

**Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the
Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1038
(Legislative Council)
(Insurance and Health Care Committee)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-24.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to medical assistance coverage of prehospital emergency medical services; to amend and reenact section 23-27-04.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to state assistance to prehospital emergency medical services; and to provide legislative intent regarding state department of health assistance for prehospital emergency medical services and department of human services medical assistance reimbursement rates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 23-27-04.2 of the 1997 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

23-27-04.2. Prehospital emergency medical services - State assistance. The ~~health services branch of the~~ state department of health shall assist in the training of personnel of certain prehospital emergency medical services as determined by the ~~branch~~ department and financially shall assist certain prehospital emergency medical services as determined by the ~~branch~~ department in obtaining equipment. Assistance provided under this section must be within the limits of legislative appropriation. The ~~health services branch~~ department shall adopt criteria for eligibility for assistance in the training of personnel of various types of prehospital emergency medical services. To qualify for financial assistance for equipment, a prehospital emergency medical service shall certify, in the manner required by the ~~health services branch~~ department, that the service has fifty percent of the amount of funds necessary for identified equipment acquisitions. The ~~health services branch~~ department shall adopt a schedule of eligibility for financial assistance for equipment. The schedule must provide for a direct relationship between the amount of funds certified and the number of responses during the preceding calendar year for the purpose of rendering medical care, transportation, or both, to individuals who were sick or incapacitated. The schedule must require that as the number of responses increases, a greater amount of funds certified is required. The schedule must classify responses and the financial assistance available for various classifications. The ~~health services branch~~ department may establish minimum and maximum amounts of financial assistance to be provided a prehospital emergency medical service under this section. If applications for financial assistance exceed the amount of allocated and available funds, the ~~health services branch~~ department may prorate the funds among the applicants in accordance with criteria adopted by the ~~health services branch~~ department. No more than one-half of the funds appropriated by the legislative assembly each biennium and allocated for training assistance may be distributed in the first year of the biennium.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 50-24.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Prehospital emergency medical services. Medical assistance coverage must include prehospital emergency medical services benefits in the case of a medical condition that manifests itself by symptoms of sufficient severity which may include severe pain and which a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine could reasonably expect the absence of medical attention to result in placing the person's health in jeopardy, serious impairment of a bodily function, or serious dysfunction of any body part.

SECTION 3. INTENT. The funds appropriated for the purpose of defraying expenses of prehospital emergency medical services under sections 1 and 2 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001 include \$940,000 appropriated from the general fund in 1999 House Bill No. 1004 for training for volunteers. The funds provided for training are for volunteer

services based on \$2,200 for volunteer ambulance service training, \$500 for volunteer rescue squad training, \$500 for the initial training of volunteer emergency medical service providers, and \$1,500 for training of volunteer quick response units, subject to reallocation by the state department of health based on training applications and available funding. The state department of health may accept funds from other sources and may distribute these funds to prehospital emergency medical services providers for the purpose of obtaining equipment.

SECTION 4. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE - REIMBURSEMENT FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES.

During the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001, the department of human services shall spend \$276,000 in addition to the \$943,068 in the executive budget recommendation for medical assistance reimbursement for ambulance services. If the amount of ambulance services billing is less than the amount required to be spent under this section, the department of human services shall reimburse ambulance services at one hundred percent of billing for ambulance services and the department shall use the remainder for medical assistance reimbursement for other medical services.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1038.

House Vote: Yeas 95 Nays 0 Absent 3

Senate Vote: Yeas 48 Nays 0 Absent 1

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State