

SB 3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 4/29, 5/20, 5/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires health benefit plans to cover emergency medical services transports. Defines "emergency medical services transports."

Senate Vote: *Passed. Ayes, 26; Nays, 1; Excused, 3.*

REVENUE: *No revenue impact.*

FISCAL: *Fiscal impact issued.*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential cost of emergency medical services transports
- Potential impact on state's cost containment efforts

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Emergency medical services (EMS) is the system that provides emergency medical care, usually in response to a call for help after an incident of serious illness or injury. This system also provides transportation services (ground, air, water) to hospitals for continuation of medical care. A variety of entities can provide EMS transportation, including fire departments, volunteers, municipal EMS providers, and private ambulance companies. Costs for EMS vary greatly depending on provider type, level of service, mode of transportation, and distance traveled.

Senate Bill 3 requires health benefit plans to cover emergency medical services transports.