

State of Arkansas
77th General Assembly
Regular Session, 1989
1431
By: Representatives Dawson and Arrington

HOUSE BILL

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR AN ASSESSMENT IN ADDITION TO THE FINES IMPOSED FOR CERTAIN TRAFFIC OFFENSES TO BE USED FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE 'FIVE FOR LIFE' PROGRAM; TO CREATE THE 'EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE FIVE FOR LIFE OPERATING FUND' IN THE STATE TREASURY, TO WHICH ALL SUCH ASSESSMENTS COLLECTED SHALL BE DEPOSITED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

WHEREAS, many rural areas lack adequate ambulance and emergency medical services, and more hospitals are closing, lengthening travel distances; and emergency medical services can link widely-scattered rural residents to needed medical care; and

WHEREAS, this is especially important because rural areas have higher rates of home accident fatalities, drownings, and highway accidents,

NOW, THEREFORE;

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. In addition to any monetary penalties imposed by law, there shall be imposed and collected an assessment of Five Dollars (\$5.00) from each person upon whom a court imposes a fine or bail forfeiture for a moving traffic violation. This includes state as well as local ordinances. Each such assessment shall be paid to the court in which such fines or bail forfeiture is imposed, and all such assessments shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer on the day when the funds are credited to the treasurer of the county or municipality, in accordance with existing laws. The State Treasurer shall then deposit such funds in a special fund hereby created in the State Treasury to be designated the "Emergency Medical Services Five for Life

Operating Fund."

SECTION 2. The Office of Emergency Medical Services, Arkansas Department of Health, is authorized to use up to ten percent (10%) of the funds to cover administrative costs of the "EMS Five for Life Operating Fund."

A. This money may be used to pay salaries and benefits for full-time personnel needed to administer the program.

B. Any such funds allocated but not needed will be returned to the fund at the end of the fiscal year.

SECTION 3. Fifty percent (50%) of the funds accumulated at the end of each fiscal year shall be allocated the following fiscal year to each county on a per capita basis, based on the latest census available. Funds will be allocated within each county based on the percentage of runs made by each service. On or before March 15 each year, the Office of EMS will furnish the state treasurer the information needed to determine appropriate allocations.

A. These funds may be used to purchase emergency vehicles meeting Class 1-A or higher permit level as specified by Arkansas EMS Rules and Regulations; required equipment; Emergency Medical Technician training at any level; or any other EMS-related training approved by the Department of Health.

B. Criteria for accountability for the proper use of these funds shall be determined and approved by the Governor's Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services. This group shall also be responsible for development of disciplinary actions when it is determined that a recipient has misused funds.

C. All property shall be returned to the Department of Health if the licensed ambulance service ceases operations. The Department shall make every effort to redistribute returned property and supplies to the replacement service or other eligible existing services within the same county. If no eligible service exists or is established within three (3) months, all purchases shall be redistributed by the Department as needed.

SECTION 4. Fifty percent (50) of the funds accumulated at the end of each fiscal year shall be utilized the following fiscal year for grants to purchase equipment/supplies to upgrade existing emergency services; to upgrade EMS-related training of emergency services personnel; to purchase advanced life support/basic life support rescue vehicles and related equipment; or to

upgrade emergency medical services communications as approved by the Office of Emergency Medical Services, Department of Health.

A. These funds cannot be used to establish a new service or by a service that has been in business less than one (1) year when an existing Class 1-A or higher licensed service has been in operation for more than one (1) year in the same service area.

B. All property shall be returned to the Department if the grantee ceases to provide emergency medical care. The Department shall redistribute returned property and supplies as needed. Priority shall be given to other eligible services within the same county.

SECTION 5. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

