the projected number of EMS transports in that period.

OHA is required to establish the reimbursement paid to an EMS provider for an EMS transport. The bill establishes the Emergency Medical Services Fund separate and distinct from the General Fund. The quality assurance fee revenue will be deposited into the new fund for grants to innovative ambulance programs; reimbursing medical assistance program expenses, including increasing EMS transport rates; and program administration.

The -A5 amendment makes certain policy changes and incorporates funding to support the fiscal impact of the measure. The amendment clarifies the reimbursement provided to EMS providers with respect to the level of federal financial participation guaranteed as part of the reimbursement and allows reimbursement to be reduced to provide grants to EMS providers for innovative ambulance programs. It also eliminates a \$10 replacement fee charged for ambulatory licenses and increases other annual ambulance license fees that support the regulatory responsibilities of OHA's Public Health Division. The increased fees include:

- Ambulance service having a maximum of four full-time paid positions: increase from \$75 to \$190.
- Ambulance service having five or more full-time paid positions: increase from \$250 to \$625.

- Each ambulance license if the ambulance is owned and operated by an ambulance service that has a maximum of four full-time paid positions: increase from \$45 to \$115.
- Each ambulance license if the ambulance is owned and operated by an ambulance service having five or more full-time paid positions: increase from \$80 to \$200.

The estimated fiscal impact of the new assessment and reimbursement program is \$30.4 million Other Funds, \$43.4 million Federal Funds, and three positions in 2021-23. This estimate is considered high-level given the difficulty estimating claims for a new assessment program such as this. The fee changes in the -A5 amendment are expected to increase Other Funds revenue in 2021-23 by \$269,175, which will support current operations in the Public Health Division's Health Care Regulation and Quality Improvement section.

The -A5 amendment incorporates the Other Funds and Federal Funds expenditure limitation in the bill to support the new assessment and reimbursement program.

**Recommended Changes**

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) recommends approval of the -A5 amendment.

**Final Subcommittee Action**

LFO recommends that HB 2910 be amended by the -A5 amendment and be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee, as amended.

**Carriers**

Full Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

House Floor: \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Floor: \_\_\_\_\_