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Senate Language UEH2435-1

ARTICLE 6

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS HAVE BEEN MOVED IN FROM SENATE ARTICLE 1, SECTIONS 55 AND 56.

Sec. 55. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 144E.35, is amended to read:

144E.35 REIMBURSEMENT TO AMBULANCE SERVICES FOR ~~VOLUNTEER~~ EDUCATION COSTS.

Subdivision 1. **~~Repayment for volunteer~~ Reimbursement for education costs; ambulance service eligibility.** ~~A licensed ambulance service shall be reimbursed by the director for the necessary expense of the initial education of a volunteer ambulance attendant upon successful completion by the attendant of an EMT education course, or a continuing education course for EMT care, or both, which has been approved by the director, pursuant to section 144E.285~~ (a) Except as provided in subdivision 3, the director must reimburse all eligible Minnesota licensed ambulance services that apply for reimbursement under this section for the necessary expenses of initial EMR and EMT education and EMR and EMT continuing education for ambulance attendants who satisfy the criteria in subdivision 2. Reimbursement may include tuition, transportation, food, lodging, hourly payment for the time spent in the education course, and other necessary expenditures, except that in no instance shall a ~~volunteer~~ licensed ambulance ~~attendant~~ service be reimbursed more than ~~$900~~:

(1) $1,200 for an ambulance attendant's successful completion of an initial EMT education course~~, and $375~~;

(2) $400 for an ambulance attendant's successful completion of ~~a~~ an EMT continuing education course;

(3) $600 for an ambulance attendant's successful completion of an initial EMR education course; and

(4) $200 for an ambulance attendant's successful completion of an EMR continuing education course.

(b) To be eligible for reimbursement, a licensed ambulance service must have responded to 5,000 or fewer calls in the most recent calendar year.

Subd. 2. **~~Reimbursement provisions~~ Ambulance attendant criteria.** Reimbursement must be paid under ~~provisions of~~ this section when documentation is provided to the director that the ~~individual~~ ambulance attendant:

(1) successfully completed an initial EMR or EMT education course approved by the director under section 144E.285, a continuing education course for EMR or EMT care approved by the director under section 144E.285, or both; and

(2) has served for one year from the date of the final certification exam as an active member of a Minnesota licensed ambulance service.

Subd. 3. **Discontinuance of reimbursement.** If the state is unable to meet its financial obligations under subdivision 1 as the obligations become due, the director must discontinue reimbursing ambulance services for education costs until the state is again able to meet the financial obligations under subdivision 1 as the obligations become due. An ambulance service whose application is not approved due to lack of funding may resubmit the application in the next fiscal year.

Sec. 56. **[144E.38] AMBULANCE SERVICE TRAINING AND STAFFING GRANT PROGRAM.**

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, "employee" has the meaning given in section 181.960, subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Grant program.** The director must establish and administer a program to award grants to eligible ambulance services for certain costs to train ambulance service employees as emergency medical technicians and staff the ambulance service.

Subd. 3. **Eligible ambulance services.** To be eligible for a grant under this section, an ambulance service must:

(1) be licensed under this chapter; and

(2) in the calendar year prior to the year in which the ambulance service first applies for a grant under this section, have had at least 50 percent of its staffing provided by emergency medical technicians.

Subd. 4. **Application.** An eligible ambulance service seeking a grant under this section must apply to the director in a form and manner and according to a timeline specified by the director. In its application, the eligible ambulance service must specify the number of individuals it plans to hire using the grant money, the number of employee training hours it plans to fund using the grant money, and other information required by the director.

Subd. 5. **Allowable uses of grant money; maximum grant amount.** (a) An ambulance service must use grant money awarded under this section only for one or more of the following:

(1) tuition for employees attending an emergency medical technician (EMT) education program approved by the director;

(2) employee examination fees for EMT certification;

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Section 1. **[144E.54] AMBULANCE OPERATING DEFICIT GRANT PROGRAM.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the terms defined in this subdivision have the meanings given.

(b) "Capital expenses" means expenses incurred by a licensee for the purchase, improvement, or maintenance of assets with an expected useful life of greater than five

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(3) fees for background studies for new EMT employees; and

(4) incurred wage and benefit costs of employees while attending an EMT education program or program-related activities. Wage and benefit costs under this clause must be commensurate with the wages and benefits the ambulance service provides to an entry-level EMT and must not exceed $26 per hour.

(b) The grant amount awarded to an ambulance service must not exceed the amount needed for the costs in paragraph (a).

Subd. 6. **Grant program oversight.** An ambulance service receiving a grant under this section must provide the director with information necessary for the director to administer and evaluate the grant program.

Subd. 7. **Reporting to municipalities.** (a) In order to be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an ambulance service must collect and report to each respective municipality in the licensee's primary service area prehospital care data for all emergency responses provided by the licensee within the boundaries of each respective municipality. For purposes of this subdivision, "municipality" means a city or town.

(b) A licensee must collect and report the following prehospital care data items as provided in paragraph (a):

(1) total number of emergency ambulance calls;

(2) dispatch reason;

(3) type of emergency service requested for each emergency ambulance call;

(4) response mode to scene;

(5) fee schedule for service;

(6) percent transport disposition;

(7) transport destination;

(8) unit hour utilization by service area; and

(9) mutual aid given and received by municipality.

(c) A licensee must provide the report of prehospital care data of all data items listed in paragraph (b) to the governing body of the municipality by February 15 of each year.

years that improve the efficiency of provided ambulance services or the capabilities of the licensee.

(c) "Eligible applicant" or "eligible licensee" means any licensee who possessed a license not excluded under subdivision 4 or 5 in the last completed state fiscal year for which data was provided to the director, as provided in section 62J.49; who continues to operate that same nonexcluded license at the time of application; and who provides verifiable evidence of an operating deficit in the state fiscal year prior to submitting an application.

(d) "Government licensee" means any government entity, as defined in section 118A.01, subdivision 2, including a Tribe, that is a licensee.

(e) "Insurance revenue" means revenue from Medicare, medical assistance, private health insurance, third-party liability insurance, and payments from individuals.

(f) "Operating deficit" means the sum of insurance revenue and other revenue is less than the sum of operational expenses and capital expenses.

(g) "Operational expenses" means costs related to the day-to-day operations of an ambulance service, including but not limited to costs related to personnel, supplies and equipment, fuel, vehicle maintenance, travel, education, and fundraising.

(h) "Other revenue" means revenue from any revenue that is not insurance revenue, including but not limited to grants, tax revenue, donations, fundraisers, or standby fees. Grants awarded under this section must not be considered revenue.

Subd. 2. **Program establishment.** An ambulance operating deficit grant program is established to award grants to applicants to address revenue shortfalls creating operating deficits among eligible applicants.

Subd. 3. **Licensee providing specialized life support services excluded.** Licensees providing specialized life support services as described in section 144E.101, subdivision 9, are not eligible for grants under this section.

Subd. 4. **Other licensees excluded.** Licensees whose individual primary service areas are located mostly within a metropolitan county listed in section 473.121, subdivision 4, or within the cities of Duluth, Mankato, St. Cloud, or Rochester are not eligible for grants under this section.

Subd. 5. **Application process.** (a) An eligible licensee may apply to the director, in the form and manner determined by the director, for a grant under this section.

(b) A grant application made by a government licensee must be accompanied by a resolution of support from the governing body.

Subd. 6. **Director calculations.** The director shall award grants only to applicants who provide verifiable evidence of an operating deficit in the last completed state fiscal year for which data were provided to the director. The director may audit the financial data provided

to the director by applicants, as provided in section 62J.49. A grant awarded must not be more than five percent more than any previous grant without special permission from the director.

Subd. 7. **Grant awards; limitations.** (a) Grants awarded under this section to eligible applicants may be proportionally distributed based on money available. Total amounts awarded must not exceed the amount appropriated for purposes of this section.

(b) The director shall award grants annually.

(c) The director must not award individual grants that exceed the amount of the grantee's most recent verified operating deficit as reported to the director.

Subd. 8. **Eligible expenditures.** A grantee must spend grant money received under this section on operational expenses and capital expenses incurred to provide ambulance services.

Subd. 9. **Report.** By February 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the director must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health finance and policy. The report must describe the number and amount of grants awarded under this section and the uses made of grant money by grantees.

Sec. 2. **[144E.55] RURAL EMS UNCOMPENSATED CARE POOL PAYMENT PROGRAM.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(b) "Eligible licensee" means a licensee that primarily provides ambulance services outside the metropolitan counties listed in section 473.121, subdivision 4.

(c) "Public safety answering point" has the meaning given in section 403.02, subdivision 19.

Subd. 2. **Payment program established.** The director must establish and administer a rural EMS uncompensated care pool payment program. Under the program, the director must make payments to eligible licensees according to this section.

Subd. 3. **Excluded responses.** The director must exclude EMS responses by specialized life support, as described in section 144E.101, subdivision 9, in calculating payments under this section.

Subd. 4. **Application process.** (a) An eligible licensee seeking a payment under this section must apply to the director each year by March 31, in the form and manner determined by the director. In the application, the eligible licensee must specify the number of the eligible licensee's EMS responses that meet the criteria in subdivision 5.

(b) When an eligible licensee, an eligible licensee's parent company, a subsidiary of an eligible licensee, or a subsidiary of an eligible licensee's parent company collectively hold multiple licenses, the director must treat all such related licensees as a single eligible licensee.

Subd. 5. **Eligible EMS responses.** In order for an EMS response to be an eligible EMS response for purposes of subdivision 6, the EMS response must meet the following criteria:

(1) the EMS response was initiated by a request for emergency medical services initially received by a public safety answering point;

(2) an ambulance responded to the scene;

(3) the ambulance was not canceled while en route to the scene;

(4) the ambulance did not transport a person from the scene to a hospital emergency department;

(5) the eligible licensee did not receive any payment for the EMS response from any source; and

(6) the EMS response was initiated between January 1 and December 31 of the year prior to the year the application is submitted.

Subd. 6. **Calculations.** (a) The director must calculate payments as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) for an eligible licensee that completes an application under subdivision 4.

(b) The director must award points for eligible EMS responses as follows:

(1) for eligible EMS responses one to 25, an eligible licensee is awarded ten points per response;

(2) for eligible EMS responses 26 to 50, an eligible licensee is awarded five points per response;

(3) for eligible EMS responses 51 to 100, an eligible licensee is awarded three points per response;

(4) for eligible EMS responses 101 to 200, an eligible licensee is awarded one point per response; and

(5) for eligible EMS responses exceeding 200, an eligible licensee is awarded zero points.

(c) The director must total the number of all points awarded to all applying eligible licensees under paragraph (b). The director must divide the amount appropriated for purposes of this section by the total number of points awarded to determine a per-point amount. The payment for each eligible licensee shall be calculated by multiplying the eligible licensee's number of awarded points by the established per-point amount.

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Subd. 7. **Payment.** The director must certify the payment amount for each eligible licensee and must make the full payment to each eligible licensee by May 30 each year.

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THE FOLLOWING SECTION HAS BEEN MOVED IN FROM SENATE ARTICLE 1, SECTION 79.

Sec. 79. **EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE GRANTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(b) "Ambulance service" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 144E.001, subdivision 3.

(c) "Capital expenses" means expenses that are incurred by a licensed ambulance service provider for the purchase, improvement, or maintenance of long-term assets to improve the efficiency or capability of the ambulance services, with an expected useful life of greater than five years.

(d) "Director" means the director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services.

(e) "EMS responses" means the number of responses provided within a primary service area during calendar year 2024 by the licensed ambulance service provider designated to serve the primary service area.

(f) "Licensed ambulance service provider" or "provider" means a natural person, partnership, association, corporation, Tribal government, or unit of government that possesses an ambulance service license under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 144E.

(g) "Metropolitan county" means a metropolitan county listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 4.

(h) "Multiple license holder" means a licensed ambulance service provider, a licensed ambulance service provider's parent company, a subsidiary of the licensed ambulance service provider, or a subsidiary of the licensed ambulance service provider's parent company that collectively holds more than one license.

(i) "Nonexcluded license" means a license that is not excluded under subdivision 3 from receiving grants under this section.

(j) "Operational expenses" means costs related to personnel expenses, supplies and equipment, fuel, vehicle maintenance, travel, education, fundraising, and expenses associated with obtaining advanced life support intercepts.

(k) "Primary service area" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 144E.001, subdivision 10.

(l) "Response density" means the quotient of EMS responses divided by the square mileage of the primary service area.

(m) "Unit of government" means a county, a statutory or home rule charter city, or a township.

Subd. 2. **Excluded services.** The director must exclude EMS responses by a specialized life support service as described in Minnesota Statutes, section 144E.101, subdivision 9, when calculating EMS responses, response density, and grant payments under this section.

Subd. 3. **Certain multiple license holders excluded.** (a) Except as provided under paragraph (b), all licenses held by a multiple license holder are ineligible for grant payments under this section if any license held by a multiple license holder is designated to serve a primary service area, any portion of which is located within the cities of Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, Rochester, or St. Cloud, or a metropolitan county.

(b) For a multiple license holder affiliated with a private, nonprofit adult hospital that is located in Hennepin County and designated by the commissioner of health as a level I trauma hospital, only the licenses held by the multiple license holder and located entirely within one or more metropolitan counties are ineligible for grant payments under this section.

Subd. 4. **Eligibility.** A licensed ambulance service provider is eligible for grants under this section if the licensed ambulance service provider:

(1) possessed a nonexcluded license in calendar year 2023;

(2) continues to operate under the nonexcluded license during calendar year 2025; and

(3) completes the requirements under subdivision 5.

Subd. 5. **Application process.** (a) An eligible licensed ambulance service provider may apply to the director, in the form and manner determined by the director, for a grant under this section. Applications must be submitted by September 16, 2025. The director may require an eligible licensed ambulance service provider to submit any information necessary, including financial statements, to make the calculations under subdivision 6. An eligible licensed ambulance service provider who applies for a grant under this section must provide a copy of the application to the executive director of the board by September 16, 2025.

(b) The director must establish a process for verifying the data submitted with applications under this section. By September 20, 2025, for each eligible licensed ambulance service provider that applies for a grant under paragraph (a), the director must certify the following information:

(1) EMS responses by primary service area reported for calendar year 2024;

(2) EMS responses by primary service area reported for calendar year 2024 that were provided by a specialized life support service;

(3) information necessary to determine the location of each primary service area, including municipalities served; and

(4) the square mileage of each primary service area as of January 1, 2025.

Subd. 6. **Director calculations.** (a) Prior to determining a grant amount for eligible licensed ambulance service providers, the director must make the calculations in paragraphs (b) to (d).

(b) The director must determine the amount equal to dividing 20 percent of the amount appropriated for grant payments under this section equally among all eligible licensed ambulance service providers who possess at least one nonexcluded license. Eligible licensed ambulance service providers who possess only one nonexcluded license do not qualify for a payment under this paragraph if the nonexcluded license has a response density greater than 30.

(c) For each nonexcluded license with a response density less than or equal to 30 held by an eligible licensed ambulance service provider, the director must determine the amount equal to the product of 40 percent of the amount appropriated for grants under this section multiplied by the quotient of the square mileage of the primary service area served under the nonexcluded license divided by the total square mileage of all primary service areas served under nonexcluded licenses.

(d) For each nonexcluded license with a response density less than or equal to 30 held by an eligible licensed ambulance service provider, the director must determine the amount equal to the product of 40 percent of the amount appropriated for grants under this section multiplied by the quotient of the number of points determined under clauses (1) to (4) for each nonexcluded license with a response density less than or equal to 30 divided by the total points determined under clauses (1) to (4) for all nonexcluded licenses with a response density less than or equal to 30 held by eligible licensed ambulance service providers. For calculations under this paragraph, the director must determine points as follows:

(1) for EMS response one to EMS response 500, a nonexcluded license is awarded ten points for each EMS response;

(2) for EMS response 501 to EMS response 1,500, a nonexcluded license is awarded five points for each EMS response;

(3) for EMS response 1,501 to EMS response 2,500, a nonexcluded license is awarded zero points for each EMS response; and

(4) for EMS response 2,501 and each subsequent EMS response, a nonexcluded license's points are reduced by two points for each EMS response, except a nonexcluded license's total awarded points must not be reduced below zero.

Subd. 7. **Grant amount.** The director must make a grant award to each eligible licensed ambulance service provider in the amount equal to the sum of the amounts calculated in

subdivision 6, paragraphs (b) to (d), for each nonexcluded license held by the eligible licensed ambulance service.

Subd. 8. **Eligible uses.** A licensed ambulance service provider must spend grant money received under this section on operational expenses and capital expenses incurred to provide ambulance services within the licensed ambulance service provider's primary service area that is located in Minnesota.

Subd. 9. **Administration.** (a) The director must certify the grant amount to each licensed ambulance service provider by December 1, 2025.

(b) The director must award the full grant amount to each eligible licensed ambulance service provider by December 26, 2025.

(c) Any money not spent on or encumbered for eligible uses by December 31, 2026, must be returned to the director.

Subd. 10. **Report.** By February 15, 2027, each licensed ambulance service provider that receives a grant under this section must submit a report to the director and the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health finance and policy. The report must include the grant amount that each licensed ambulance service provider received, the grant amount that was spent on or encumbered for operational expenses, the grant amount that was spent on or encumbered for capital expenses, and documentation sufficient to establish that grant money was spent on or encumbered for eligible uses as defined in subdivision 8. The director may request financial statements or other information necessary to verify that grants were spent on eligible uses.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.