

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0515

Date: January 18, 2013

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Garcia
Sen. Giron

Bill Status: House Health, Insurance & Environment

Fiscal Analyst: Kirk Mlinek (303-866-2756)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF A CRITICAL CARE ENDORSEMENT TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015
State Revenue	See State Revenue section.	
State Expenditures	See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: None required.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the executive director (director) of the Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE) or, if the director is not a physician, the chief medical officer, to adopt rules establishing standards for a critical care endorsement for emergency medical service (EMS) providers. A critical care endorsement allows EMS providers to perform certain tasks and procedures. The required rules must be adopted by December 31, 2013.

Background

EMS providers such as emergency medical technicians and paramedics must complete one or more courses offered by a state-recognized education program, and then must pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians' (NMRET) written and practical examinations. The Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE) maintains the list of state-recognized EMS education programs. Persons seeking these services pay tuition and other fees directly to the provider of the education program. DPHE certifies EMS providers upon the satisfactory presentation of required credentials.

State Revenue

The bill could increase tuition and fee revenue for the institutions of higher education that offer EMS training and that choose to add the critical care endorsement to their course offerings. This fiscal note does not estimate the increased amount of revenue because the number of people who will seek the endorsement is not known.

There are no revenue implications for DPHE under the bill.

State Expenditures

Institutions of higher education that currently offer EMS courses may choose to expand course offerings to accommodate the new endorsement. This increase in workload will be offset by an increase in tuition and fee revenue.

The bill requires DPHE to promulgate and adopt rules to govern the issuance of a critical care endorsement. The Department of Law will be responsible for drafting and reviewing these rules, and for providing counsel to DPHE pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act. This increase in workload in both departments will be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Local Government Impact

Local governments with EMS personnel who obtain the endorsement could experience an increase in risk management premiums. Further, expenditures will increase to the extent that local governments require EMS personnel to obtain the critical care endorsement. The amount of the increase depends on tuition and fees charged by the education programs, and on the number of EMS personnel who seek the endorsement. The number of ambulance runs should increase for ambulance services that have employees with the endorsement, thereby increasing revenue to the local government. This revenue should offset the increased expenditures noted above.

Departments Contacted

Public Health and Environment
Public Safety
Municipalities

Law
Special Districts
Corrections

Local Affairs
Counties
Higher Ed