

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Health Care****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 02/10/16**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Bill Be Referred To Ways And Means.
(Printed A-Eng.)**Meeting Dates:** 02/01, 02/08, 02/10**Vote:**

Yeas: 8 - Buehler, Clem, Greenlick, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse

Exc: 1 - Weidner

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to amend Medicaid state plan to implement programs to increase medical assistance reimbursement paid to public providers of emergency medical services. Specifies requirements of the programs. Directs OHA to convene a workgroup to develop recommendations for emergency medical services reimbursement to be in alignment with Oregon's Integrated and Coordinated Health Care Delivery System. Specifies membership and what the recommendations are to include. Specifies to report to the 2017 Legislative Assembly. Specifies that OHA develop and implement two programs to improve reimbursement for emergency medical services providers. Directs OHA to adjust Medicaid state plan if Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services denies approval of the waiver amendment.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Public versus private transport companies
- Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) funds and reimbursement rates
- Budget impact to local communities
- Increased demand for ambulance services
- Ambulance service for rural communities
- Concerns about GEMT funds only being available to public providers
- Concerns raised by private transport providers
- Proposed amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to convene a workgroup to develop recommendations for emergency medical services reimbursement to be in alignment with Oregon's Integrated and Coordinated Health Care Delivery System. Specifies membership and what the recommendations are to include. Specifies to report to the 2017 Legislative Assembly. Deletes the emergency clause. Specifies that OHA develop and implement two programs to improve reimbursement for emergency medical services providers. Directs OHA to adjust Medicaid state plan if Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services denies approval of the waiver amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system is made up of public sector EMS providers (fire departments/districts) and/or private sector ambulance companies. The Oregon Health Authority has reported that since the Medicaid enrollment expansion in January 2014, approximately 436,000 Oregonians have obtained coverage which is a 71 percent increase since 2013.

Currently, the reimbursement rate for the care and transport of Medicaid patients is far below the cost of providing EMS, while the demand for these services continue to grow.