

House File 725 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 725
BY GEARHART

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act establishing a rural emergency response enhancement
- 2 program, making appropriations, and including effective date
- 3 provisions.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **135.196 Rural emergency response**
2 **enhancement program.**

3 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise
4 requires:

5 a. "*Emergency medical technician training*" or "*EMT training*"
6 means an accredited training program meeting state and national
7 certification standards for emergency medical technicians.

8 b. "*Program*" means the rural emergency response enhancement
9 program established in this section.

10 c. "*Small rural police department*" means a police department
11 serving a population of ten thousand or less according to the
12 most recent federal decennial census.

13 d. "*Volunteer fire department*" means a fire department
14 primarily staffed by volunteers serving a population of ten
15 thousand or less according to the most recent federal decennial
16 census.

17 2. The rural emergency response enhancement program is
18 established and shall be administered by the department of
19 health and human services for the purpose of providing grants to
20 small rural police departments and volunteer fire departments to
21 enhance emergency response capacity through EMT training.

22 3. a. To be considered for a grant under the program, a
23 small rural police department or a volunteer fire department must
24 demonstrate a need for EMT training in the small rural police
25 department's or volunteer fire department's service area, and
26 commit to deploying personnel who have completed EMT training
27 to provide emergency medical services in the small rural police
28 department's or volunteer fire department's service area.

29 b. The department shall review applications, giving priority
30 to the highest demonstrated need for EMT training, and award
31 grants to eligible applicants that may include any of the
32 following:

33 (1) A grant that is a dollar-for-dollar match for each dollar
34 contributed by or on behalf of the eligible applicant.

35 (2) A grant that covers all or part of the costs of the

1 eligible applicant's EMT training, including tuition, course
2 fees, course materials, training equipment, medical kits,
3 simulation tools, certification fees, and other expenses as
4 approved by the department.

5 c. A small rural police department or a volunteer fire
6 department awarded a grant under the program must submit an
7 annual report to the department that contains all of the
8 following:

9 (1) The number of personnel who received EMT training.

10 (2) Any improvements made in emergency response time, and,
11 if applicable, the impact of the improvements on the small rural
12 police department's or volunteer fire department's service area.

13 (3) Any challenges the small rural police department or
14 volunteer fire department had in implementing the program.

15 4. The rural emergency response enhancement program fund
16 is created in the state treasury under the control of the
17 department. All moneys deposited or paid into the fund are
18 appropriated to the department to be used to award grants
19 under the program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the
20 fund that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of
21 each fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available
22 for expenditure. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2,
23 interest or earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited to
24 the fund.

25 5. For each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025,
26 and before July 1, 2029, there is appropriated from the general
27 fund of the state for deposit in the rural emergency response
28 enhancement fund, an amount sufficient to cover grants awarded
29 under the program not to exceed two hundred fifty thousand
30 dollars in any fiscal year.

31 6. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
32 to implement and administer this section, including rules related
33 to the application process and the awarding of grants.

34 7. On or before December 31, 2028, the department shall
35 submit a report to the general assembly containing an

1 evaluation of the program, including the number of grants
2 awarded, the number of personnel trained, the impact of
3 the program on emergency medical services in rural areas,
4 and any recommendations for the continuation, modification,
5 or termination of the program based on utilization and
6 effectiveness.

7 8. This section is repealed July 1, 2029.

8 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
9 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

10 EXPLANATION

11 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
12 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

13 This bill establishes the rural emergency response enhancement
14 program (program).

15 The bill defines "emergency medical technician (EMT)
16 training", "small rural police department" (police department),
17 and "volunteer fire department" (fire department).

18 The bill requires the department of health and human services
19 (HHS) to administer the program for the purpose of providing
20 grants to police departments and fire departments to enhance
21 emergency response capacity through EMT training.

22 To be considered for a grant under the program, a police
23 department or fire department must demonstrate a need for EMT
24 training in the police department's or fire department's service
25 area, and commit to deploying personnel who have completed EMT
26 training to provide emergency medical service in the service
27 area. HHS shall review applications, giving priority to the
28 highest demonstrated need for EMT training, and award grants to
29 eligible applicants to be used for costs associated with EMT
30 training. A police department or fire department awarded a
31 grant must submit an annual report to HHS containing information
32 related to the use of the grant moneys.

33 The bill creates a rural emergency response enhancement fund
34 (fund) in the state treasury under the control of HHS. All
35 moneys in the fund shall be used to award grants under the

1 program.

2 For each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025, and
3 before July 1, 2029, there is appropriated from the general fund
4 for deposit in the fund, an amount sufficient to cover the grants
5 awarded under the program, not to exceed \$250,000 each fiscal
6 year.

7 The bill requires HHS to adopt rules to implement and
8 administer the program.

9 On or before December 31, 2028, HHS shall submit a report to
10 the general assembly containing an evaluation of the program,
11 including recommendations for the continuation, modification, or
12 termination of the program.

13 The bill takes effect upon enactment. The program is repealed
14 July 1, 2029.

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