
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 health is responsible for administering and maintaining the
3 state comprehensive emergency medical services system, or state
4 emergency medical system, by planning, coordinating, and
5 providing assistance to all public and private entities and
6 agencies involved in the state emergency medical system. This
7 administration and maintenance ensures that all emergency
8 services, including ground and air ambulance services conducted
9 by or under the authorization of the department of health or any
10 county, are consistent with part XVIII, chapter 321, Hawaii
11 Revised Statutes.

12 The state emergency medical system provides for the
13 arrangement of personnel, facilities, and equipment, primarily
14 in the pre-hospital setting, for the effective and coordinated
15 delivery of health care services under emergency conditions,
16 regardless of whether the emergency condition occurs as a result
17 of the patient's condition, natural disasters, or other causes.

18 The state emergency medical system also provides personnel,



1 personnel training, communications, emergency transportation,
2 facilities, coordination with emergency medical and critical
3 care services, coordination and use of available public safety
4 agencies, promotion of consumer participation, accessibility to
5 care, mandatory standard medical recordkeeping, consumer
6 information and education, independent review and evaluation,
7 disaster linkage, mutual aid agreements, and other components
8 necessary to meet the purposes of the state emergency medical
9 system.

10 The department of health is responsible for establishing
11 standards for emergency medical services and for emergency
12 medical service systems consistent with the state emergency
13 medical system and applicable federal guidelines for these
14 services, and the regulation of ambulances within the State,
15 including the certification of vehicles, equipment, supplies,
16 and communication systems.

17 The state emergency medical services advisory committee is
18 administratively attached to the department of health to serve
19 in an advisory capacity to the department of health on all
20 matters relating to the state emergency medical system. The
21 department of health, in consultation with the state emergency



1 medical services advisory committee, is responsible for
2 determining the levels of emergency medical services that are
3 implemented in each county and is authorized to contract to
4 provide emergency services, including emergency aeromedical
5 services or any necessary component of a county emergency
6 services system, in accordance with the state emergency medical
7 system. The department of health is also responsible for
8 establishing reasonable fees for services rendered to the public
9 by the department of health, any county, or a private agency.
10 To fulfill the duties of the emergency medical services and
11 injury prevention system branch, it is imperative that the
12 department of health strive to ensure that the state emergency
13 medical system is efficiently maintained and effectively
14 provides emergency services.

15 The purpose of this Act is to:

16 (1) Require the department of health, under the guidance
17 of a steering committee, to contract with the National
18 Highway Traffic Safety Administration to conduct a
19 study of the state emergency medical system to
20 identify any issues and problems with the system,



1 highlight progress, and propose initiatives to improve
2 the functioning of the system;

3 (2) Establish a task force to develop a plan to implement
4 findings and recommendations from the National Highway
5 Traffic Safety Administration's study; and

6 (3) Appropriate funds for state emergency medical system
7 expenses.

8 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health shall establish a
9 steering committee to develop guidelines for an evaluation of
10 the statewide comprehensive emergency medical services system.
11 The steering committee shall be chaired by the director of
12 health or the director's designee and shall include:

13 (1) The chair of the emergency medical services advisory
14 council;

15 (2) A representative from a private ambulance services
16 company;

17 (3) A representative from the Hawaii county fire
18 department;

19 (4) A representative from the city and county of Honolulu
20 emergency services department; and



1 (5) Other representatives at the discretion of the
2 director.

3 (b) The department of health shall contract with the
4 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration no later than
5 September 30, 2019, to conduct a study of the state emergency
6 medical system. The purpose of the study is to identify any
7 issues and problems with the system, highlight progress, and
8 propose initiatives to improve the functioning of the system.
9 The department of health shall submit a written report of the
10 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's findings and
11 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
12 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
13 the regular session of 2020. In addition, the department of
14 health shall invite a representative of the National Highway
15 Traffic Safety Administration study team to brief the members of
16 the senate standing committee on commerce, consumer protection,
17 and health, house of representatives standing committee on
18 health, and other interested legislators once the written report
19 is finalized.

20 SECTION 3. (a) The department of health may establish a
21 task force to develop a plan to implement certain findings and



1 recommendations from the written report of the National Highway
2 Traffic Safety Administration's study. The task force shall be
3 chaired by the director of health or the director's designee and
4 shall include:

5 (1) Members of the steering committee established by the
6 department of health pursuant to section 2 of this
7 Act;

8 (2) One representative each from the city and county of
9 Honolulu, Hawaii county, Kauai county, and Maui
10 county;

11 (3) A physician specializing in emergency medicine;

12 (4) A physician specializing in trauma medicine;

13 (5) A member of the senate appointed by the president of
14 the senate; and

15 (6) A member of the house of representatives appointed by
16 the speaker of the house of representatives.

17 (b) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
18 and recommendations, including a plan to implement findings and
19 recommendations of the National Highway Traffic Safety
20 Administration's study and any proposed legislation, to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the regular session of 2021.

3 (c) The task force shall be dissolved on June 30, 2021.

4 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$11,872,596 or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for
7 program ID HTH 730 EMSIPSB to meet the collective bargaining
8 requirements and recurring personnel costs for service providers
9 contracted to provide pre-hospital emergency medical services
10 necessary to maintain the current level of pre-hospital
11 emergency medical services.

12 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,381,815 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for
15 program ID HTH 730 EMSIPSB to meet other current expenses.

16 SECTION 6. The sums appropriated in sections 4 and 5 shall
17 be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this
18 Act.

19 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
20 provided that sections 4, 5, and 6 of this Act shall take effect
21 on July 1, 2019.



Report Title:

Department of Health; Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services;
State Emergency Medical System; Steering Committee; Task Force;
Study; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Health for collective bargaining requirements for ambulance providers and other current expenses. Requires the Department of Health to contract with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration under the guidance of a steering committee to conduct a study of the State Emergency Medical System. Authorizes the Department of Health to establish a task force to develop a plan to implement findings and recommendations of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's study and any proposed legislation.
(CD1)

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