

HCS HB 622 -- COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC SERVICES

SPONSOR: Cook

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 13 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 622.

This bill requires any ambulance service seeking to provide community paramedic services, as defined in the bill, outside of its ambulance service area and in the service area of another ambulance service, to have a memorandum of understanding with the secondary ambulance service regarding the provision of such services.

The bill permits the provision of community paramedic services without a memorandum of understanding in the service area of an ambulance service not providing such services, but notification must be provided with the ambulance service possessing service responsibilities in the service area.

This bill permits any emergency medical response agency to provide community paramedic services within its designated response service area if the ground ambulance service covering the area, within which the emergency medical response agency is located does not provide community paramedic services.

If the ground ambulance service does provide community paramedic services, it may establish a memorandum of understanding with the emergency medical response agency in order to coordinate programs and avoid duplication of services.

If community paramedic services are being provided in a service area by an emergency medical response agency in that service area before the ground ambulance service begins to offer community paramedic services, there must be a memorandum of understanding established for the proper coordination of services.

A community paramedic program is required to notify the local ambulance service when providing services within the area of an ambulance service.

The Department of Health and Senior Services will establish the regulations for recognizing community paramedic service entities that have met the specified standards. Any community paramedic services entity that meets these standards will be given an

endorsement by the Department that allows the entity to provide community paramedic services for five years.

This bill is similar to HB 2627 (2024).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

**PROPONENTS:** Supporters say that community paramedic services are used to respond to non-emergency calls for paramedics, freeing up time and resources for emergency response paramedics and bringing down healthcare costs significantly for those individuals receiving non-emergency services rather than emergency services. This would expand the program and allow community paramedics to proceed into other district territories under certain circumstances.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Cook; Missouri Ambulance Association; Ambulance District Association Of Missouri; and Arnie Dienoff.

**OPPONENTS:** There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

**OTHERS:** Others testifying on the bill say they would like to maintain provisions of existing law requiring different healthcare professionals providing community paramedic services to stay within their own scopes of practice.

Testifying in person on the bill was Missouri State Medical Association.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.