

Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

pay for the costs associated with the certification and recertification training of emergency medical services personnel.

- Deposited into the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (09100)
- \$2.00 is set aside to transfer to the general fund per Part 3-1.01 W

The bill specifies that the Board of Health shall designate 11 Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Councils that will be authorized to receive and distribute State funds. Currently, the code provides that 30% of the \$4.25 set-aside funding shall be used to for EMS operation support, which includes support for EMS training programs, recruitment and retention programs, EMS system development, performance contracts, technology and communication enhancements, and preparedness and response. The bill provides that no less than 55 percent of funding from the 30% set-aside shall be distributed to the regional emergency medical services councils designated for their operational support.

There are 11 Regional EMS Councils in Virginia. Seven operate as stand-alone non-profits and 4 operate as non-profits but are supported by VDH staff who manage the day-to-day operations. Each council has different service delivery models, funding availability, and access to resources. The Regional Councils operate in collaboration with the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) through 5-year performance-based contracts and are paid quarterly from the 30% set-aside funding.

Fiscal Analysis: In FY24, the Department of Motor Vehicles allocated a total of roughly \$32.0 million in funding in accordance with § 46.2-694 to the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS). Of this amount, thirty percent, which equates to roughly \$9,024,000, is distributed to the State Department of Health to be set aside as a special fund to be used only for emergency medical services purposes. The introduced legislation requests that 55% of the 30% allocation be distributed to the 11 Regional Councils, which would be approximately \$4.9 million based on FY24 DMV allocations. However, the current contract amount for EMS operation support is \$3.9 million, though the EMS advisory board and EMS councils believe that a \$4.5 million distribution is achievable within existing resources.

OEMS would have to shift \$400,000 in resources to ensure that at least 55% went to support EMS operations to meet a target of approximately \$4.9 million. This could be achieved by reducing other Statewide services that are offered through this special fund, such as reducing the on-line continuing education training that is offered statewide or reducing funding to staff that support statewide programs.

Other: SB1294, introduced by Senator Diggs, is a companion bill.