

2027 South Dakota Legislature

Draft 84

Requested by: The Interim Committee on Emergency Medical Services Funding Task Force

- 1 **An Act to create the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and to establish**
2 **emergency medical services regions in this state.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 34-11:**

5 There is established, within the department, the Emergency Medical Services
6 Advisory Council. The council consists of the following individuals appointed by the
7 Governor:

8 (1) Four emergency medical services personnel, licensed pursuant to chapter 36-4B,
9 one of whom must serve on an ambulance service that operates within the
10 boundaries of an Indian tribe;

11 (2) One city manager or mayor;

12 (3) One county commissioner or county auditor;

13 (4) One medical director;

14 (5) One representative of a critical access hospital in this state; and

15 (6) One representative of an organization representing public safety communication
16 officials.

17 The term of each member is three years. No member may be appointed for more
18 than two consecutive, full terms. If a vacancy occurs, the Governor must appoint a like
19 individual to fill the unexpired term.

20 At the council's initial meeting, and at the first meeting of each year thereafter,
21 the members of the council shall select one individual from among themselves to serve as
22 the chair.

23 The council shall meet at the call of the chair or the secretary of the department.

24 The members of the council must be compensated in accordance with § 4-7-10.4.

25 **Section 2. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 34-11:**

26 The department shall, with the advice of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory
27 Council, divide the state into at least eight but no more than fourteen emergency medical
28 services regions.

- 1 When establishing the boundaries of each region, the department shall consider:
- 2 (1) The location of ambulance services;
- 3 (2) The number of emergency medical services personnel licensed pursuant to chapter
- 4 36-4B;
- 5 (3) Population locations and density;
- 6 (4) Emergency call volume;
- 7 (5) Emergency response times; and
- 8 (6) The location of hospitals and other health care facilities.

9 **Section 3. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 34-11:**

- 10 The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council shall make recommendations to
- 11 the department regarding:
- 12 (1) The boundaries of each emergency medical services region, pursuant to section 2
- 13 of this Act;
- 14 (2) The level of emergency medical services required within each region;
- 15 (3) The coordination of response to an emergency by ambulance services;
- 16 (4) The allocation of financial assistance from the state to each emergency medical
- 17 services region and the distribution of financial assistance to ambulance services
- 18 within each region;
- 19 (5) The application process by which an ambulance service may request financial
- 20 assistance from the state;
- 21 (6) The minimum requirements that an ambulance service must meet if the service
- 22 receives financial assistance from the state;
- 23 (7) Emergency medical services personnel recruitment, retention, and training;
- 24 (8) Strategies to address billing, licensure, procurement and other administrative
- 25 challenges facing ambulance services; and
- 26 (9) Any other topics related to emergency medical services, as determined by the
- 27 council or requested by the secretary.
- 28 By June first of each year, the council shall prepare and submit a report to the
- 29 Governor and to the Legislature regarding the council's findings and recommendations.
- 30 An ambulance service must provide the service's financial information if requested
- 31 by the advisory council. Any information provided by an ambulance service pursuant to
- 32 this section is confidential.

33 **Section 4. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 34-11:**

1 For each emergency medical services region, the department shall, in consultation
2 with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, make recommendations on:

3 (1) The standards that an ambulance service must meet to provide a minimum level
4 of emergency medical services, including:

5 (a) Geographic coverage;

6 (b) Response time; and

7 (c) Staffing and equipment;

8 (2) The funding necessary for an ambulance service to provide a minimum level of
9 emergency medical services;

10 (3) The funding that a county or municipality would need to allocate to emergency
11 medical services before receiving financial assistance from the state; and

12 (4) The financial assistance that a region would require from the state to ensure a
13 minimum level of emergency medical services within the region.

14 On or before June 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the department shall prepare
15 and submit a report to the Governor and to the Legislature regarding the department's
16 findings and recommendations.