

HB 4156 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies language in existing statute related to the emergency services intergovernmental transfer program, replacing the term “intergovernmental transfer program” with “funding mechanism,” and permits the use of General Fund dollars to certify a program expenditure. The measure declares an emergency, effective on its passage.

Fiscal impact: Minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

House vote: Ayes 42; Nays, 0.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 4030 (2016) directed OHA to implement programs to increase medical assistance reimbursement for public EMS providers and other providers who contract with local governments, including a program for Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) services (e.g., ambulance) to be provided by governments and federally recognized Tribes. The bill directed OHA to implement an emergency services intergovernmental transfer program to cover the costs of EMS for coordinated care organization patients, prohibiting the use of General Fund dollars for program operations.

The GEMT program is voluntary and makes supplemental payments to eligible providers who provide qualifying emergency ambulance services to medical assistance recipients. Supplemental payments cover the gap between the total allowable costs established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services–approved cost report and the base payment, mileage, and all other sources of reimbursement. House Bill 2910 (2021) subsequently required OHA to establish a supplemental payment program for private GEMT providers, those who do not qualify for or participate in the public provider program.