

~~distressed ambulance services, coordinated efforts and activities, program costs and expenses, and the overall effectiveness of the program.~~

~~SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -~~

~~DISTRESSED AMBULANCE SERVICE PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING.~~ There is

~~appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise~~

~~appropriated, the sum of \$150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the~~

~~department of health and human services for the purpose of contracting with a consultant to~~

~~identify, evaluate, and develop a plan to manage distressed ambulance services, for the~~

~~biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this~~

~~section is considered a one-time funding item.~~

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 23-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Distressed ambulance service - Distressed ambulance work group.

1. As used in this section:

a. "Department" means the department of health and human services.

b. "Distressed ambulance service" means a licensee that:

(1) Self-indicates to the department a substantial likelihood of closure within the next year; or

(2) Is identified by the department as failing to comply with federal or state law or regulation and is likely to face closure within the next year.

c. "Emergency medical services plan" or "plan" means a detailed improvement plan for a distressed ambulance service developed by the department and the distressed ambulance work group to deliver sustainable and reliable emergency medical response and transport services to a patient within an assigned service area.

2. If a licensee is identified by the department as a distressed ambulance service, the department shall identify stakeholders and schedule an initial public meeting with the stakeholders within forty-five days. The department shall notify the distressed ambulance service of the department's intent to schedule a public meeting. If the distressed ambulance service does not respond to the notice within forty-five days, the department has an additional fifteen days to schedule the initial public meeting.

1 3. The stakeholders identified and notified by the department of the initial public meeting
2 must include:

3 a. The political subdivision that has jurisdiction over the distressed ambulance
4 service.

5 b. The county and city governments within the service area.

6 c. Licensed medical facilities.

7 d. Adjacent ambulance services.

8 e. Other emergency medical services within the service area.

9 4. The department shall provide notice of an initial public meeting conducted under this
10 section. The notice must be:

11 a. Published in a newspaper of general circulation within the service area between
12 fourteen and seven days before the meeting.

13 b. Delivered by first-class mail to the county auditor of each county in the service
14 area at least seven days before the meeting.

15 5. The department shall facilitate the initial distressed ambulance service meeting. The
16 meeting must focus on identifying the distressed ambulance service's strengths,
17 weaknesses, potential opportunities, and threats.

18 6. Following the initial meeting, a distressed ambulance work group must be created to
19 develop an emergency medical services plan.

20 a. A distressed ambulance work group must include:

21 (1) At least one representative of the distressed ambulance service.

22 (2) A representative of the county commissioner.

23 (3) A representative of each impacted city council.

24 (4) A representative of the impacted law enforcement agencies.

25 (5) A representative of the impacted school board.

26 (6) A citizen representative.

27 b. An emergency medical services plan may include:

28 (1) Recruitment and training initiatives.

29 (2) Review of available grant programs and one-time funding opportunities
30 issued by the state or other entities for the hiring of staff.

1 (3) The issuance of a waiver by the department allowing adjacent ambulances
2 to assist in coverage ~~when staff is in training~~.

3 (4) Consideration of regional ambulance service establishment.

4 7. If the work group determines the distressed ambulance service's license must be
5 downgraded, the department shall divide the service in accordance with department
6 rules. An applicable tax district must be divided to the adjacent ambulance service
7 without a vote.

8 8. The department shall monitor the distressed ambulance service and distressed
9 ambulance work group.

10 9. The department may adopt rules to administer this section.

11 **SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.