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Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Senate Amendments

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1597

Introduced by

Representative Heinert

A BILL for an Act to provide an exemption; and to provide for the distribution of state financial assistance to eligible ambulance service operations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION - AMBULANCE SERVICE OPERATION FUNDING DISTRIBUTION. Notwithstanding section 23-46-04 relating to state financial assistance for emergency medical services, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, the department of health and human services, in consultation with the emergency medical services advisory council, shall provide state financial assistance to each eligible ambulance service operation pursuant to the following calculation:

1. The minimum reasonable budget for each operation must be determined by adding the product of the operation's average number of runs for the two most recent calendar years multiplied by the cost of a run. The cost of a run for this biennium is two thousand twenty-three dollars. If the average runs multiplied by the cost of a run equals less than one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, the minimum reasonable budget for that ambulance service is one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars. The grant amount must be the lesser of:
   a. The calculation in subsection 2; or
   b. The cost of a run multiplied by the average number of runs.
2. The operation's grant amount must be determined by deducting the following amounts from the operation's budget calculated under subsection 1:

a. The product of the operation's average number of runs for the two most recent calendar years multiplied by the reimbursement for a run. The reimbursement for a run is seven hundred ninety-five dollars; and

b. The product of the property tax valuation of the operation's response area for the most recent taxable year multiplied by five mills. The property tax valuation of the operation's response area must be provided by the county auditor annually no later than July thirty-first. If the response area covers multiple counties, the county auditor with the most response area is responsible for coordinating with the other county auditors.

3. The maximum total grant calculation for each operation, after accounting for the deductions in subsection 2, may not exceed two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars.

4. The maximum reimbursement for a run is two thousand twenty-three dollars. Notwithstanding subsection 5, for grant amounts distributed through June 30, 2027, the minimum total grant calculation for each operation, after accounting for the deductions in subsection 2, must be at least fifty percent of the previous year's grant amount, but not more than the amount calculated in subsection 1.

5. The department shall distribute a prorated share of the operation's calculated grant amount if legislative appropriations for state financial assistance for emergency medical services is not sufficient to provide full grant funding calculated under this section.

6. An operation is not eligible to receive funding under this section if the operation does more than eight hundred runs per year.

7. A response area acquired after April 1, 2024, due to an adjacent ambulance service closure is not calculated in the operations response area for the purpose of the grant calculation.