

Draft Interim Committee Minutes Emergency Medical Services Funding Task Force

The first interim meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Funding Task Force was called to order by Senator Ernie Otten at 10:00 AM on June 17, 2026, in Room 413 of the State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

A quorum was determined with the following members answering roll call: Sen. Peterson (Sue) (remote), Sen. Larson (remote), Sen. Otten, Sen. Jensen (Kevin), Rep. Fosness, Rep. Hughes (remote), Rep. Hunt, Rep. Peterson (Drew), Rep. Weems, Rep. Emery, and Sen. Reed.

Staff members present included Matthew Server, Research Analyst; Bill Douglas, Fiscal Analyst; and Bailey Fierro, Administrative Specialist.

NOTE: For the purpose of continuity, the following minutes are not necessarily in chronological order. All referenced documents distributed at the meeting are hyperlinked to the document on the Legislative Research Council website. This meeting was live streamed. Each section contains a hyperlink to the time stamp pertaining to that item in the archived live stream available at sdlegislature.gov.

Representative Eric Emery moved, seconded by Representative Keri Weems, that Senator Reed be appointed as the Chair of the Emergency Medical Services Task Force. The motion prevailed on a voice vote. (2:27)

Representative Nick Fosness moved, seconded by Representative Keri Weems, that Representative Emery be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Emergency Medical Services Task Force. The motion prevailed on a voice vote. (4:31)

An Overview of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in South Dakota and an Update on the Rural Health Transformation Project

Marty Link, Department of Health, and Emily Kiel, Department of Health, presented on EMS in South Dakota and the Rural Health Transformation Project. [DOH EMS in South Dakota Presentation](#) [DOH Rural Health Transformation Presentation](#) (22:16)

Perspectives on Emergency Medical Services in South Dakota

Alan Perry, South Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association, shared a presentation about the role of the Emergency Medical Services Association in South Dakota and answered questions from the task force members. [SDEMSA State of EMS Presentation](#) (2:02:10)

Brian Hambek, South Dakota Ambulance Association, presented on the current state of the South Dakota Ambulance Association. [SDAA Summary and Fee Schedule](#) (2:29:37)

Sara Rankin, South Dakota Municipal League, discussed the role the South Dakota Municipal League plays in supporting EMS within the state. (2:55:51)

Daniel Klimisch, South Dakota Association of County Commissioners, discussed the role counties play in EMS funding and staffing. (3:00:35)

Public Comments

The following individuals offered public comments: (3:17:10)

Maynard Konechne, South Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association
Briget L Hatheway, Self ([Briget Hatheway, Self Handout](#))
Stacie Fredenburg, South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care
Paul Schueth, Tripp County Ambulance
Carrie Schell, Wasta Volunteer Fire Department
Robert Rendon, Self

Joyce Kartak, Tripp County
Gary Langerock, Watertown Fire Rescue
Jerome Harvey, Pennington County Fire Administration

Adjournment

Representative Keri Weems moved, seconded by Senator Ernie Otten, that the Emergency Medical Services Funding Task Force be adjourned. The motion prevailed on a voice vote. (5:09:11)

The Emergency Medical Services Funding Task Force adjourned at 4:00 PM.