

HB 4156 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies language in existing statute related to the emergency services intergovernmental transfer program. It permits the use of General Fund dollars to certify a program expenditure and replaces the term "intergovernmental transfer program" with "funding mechanism." Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- EMS services in Oregon
- Potential for future federal changes to intergovernmental transfers and the need to proactively prepare

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Restores requirement that OHA shall return funds associated with the expenditure to the provider if OHA determines that the expenditure does not qualify for federal financial participation.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 4030 (2016) directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to implement programs to increase medical assistance reimbursement paid to public providers of emergency medical services (EMS) or other providers who contract with local governments, including a program for Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) services (e.g., ambulance) to be provided by governments and federally recognized tribes. The bill directed OHA to implement an emergency services intergovernmental transfer program to cover the costs of EMS services for Coordinated Care Organization patients, it also prohibited OHA from using General Fund dollars for program operations.

The Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program (OAR 410-136-3370) is a voluntary program that makes supplemental payments to eligible providers who provide qualifying emergency ambulance services to medical assistance recipients. Supplemental payments cover the gap between total allowable costs established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved cost report and the amount of the base payment, mileage, and all other sources of reimbursement. House Bill 2910 (2021) subsequently required OHA to establish a supplemental payment program for private GEMT providers, those who do not qualify for, or participate in, the public provider program.

House Bill 4156 makes changes to Oregon's emergency services intergovernmental transfer program.