

HB595 INTRODUCED



1 HB595
2 7BYTGVV-1
3 By Representatives Lawrence, Daniels, Chestnut, Clarke, Lands,
4 McCampbell, Rafferty, England, Drummond, Warren, Travis,
5 Jackson, Tillman, Hendrix, Jones, Bracy, Moore (M), Datcher,
6 Morris, Givan, Sellers, Hall, Hassell, Ensler, McClammy,
7 Hollis, Gray
8 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
9 First Read: 10-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill creates the Rural Emergency Medical Services Support Act to provide operational funding, workforce development pathways, and expanded service delivery models.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to rural emergency medical systems; to create the Rural Emergency Medical Services Support Act; to establish a grant program to support operational costs of eligible emergency medical service providers; to support scholarship and training costs of eligible EMS providers; and to require the Alabama Department of Public Health to conduct a statewide emergency medical services needs assessment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known as the Rural Emergency Medical Services Support Act.

Section 2. As used in this act, unless otherwise specified or unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms will have the following meanings:

(1) COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE. EMS-based delivery of



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29 non-emergency services such as home visits, chronic disease
30 monitoring, and care coordination.

31 (2) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Public
32 Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services.

33 (3) ELIGIBLE EMS PROVIDER. A licensed emergency medical
34 transport provider as defined in Section 40-26B-90(6), Code of
35 Alabama 1975, that primarily serves rural or frontier areas.

36 Section 3. (a) A grant program to support operational
37 costs of eligible EMS providers is established. The department
38 shall administer the program.

39 (b) Grant funds may be used for any of the following:

40 (1) Purchase or maintenance of vehicles and equipment.

41 (2) Training and certification of personnel.

42 (3) Insurance, fuel, and administrative expenses.

43 (c) Priority shall be given to providers with service
44 gaps or high per-capita coverage areas.

45 (d) Operation of this program is conditional on the
46 availability of funding.

47 Section 4. (a) Subject to funding being available for
48 such purposes, the department shall fund rural EMS training
49 initiatives including:

50 (1) Scholarships of rural students entering EMT or
51 paramedic training. Scholarship amounts will be based on
52 student need as determined by the department;

53 (2) Tuition support for current volunteers; and

54 (3) High school EMS exposure and dual enrollment
55 programs.

56 (b) Programs must include rural clinical placements and



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57 cultural competency training.

58 (c) Operation of this program is conditional on the
59 availability of funding.

60 Section 5. (a) The department shall authorize up to 10
61 pilot programs allowing EMS agencies to provide community
62 paramedicine services.

63 (b) Permitted services may include:

64 (1) Post-discharge follow-up visits;

65 (2) Chronic care monitoring; and

66 (3) Preventative education and care coordination.

67 (c) Each pilot program must partner with at least one
68 primary care provider.

69 Section 6. (a) EMS providers participating in
70 authorized community paramedicine programs are deemed to be
71 acting within scope of practice.

72 (b) The Alabama Medicaid Agency shall reimburse EMS
73 agencies for approved non-emergency services delivered under
74 this act.

75 (c) The department shall develop applicable regulations
76 and billing codes.

77 Section 7. (a) The department shall conduct a
78 statewide EMS needs assessment every two years to:

79 (1) Identify rural coverage gaps and staffing
80 shortages;

81 (2) Evaluate infrastructure needs and aging vehicle
82 fleets; and

83 (3) Report on regional response time metrics.

84 (b) The report shall be submitted to the Legislature



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85 and made publicly available.

86 Section 8. This act shall become effective on October

87 1, 2026.