

- 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 workgroup must be created to
19 develop an emergency medical services plan. A licensee identified as a distressed
20 ambulance service must cooperate with the department in the facilitation of services.
 - 21 a. A distressed ambulance workgroup must include:
 - 22 (1) At least one representative of the distressed ambulance service.
 - 23 (2) A representative of the county commissioner.
 - 24 (3) A representative of each impacted city council.
 - 25 (4) A representative of each impacted adjacent ambulance service.
 - 26 (5) A representative of the impacted law enforcement agencies.
 - 27 (6) A representative of the impacted school board.
 - 28 (7) A citizen representative.
 - 29 b. An emergency medical services plan may include:
 - 30 (1) Recruitment and training initiatives.

- 1 (2) Review of available grant programs and one-time funding opportunities
- 2 issued by the state or other entities for the hiring of staff.
- 3 (3) The issuance of a waiver by the department allowing adjacent ambulances
- 4 to assist in coverage.
- 5 (4) Adjustment of department grant programs to assist in hiring.
- 6 (5) Consideration of regional ambulance service establishment.
- 7 7. If the workgroup determines the distressed ambulance service's license must be
- 8 downgraded, the department shall divide the service in accordance with department
- 9 rules. An applicable tax district must be divided to the adjacent ambulance service
- 10 without a vote.
- 11 8. The department shall monitor the distressed ambulance service and distressed
- 12 ambulance workgroup.
- 13 9. A distressed ambulance service may not discontinue the provision of emergency
- 14 services unless the licensee gives a minimum of one month prior notice to the
- 15 department.
- 16 10. The department may adopt rules to administer this section.
- 17 **SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

~~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 workgroup.

1. As used in this section:

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

(1) Self-indicates to the department a substantial likelihood of closing 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 close within the next year.

b. "Emergency medical services plan" or "plan" means a detailed improvement plan
for a distressed ambulance service developed by the department and the
distressed ambulance workgroup 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 ~~(2) If the distressed ambulance service rejects the plan, the service leader of~~
2 ~~record shall present an amended plan to the department within fourteen~~
3 ~~days after the date of the second public meeting.~~

4 ~~b. The department shall approve or reject the amended plan within seven days of~~
5 ~~receipt.~~

6 ~~5. If the department and distressed ambulance service are unable to agree on a plan, or~~
7 ~~if the distressed ambulance service fails to comply with any aspect of an approved~~
8 ~~plan, the department may take action as necessary to protect the health, safety, and~~
9 ~~welfare of the public, in accordance with section 23-27.2-02.~~

10 ~~6. The department shall provide notice of a public meeting conducted under this section.~~
11 ~~The notice must be:~~

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

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

16 ~~7. The department may request the distressed ambulance service reimburse the~~
17 ~~department for costs associated with administering this section and for any reasonable~~
18 ~~measures taken to ensure reliable ambulance response within the distressed~~
19 ~~ambulance service's assigned service area. The distressed ambulance service shall~~
20 ~~reimburse the department within thirty days after receipt of the request.~~

21 ~~**23-27.2-07. Distressed ambulance service program - Continuing appropriation.**~~

22 ~~There is created in the state treasury a distressed ambulance service program fund. The~~
23 ~~fund consists of all moneys transferred to the fund and all interest and earnings upon moneys in~~
24 ~~the fund. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the department on a continuing basis for the~~
25 ~~purposes of administering this chapter, including for the payment of contractor fees and~~
26 ~~expenses incurred by or for the operation of the program.~~

27 ~~**23-27.2-08. Distressed ambulance service program - Report to legislative**~~
28 ~~**management.**~~

29 ~~Each interim, the department shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding~~
30 ~~the status of the program. The report must include the provisions of the program, the number of~~