

~~1 distressed ambulance services, coordinated efforts and activities, program costs and expenses,~~  
~~2 and the overall effectiveness of the program.~~

~~3 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**~~

~~4 **DISTRESSED AMBULANCE SERVICE PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is~~  
~~5 appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise~~  
~~6 appropriated, the sum of \$150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the~~  
~~7 department of health and human services for the purpose of contracting with a consultant to~~  
~~8 identify, evaluate, and develop a plan to manage distressed ambulance services, for the~~  
~~9 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this~~  
~~10 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.