

Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Staff Bill House File 977

Last Action:
**House Appropriations
Committee**
March 27, 2025

An Act relating to the expansion of the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Program.

**Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency**

NOTES ON BILLS AND AMENDMENTS (NOBA)

Available online at www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/information/appropriationBillAnalysis

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NEW PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR ACTIVITIES

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to employ dedicated staff to expand enrollment in the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Program established in 2018 Iowa Acts, chapter [1054](#) (Ground Emergency Medical Transportation, Medicaid Coverage Act). Requires the staff to provide technical assistance, actuary support, and Medicaid enrollment assistance to any eligible GEMT provider that seeks participation in the Program. Requires the HHS to develop the Program to ensure access to emergency medical services throughout the State.

Page 1, Line 3

FISCAL IMPACT: The HHS will need to hire 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) position for a new Program Planner 3 at an estimated cost of approximately \$110,000 in FY 2026 and approximately \$108,000 in FY 2027, including salary, benefits, and support costs. The federal government provides a 50.0% matching rate for Medicaid administrative activities, causing the State to be responsible for one-half of the costs at approximately \$55,000 in FY 2026 and approximately \$54,000 in FY 2027.

STUDIES AND INTENT

Required Reports

Requires the HHS to submit an annual report to the General Assembly by December 15, including information on the number of GEMT providers enrolled in the Program, the number of GEMT providers that the HHS provided assistance to in the prior fiscal year, and barriers to enrollment in the Program.

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House File 977 provides for the following changes to the Code of Iowa.

Page #	Line #	Bill Section	Action	Code Section
1	1	1	New	249A.5

1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION 249A.5 GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL
1 2 TRANSPORTATION — EXPANSION.

1 3 1. The department shall employ dedicated staff for the sole
1 4 purpose of expanding enrollment in the ground emergency medical
1 5 transportation program established pursuant to 2018 Iowa Acts,
1 6 ch.1054. The staff shall provide technical assistance,
1 7 actuary support, and Medicaid enrollment assistance to any
1 8 eligible ground emergency medical transportation provider
1 9 that seeks participation in the ground emergency medical
1 10 transportation program. The department shall develop the
1 11 ground emergency medical transportation program to ensure
1 12 access to emergency medical services throughout the state.

CODE: Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to employ dedicated staff to expand enrollment in the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Program established in 2018 Iowa Acts, chapter [1054](#) (Ground Emergency Medical Transportation, Medicaid Coverage Act). Requires the staff to provide technical assistance, actuary support, and Medicaid enrollment assistance to any eligible GEMT provider that seeks participation in the Program. Requires the HHS to develop the Program to ensure access to emergency medical services throughout the State.

FISCAL IMPACT: The HHS will need to hire 1.00 full-time equivalent (FTE) position for a new Program Planner 3 at an estimated cost of \$110,487 in FY 2026 and \$108,310 in FY 2027, including salary, benefits, and support costs. The federal government provides a 50.00% matching rate for Medicaid administrative activities, causing the State to be responsible for one-half of the costs at \$55,244 in FY 2026 and \$54,155 in FY 2027.

1 13 2. The department shall submit a report to the general
1 14 assembly by December 15 of each year regarding the ground
1 15 emergency medical transportation program, which shall
1 16 include information on the number of ground emergency medical
1 17 transportation providers enrolled in the ground emergency
1 18 medical transportation program, the number of ground emergency
1 19 medical transportation providers that the department provided
1 20 assistance to in the prior fiscal year, and barriers to
1 21 enrollment in the ground emergency medical transportation
1 22 program.

CODE: Requires the HHS to submit an annual report to the General Assembly by December 15, including information on the number of GEMT providers enrolled in the Program, the number of GEMT providers that the HHS provided assistance to in the prior fiscal year, and barriers to enrollment in the Program.