

SB 204 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/20/19

Action: Do pass and refer to Tax Expenditures by prior reference.

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Fagan, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson

Exc: 1 - Knopp

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends sunset for tax credit for provision of volunteer emergency medical services in rural areas to January 1, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of volunteer emergency medical service providers in rural areas
- Offset of training and education costs for volunteer providers
- Biennial cost

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH) has been the coordinating body for rural and frontier health in Oregon since 1979. In 2005, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 31, establishing a \$250 tax credit for individuals providing volunteer emergency medical services in rural areas. For the tax credit, rural is defined as a geographic area that is located at least 25 miles from any city with a population of 30,000 or more. Senate Bill 31 charged ORH with establishing criteria for certifying individuals who are emergency medical technicians and are eligible for the tax credit. For 2017, 489 individuals received the tax credit.

Senate Bill 204 extends the sunset of the volunteer emergency medical services tax credit from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2026.