

Senate Bill 970

Sponsored by Senator FERRIOLI, Representative BENTZ; Senators HANSELL, KNOPP, WHITSETT, Representatives BARRETO, MCLANE, WHISNANT (at the request of Harney County Commissioner Pete Runnels)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Task Force on Rural Air Ambulance Services. Directs task force to study market for air ambulance services in rural areas of this state, identify strengths and weaknesses, opportunities for improvement and potential difficulties that could reduce air ambulance service availability, coverage or quality or increase costs, examine feasibility of establishing arrangements to enable air ambulance service providers to cooperate in providing services to rural residents of this state and recommend solutions to provide cost-effective and affordable services.

Directs task force to report to committees of Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2015.

Sunsets task force December 31, 2016.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to air ambulance services in rural areas of this state; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Rural Air Ambulance Services is established, con-**
5 **sisting of 11 members appointed as follows:**

6 (a) **The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the**
7 **Senate, ensuring that the appointment includes one member from each caucus.**

8 (b) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among**
9 **members of the House of Representatives, ensuring that the appointment includes one**
10 **member from each caucus.**

11 (c) **The Governor shall appoint seven members as follows:**

12 (A) **Two county commissioners from counties of this state that are located east of the**
13 **summit of the Cascade Mountains.**

14 (B) **A member that represents a for-profit air ambulance service provider.**

15 (C) **A member that represents a nonprofit air ambulance service provider.**

16 (D) **A member that represents the Office of Rural Health.**

17 (E) **Two members of the public who reside east of the summit of the Cascade Mountains**
18 **in this state.**

19 (2) **The task force shall:**

20 (a) **Study the market for air ambulance services in rural areas of this state;**

21 (b) **Identify strengths and weaknesses in the market for air ambulance services in rural**
22 **areas of this state;**

23 (c) **Identify opportunities for improvement in air ambulance services and potential diffi-**
24 **culties or challenges that could reduce air ambulance service availability, coverage or quality**
25 **or increase costs for air ambulance service providers and customers;**

26 (d) **Examine the feasibility of establishing partnerships, entering into reciprocal agree-**
27 **ments and making other arrangements that would enable air ambulance service providers**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 to cooperate in providing air ambulance services to residents of rural areas of this state,
2 with due consideration of antitrust concerns and other impediments to agreement;

3 (e) Examine how insurers and insurance policies affect the market for air ambulance
4 services in rural areas of this state; and

5 (f) Recommend solutions for providing cost-effective and affordable air ambulance ser-
6 vices to residents of rural areas of this state.

7 (3) The task force may conduct studies, hear testimony from experts and other wit-
8 nesses, perform investigations and otherwise take any action that is necessary to carry out
9 the purposes described in subsection (2) of this section.

10 (4) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction
11 of business.

12 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members
13 of the task force.

14 (6) The task force shall elect one member to serve as chairperson.

15 (7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
16 ment to become immediately effective.

17 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
18 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

19 (9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

20 (10) The task force shall submit a report describing its findings under subsection (2) of
21 this section in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for
22 legislation, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to emergency med-
23 ical services as appropriate no later than September 15, 2015.

24 (11) The Oregon Health Authority shall provide staff support to the task force.

25 (12) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not
26 entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other
27 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and
28 amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions
29 of the task force shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority for
30 purposes of the task force.

31 (13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
32 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
33 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force
34 consider necessary to perform their duties.

35 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2015 Act is repealed on December 31, 2016.

36 **SECTION 3.** This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
37 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
38 on its passage.

39