

Subject Rural EMS uncompensated care pool payment program

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Overview

This bill establishes a rural EMS uncompensated care pool payment program at the Office of Emergency Medical Services, in which payments are provided to ambulance services that primarily provide service outside the seven-county metro area for EMS responses in which they did not transport a patient and for which they did not receive payment from any source. The bill appropriates \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 for the program.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Rural EMS uncompensated care pool payment program.
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Establishes a rural EMS uncompensated care pool payment program at the Office of Emergency Medical Services. Specifies the application process, identifies EMS responses used for purposes of calculating payments to ambulance services, establishes the method to calculate payments, and requires payments to be made to ambulance services by May 30, 2026.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for this section: director; eligible licensee; licensee; and public safety answering point.

Subd. 2. Payment program established. Requires the director of the Office of EMS to establish and administer the payment program.

Subd. 3. Excluded responses. In calculating payments under the program, requires the director to exclude EMS responses by specialized life support. (Specialized life support is an ambulance service that operates less than 24 hours per day, serves designated segments of the population, provides service to people with certain medical conditions, or is an air ambulance service.)

Subd. 4. Application process. Requires an eligible licensee seeking a payment under this program to apply to the director by March 31, 2026; requires the application to include the number of the eligible licensee's EMS responses that

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meet the criteria in subdivision 5; and provides related licensees must be treated as a single eligible licensee.

Subd. 5. Eligible EMS responses. Lists criteria that must be met for an EMS response to be considered an eligible response for purposes of payment calculations under subdivision 6: the EMS response was initially received by a public safety answering point; an ambulance responded to the scene and was not canceled while en route; the ambulance did not transport anyone to an emergency department; the ambulance service did not receive payment for the response from any source; and the response was initiated between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

Subd. 6. Calculations. Specifies the number of points the director of the Office of EMS must award for the specified ranges of EMS responses, and specifies how the director must calculate payments for each eligible licensee.

Subd. 7. Payment. Requires the director to certify the payment amount for each eligible licensee and make the full payment to each eligible licensee by May 30, 2026.

2 **Appropriation; rural EMS uncompensated care pool payment program.**

Appropriates \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 from the general fund to the Office of Emergency Medical Services for the rural EMS uncompensated care pool payment program.



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