

**HB 4156**

From the Desk of  
Senator Deb Patterson

# PROTECTING OREGON'S FEDERAL FUNDING FOR GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

HB 4156 amends Oregon statute governing the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program to preserve eligibility for federal Medicaid reimbursement. The bill provides the Oregon Health Authority with flexibility to utilize alternative, federally approved reimbursement methodologies should Intergovernmental Transfers (IGTs) no longer be permitted. HB 4156 does not authorize new state spending, but instead clarifies limited General Fund involvement solely for expenditure certification purposes, ensuring continuity of GEMT reimbursements that support public fire and EMS service delivery statewide.

## HB 4156 IS A SIMPLE FIX TO PROTECT OREGON'S FEDERAL EMS FUNDING

### PROTECTS FEDERAL FUNDING FOR OREGON'S FIRE & EMS SERVICES

Oregon's Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program brought in more than \$18 million in federal reimbursement last year, funding frontline EMS response—especially in rural and resource-limited fire districts that rely on GEMT to sustain service levels.

### ENSURES CONTINUITY IF FEDERAL RULES CHANGE

The federal government has signaled it may discontinue approval of Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) funding models. HB 4156 gives Oregon the flexibility to pivot to alternative, federally approved reimbursement methods so the GEMT program can continue without disruption.

### NO NEW STATE SPENDING OR GENERAL FUND IMPACT

HB 4156 does not authorize new state expenditures. It simply clarifies existing statute to allow General Fund involvement only as necessary to certify expenditures (such as through Certified Public Expenditures), preserving the Legislature's original intent that GEMT not be funded with state dollars.

### SUPPORTS RURAL COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE

GEMT programs are a proven tool nationwide to stabilize EMS systems, reduce local taxpayer burden, and keep ambulances staffed and available. HB 4156 safeguards this tool, ensuring Oregon fire and EMS agencies don't lose millions in federal funds due to circumstances beyond the state's control.



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