EMSRB Memo

Date: May 21, 2024

To: Minnesota Ambulance Services, Minnesota EMS Regional Systems

From: Dylan Ferguson, Executive Director

RE: 2024 Legislative Update

By now, many of you are aware of the EMS-related changes passed by the Minnesota Legislature on Sunday. While not yet signed into law, the legislative passage of HF4738 brings the potential for many changes to Minnesota EMS. As ambulance service managers, I know you have many questions. In the coming weeks, as more information becomes available, EMSRB staff is dedicated to answering as many of those questions as we can.

Many of the programs and policies contained within HF4738 require the development of processes and procedures. EMSRB is committed to ensuring that these processes are implemented efficiently and transparently.

During this transition, please monitor your emails closely. Your assigned EMS specialist and I will communicate additional information as we receive it. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date and correct in the E-License Portal.

Ambulance Service Aid Package

HF4738 appropriates $24,000,000 in ambulance service aid. This aid will be distributed to ambulance services based on a formula that considers the square mileage of Primary Service Areas in addition to response volume.

While estimates and projections may be made, the final aid amounts to be received by each ambulance service cannot be confirmed until the application window closes and calculations are performed by the Department of Revenue. These calculations will be based on the number of eligible ambulance services that apply, the information provided on the application, and data points provided to the Department of Revenue by EMSRB.

More information regarding the application process will be provided as it becomes available. The bill specifies that the application deadline will be September 16, 2024.
Amulance Staffing Standards

HF4738 also makes multiple changes to the staffing standards of ambulances, particularly for BLS ambulances. The legislation creates a BLS ambulance variance process, allowing ambulance services to apply for a variance to operate a BLS ambulance with an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) tending to the patient and a non-clinical individual driving the ambulance, similar to the emergency waivers that were in place until they expired on December 31, 2023. **This process is not automatic; an application and approval of your medical director and the Board is required.** We will provide more information related to this and other related changes as soon as it becomes available.

Regulatory Structure Changes

Finally, HF4738 makes changes to the state agency that regulates EMS in Minnesota. Effective January 1, 2025, the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board will be replaced by a new entity named the Office of Emergency Medical Services. This new office will have an agency head appointed by the Governor. There will be three separate advisory boards, each with a different focus on the EMS system, to advise the new office.

In the interim the EMSRB remains dedicated to our mission of protecting the public’s health and safety through regulation and support of the state’s EMS system. We will continue this mission with dedication and professionalism as we work to ensure a smooth and orderly transition and maintaining continuity in the operation of the statewide EMS system.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to your assigned EMS Specialist or email emsrb@state.mn.us

In closing, I would like to thank each of you for your dedication to the communities you serve. You, as EMS providers, are the backbone of our EMS system and provide a valuable service to your communities and patients. The EMSRB wishes you all a safe and happy 2024 EMS Week.