

Subject Ambulance operating deficit grant program

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Overview

This bill establishes an ambulance operating deficit grant program at the Office of Emergency Medical Services to address operating deficits of eligible licensed ambulance services. It also establishes a per-billing-cycle fee on wireless telecommunications subscriptions issued or renewed in the state to fund the grant program.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p>Ambulance operating deficit grant program.</p> <p>Adds § 144E.54. Establishes an ambulance operating deficit grant program at the Office of Emergency Medical Services and specifies requirements for eligible applicants, calculations of grant awards, and allowable uses of grant funds.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for this section: capital expenses, eligible applicant or eligible licensee, government licensee, insurance revenue, operating deficit, operational expenses, other revenue.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Program establishment. Establishes an ambulance operating deficit grant program, in which grants are awarded to address the operating deficits of eligible applicants.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Account established. Establishes an ambulance operating deficit account in the special revenue fund in the state treasury; requires appropriations and transfers to the account and account earnings to be credited to the account; and directs the director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services to manage the account.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Licensee providing specialized life support services excluded. Provides that licensees providing specialized life support services are not eligible for grants under this section.</p> |
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Subd. 5. Other licensees excluded. Provides licensees whose primary service areas are located mostly within a metropolitan county (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington) or within the cities of Duluth, Mankato, St. Cloud, or Rochester are not eligible for grants under this section.

Subd. 6. Application process. Allows eligible licensees to apply to the director for a grant, and requires grant applications from government licensees to be accompanied by a resolution of support from the governing body.

Subd. 7. Director calculations. Provides the director may award grants only to applicants who provide verifiable evidence of an operating deficit in the last completed fiscal year for which data were provided to the director, allows the director to audit financial data provided, and prohibits a grant award from being more than five percent more than a previous grant without special permission from the director.

Subd. 8. Grant awards; limitations. Allows grants to be proportionally distributed based on money available; prohibits amounts awarded from exceeding the balance in the ambulance operating deficit account; directs the director to award grants annually; and prohibits the director from awarding grants that exceed the amount of the grant recipient's most recent, verified operating deficit.

Subd. 9. Eligible expenditures. Provides grant recipients must spend grant money on operational expenses and capital expenses incurred to provide ambulance services.

Subd. 10. Report. By February 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, requires the director to report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health finance and policy on the number and amount of grants awarded under this section and how grant recipients used the grant funds.

2 **Wireless telecommunications subscription.**

Adds subd. 9 to § 403.16. Defines wireless telecommunications subscription in a definitions section that applies to the new section establishing a wireless telecommunications subscription fee.

3 **Wireless telecommunications subscription fee.**

Adds subd. 10 to § 403.16. Defines wireless telecommunications subscription fee in a definitions section that applies to the new section establishing a wireless telecommunications subscription fee.

Section	Description
4	<p>Wireless telecommunications subscription provider.</p> <p>Adds sub. 11 to § 403.16. Defines wireless telecommunications subscription provider in a definitions section that applies to the new section establishing a wireless telecommunications subscription fee.</p>
5	<p>Wireless telecommunications subscription fee imposed; collection; remittance.</p> <p>Adds § 403.1611. Establishes a per-billing-cycle fee, in a blank amount, on wireless telecommunications subscription providers for each wireless subscription issued or renewed in the state. Permits but does not require wireless telecommunications subscription providers to collect the fee from subscribers. If the wireless telecommunications subscription provider collects the fee from the purchaser, requires the fee to be listed as a separate item on the billing statement for the wireless telecommunications subscription and not be included in the base for measuring any tax, fee, or other charge. Requires billing statements to state the fee as “emergency medical services fee.”</p>
6	<p>Administration of prepaid wireless E911 and wireless telecommunications subscription fees.</p> <p>Amends § 403.162. Requires wireless telecommunications subscription fees collected by sellers or wireless telecommunications subscription providers to be remitted to the commissioner of revenue. Provides Department of Revenue provisions on audits, assessments, appeals, collections, refunds, penalties, interest, enforcement, and administration in chapters 270C and 289A apply to wireless telecommunications subscription fees. Requires the commissioner of revenue to deposit revenue from the wireless telecommunications subscription fees in the ambulance operating deficit account under section 144E.54.</p>



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