

HB 3572 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/20, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program to develop and implement a 10-year strategic plan, creates the EMS Program Fund to provide funds to regional EMS advisory boards, permits the Governor and the State Fire Marshal to order EMS resources and equipment be made available in response to an emergency, enacts the EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact, and allocates money from the General Fund to support EMS Program activities.

Detailed Summary

- **EMS Strategic Plan (sections 1-4)**

- Directs the EMS Program to develop a 10-year state EMS strategic plan. Specifies that the strategic plan must provide for full operational capacity in all regions and include minimum quality standards consistent with federal guidance. Specifies what must be considered and included in the strategic plan, including funding and recommendations for implementation. Specifies what must be covered by and considered when developing recommendations.
- Directs the EMS Program to publish the strategic plan on its publicly available website and to submit a report including the strategic plan and summarizing implementation recommendations to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health care by December 31, 2026. Directs the EMS Advisory Board to revise the strategic plan and specifies reasons for revision. Directs the EMS Program to submit the revised strategic plan to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health care.
- Directs the EMS Program to provide staff support to specified advisory committees and the emergency medical services data system until the strategic plan is complete.
- Directs the EMS Program to study the rate of utilization of licensed EMS providers and to submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health care by September 15, 2026. Specifies what shall be included in the study.

- **EMS Program (sections 5-16, 26-41)**

- Establishes the EMS Program Fund in the State Treasury separate from the General Fund. Specifies what fund may be used for.
- Permits the EMS Program to create a process to award funds up to \$1,000,000 to each regional EMS advisory board that submits an innovation proposal. Specifies how award may be used and what must be included in the review process.
- Permits the EMS Program to create a grants manager position.
- Updates training and educational requirements for an EMS provider license beginning in 2026. Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt minimum educational requirements for EMS providers.
- Directs the EMS Program to provide loan repayment subsidies to licensed EMS providers and reimbursement of licensing costs to individuals who obtain an initial EMS provider license. Caps loan repayment and licensing cost reimbursement expenditures at \$500,000 per biennium. Sunsets provision on January 2, 2030.
- Makes other changes to EMS Program.

- **EMS Mobilization (sections 17-25)**

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- Permits the Governor to assign and make available any EMS resources and equipment of any EMS agency to any county, city, or district in response to an emergency. Specifies that when the Governor is unavailable the State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the EMS Program, may exercise the authority. Specifies that an order may be issued in writing or orally in some situations; specifies procedure for issuing written and oral orders.
- Directs regional EMS advisory boards to make EMS equipment and resources available in response to an order. Permits private ambulance services to contribute resources.
- Specifies that the state shall be liable for loss of or damage to equipment made available in response to an order and specifies process for filing a reimbursement claim with the EMS Program. Directs the state to reimburse a county, city, district, or ambulance service for the cost of providing aid in response to an order. Specifies what shall be reimbursed.
- Specifies that neither the state, a county, city, district, ambulance service, or EMS provider is liable for injury to a person or property that occurs as a result of performing a duty in response to an order. Specifies that a person is only subject to civil liability if the injury is a result of willful misconduct or gross negligence.
- Establishes the EMS Mobilization Advisory Board within the EMS Program. Specifies board composition and duties. Establishes the EMS Mobilization Fund in the State Treasury separate from the General Fund and specifies uses for fund.
- **EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (sections 42-50)**
 - Enacts the EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact. Specifies details about the compact. Directs an employer to provide a labor peace agreement with EMS provider labor organizations.
 - Makes changes to laws regarding disclosure of confidential information to another public entity and EMS licensure related to the compact.
 - Repeals compact on January 2, 2030.
- Appropriates \$8,750,000 from the General Fund to the EMS Program Fund for the 2025-2027 biennium to be used for innovation proposals, loan repayment and licensing cost reimbursement expenses, and compact enactment.
- Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The need to stabilize EMS systems, outstanding resource needs across EMS systems, including workforce shortages and equipment needs, place strain on EMS providers, particularly in rural areas of the state
- Ground emergency medical transportation (GEMT) reimbursement

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies language and makes changes throughout provisions of the measure. Removes the provision to enact the EMS compact. Adds the EMS Program Fund to the accounts that may receive allocations from the Criminal Fine Account. Increases the appropriation.

- **EMS Strategic Plan and Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact**
 - Makes changes to the recommendations required in the EMS strategic plan. Removes the provision to enact the EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact and adds to the EMS strategic plan recognition of the compact and directs the EMS Program to include in the strategic plan whether Oregon should enact the compact, any conditions to enacting the compact, and data to support the recommendation. Makes changes to the study provision of the strategic plan.
- **EMS Program**
 - Makes changes to the EMS Program related to the innovation proposals to permit the EMS program, clarifies language around training and educational requirements for an EMS provider license, and makes

changes to eligibility requirements for EMS loan repayment and licensure cost reimbursement. Makes changes to the EMS Program Fund.

- **EMS Mobilization**

- Makes changes to the EMS Mobilization Advisory Board.
- Adds the EMS Program Fund to the accounts that may receive allocations from the Criminal Fine Account.
- Increases the size of the appropriation from the General Fund to the EMS Program Fund from \$8,750,000 to \$9,000,000.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue impact: Revenue impact issued

BACKGROUND:

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Modernization Act of 2024, House Bill [4081](#), established the EMS [Program](#) within the Oregon Health Authority. The EMS Program is responsible for developing and regulating systems to support the delivery of quality emergency care, ensuring that Oregon's EMS systems are fully prepared to respond efficiently and effectively. The ultimate goal of EMS modernization is to create regional emergency care systems capable of serving patients by directing them to appropriately resourced facilities to meet their acute needs. A component of EMS modernization is the implementation of statewide standards, regional plans, and locally specific protocols. EMS modernization activities will be implemented in [phases](#) over a several year period.

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