

FINAL REPORT

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

January 1992

AUTHORIZATION, CHARGE, AND MEMBERSHIP

The Emergency Medical Services Interim Study Committee was established by the Legislative Council in 1991 and the Committee was authorized to hold one meeting. The charge of the Committee was to explore delivery of Emergency Medical Services in Iowa, including ways to provide services and mechanisms for funding. The Legislative Council appointed six legislative members as follows:

Senator Florence Buhr, Co-chairperson
Representative Mark Shearer, Co-chairperson
Senator Eugene Fraise
Senator John Jensen
Representative Janet Adams
Representative Dick Weidman

COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The Committee held its meeting in the Speaker's Committee Room of the State Capitol on December 13, 1991. The Committee, chaired by Senator Buhr and Representative Shearer, heard testimony from a number of persons including the following:

1. Mr. Gary Ireland, Acting Emergency Medical Services Program Manager, Iowa Department of Public Health.
2. Mr. David Cole, Director of Johnson County Ambulance Service and Legislative Chairperson of the Iowa Emergency Medical Services Association.

The Committee considered testimony by Mr. Ireland regarding the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Assessment of Iowa's Emergency Medical Services System. Mr. Ireland discussed the main recommendations made by the assessment team. The Committee considered six recommendations which Mr. Ireland believes to be the priorities: first, designation of the Iowa Department of Public Health as lead agency in administering chapter 147A of the Iowa Code; second, adequate funding for the Emergency Medical Services section of the Iowa Department of Public Health; third, establishment of a dedicated

funding course for emergency medical services; fourth, creation of a local tax source for funding emergency medical services, particularly the funding of capital outlays; fifth, establishment of a basic standard of care for emergency medical services providers; and sixth, authorization and funding to fully staff the Emergency Medical Services section of the Iowa Department of Public Health.

The Committee also received testimony presented by Mr. Cole regarding recommendations for improving the Emergency Medical Services System in Iowa. The Committee considered testimony from Mr. Cole regarding the current structure of Iowa's emergency medical services system today and the need for continued stable funding. The Committee also heard testimony from Mr. Cole in support of House File 673.

The Committee meeting was well attended and the Committee also referred to members of the audience for answers to particular questions regarding technical matters or historical matters. The Committee came to a consensus that the Iowa Department of Public Health will assess the implications of requiring EMT-A certification and that the Committee will meet informally during the first week of session to discuss the Department's findings.

MATERIALS

The Committee was presented with a number of written materials which are available upon request from the Legislative Service Bureau. The materials include the following:

1. State of Iowa and Assessment of Emergency Medical Services, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Technical Assistance Team.
2. Iowa's EMS Overview, Mr. David Cole.
3. White Paper: YEMS Funding must be Ongoing in Iowa, Mr. David Cole.
4. PAs in Emergency Medicine, Ed Friedmann, P.A.
5. House File 673.
6. House File 673 Fiscal Note, Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee discussed the testimony and information presented for consideration. There was a consensus among members of the Committee that emergency medical services in Iowa are a valuable asset needing continued support.

The Committee approved the following recommendations:

1. That the Iowa Department of Public Health be designated the lead agency in administering emergency medical services.
2. That qualified physician assistants be given the same exemption under section 147A.12 that qualified nurses have to serve as authorized ambulance, rescue, or first response service staff without having to be separately certified under chapter 147A.
3. That the words "solely for education, training, and equipment" be stricken from House File 673, page 4, lines 29 and 30.
4. That House File 673, as amended, be recommended for passage by the General Assembly.

2694IC