

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Telfer, Verger, Morrisette
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	1/21, 3/4, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Dedicates cigarette tax revenues and moneys from General Fund to Rural Health Care Revolving Account for rural health safety net programs and services as follows: 0.7 percent to the Office of Rural Health for the purpose of enhancing emergency medical service systems in rural communities; 0.85 percent to provide rural communities with technical and financial assistance in the development of rural health safety net services; and two percent for rural health viability grants. Appropriates an unspecified amount from the General Fund, beginning July 1, 2009 the Rural Health Care Revolving Account. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Types of grants available
- Primary care services, including those provided by a subset of Oregon's federally certified Rural Health Clinics called "isolated rural health facilities"
- Technical assistance services provided by the Office of Rural Health
- Restore funding for the Emergency Medical Services Enhancement Account.
- Review viability of lottery funds if can be considered an economic development issue.
- Need to focus on most isolated frontier areas.
- Proposed amendment submitted

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Provides housekeeping changes. Specifies that no more than ten percent of the 0.70 percent to enhance emergency medical service systems in rural communities may be used by the Office of Rural Health for administrative costs. Updates provisions that referred to 2001 law that appropriated funds from Oregon Rural Health Association to Office of Rural Health.

BACKGROUND: ORS 442.625 provides the statutory authority for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Enhancement Account. Money was transferred to the Office of Rural Health as required in ORS 442.625 for the establishment of a dedicated grant program for the purpose of providing assistance to rural communities to enhance emergency medical service systems. Grants were provided to entities for the purchase of equipment, the establishment of new rural emergency medical service systems or the improvement of existing rural emergency medical service systems. Funding for the program existed from 1999-2003. This program also included funding for a companion grant program wherein the Area Health Education Centers Program made grants for the training of rural emergency medical services. While there is no longer funding in either of these two programs, legislative authority still remains in ORS 353.450. Funding for the EMS Enhancement Account was diverted in the 2003 Legislative Session. During the four years of its operation, the Office of Rural Health received 354 applications from 134 rural communities for requests totaling \$5,981,138. Funding was provided for 20 percent of the requests or \$1,223,079.

A report published in 2005 by the Road Information Project in Washington, D.C. concluded that traffic fatalities occur on the nation's non-interstate rural roads at a rate approximately 2 ½ times higher than on at other roads. According to the report, Oregon had 2.74 fatalities per 100 million miles of travel on rural roads, compared to 0.72 on all other routes. There is currently no state supported system that guarantees emergency medical services in all parts of Oregon.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.