



Support HB 2573

PRESERVE AND IMPROVE SENIOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR LONG TERM CARE RESIDENTS.

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2397, which supported essential access to emergency medical services (EMS) in long term care in two ways:

1. The bill established the Senior Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and Innovation Program to address EMS needs of the state's increasing number of aging residents who live in residential and long term care facilities. The program is funded through the Quality Care Fund and therefore requires no General Fund Support.
2. The bill ensured uniform senior care standards across Oregon through clarifying that local governments cannot set their own regulatory standards or penalties for long term care and must adhere to standards set by the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). Having consistent statewide care standards is a critical component of a successful regulatory structure, supporting equal outcomes for all residents.

PROGRAM SUCCESS IN ACTION

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R) was the first approved recipient of funding from the Senior Emergency Medical Services Innovation Program. It used funding to deploy an Advanced Resource Medic/Practitioner Unit (ARM). This allows for the delivery of advanced on-scene treatment and procedures that will reduce system costs and provide the most appropriate care for long term care residents. TVF&R has identified 17 care facilities to participate in the pilot based on historical volume of EMS calls.

HB 2573 makes two simple changes:

1. Clarifies the authority and scope of the Senior EMS Council and extends the life of the Innovation Program to 2030 until it rolls up into the newly formed EMS Boards and Committees under the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).
2. Extends current law until 2033, preventing local governments from regulating long term care services that are already subject to regulation by ODHS or imposing fees or taxes exclusively on long term care facilities. Current law provides exceptions for public health authorities and fees for lift-assist services.

The current law sunsets on January 2, 2027. Implementation delays have resulted in less time than originally anticipated for the Innovation Program to become operative and for pilot programs to be funded. HB 2573 simply extends the law to preserve and improve senior EMS for long term care residents.

