

HB 4053 - EMS Modernization

Grayber Quick Facts Memo

- In 2022, a regional survey of 21 Oregon EMS agencies revealed 158 vacancies for Paramedics and 84 vacancies for EMTs.
- In Multnomah County, ambulances were recorded arriving late to medical emergencies ~28% of the time over a six-month period. In the last year complaints against Multnomah County's ambulance service provider have increased, referrals of potential stroke patients to hospitals has decreased; and the number of calls in which an ambulance leaves a trauma scene in less than 15 minutes was 40% below the national benchmark.
- Last year, Oregon EMS providers attempted to bring in Paramedics from as far away as Australia just to provide some measure of workforce relief.
- The only two EMS volunteers in Fossil retired, leaving that area of Oregon with no dedicated ambulance coverage, except what can be covered by neighboring communities and air ambulances.
- Wheeler County has no hospital. Transport to the closest hospital from the county seat is 65.5 miles - or a one-hour 31-minute drive on secondary roads in good weather.
- Oregon's largest county, Harney, has a single ASA with 15 staff and four ambulances to cover 10,000+ square miles.
- The Office of Rural Health's annual survey showed that 87.1% of rural and remote EMS agencies need equipment, with some having to fundraise to purchase their own. 64% need help with Workforce recruitment and retention. Only 18% of rural and remote EMS agencies report adequate staffing for all the emergency calls they receive. Finally, 24% of rural and 15% of remote agencies are in danger of service suspension or are struggling to operate.
- The Oregon Values and Beliefs Center published a survey in May of 2025 of Portland-area resident priorities. Overwhelmingly - the top priority for funding was Emergency Medical Services, with 90% of respondents rating it as "essential" or "very important".