

SS SCS SB 271 -- EMERGENCY SERVICES

This bill modifies provisions related to emergency services.

COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION ORDINANCES (Sections 64.003 and 321.220, RSMo)

This bill prohibits any fire prevention ordinance adopted by any county or fire protection district from imposing regulations on or requiring permits with respect to the erection, maintenance, or repair, alteration, or extension of farm buildings or structures.

These provisions are similar to HB 533 (2025) and SB 602 (2025).

ST. LOUIS CITY FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (Sections 87.140, 87.145, 87.155, 87.260, and 87.350)

This bill specifies that the Board of Trustees of the Firemen's Retirement System of St. Louis will not be prevented from simultaneously acting as the trustees of any other pension plan that provides retirement, disability, and death benefits for firefighters employed by St. Louis City.

The administration of any other pension plan includes the ability of the Board to establish rules and regulations for the administration of the funds and for the transaction of such other pension plan's business. The Board must maintain separate records of all proceedings of such other pension plan.

This bill specifies that the Board of Trustees will have the authority and discretion to invest and reinvest funds of the other pension plan in property of any kind, real or personal. The Board can choose to invest the funds of the Firemen's Retirement System of St. Louis and the funds of the other pension plan in the same investments if the amounts invested and the gains, profits, or losses are accounted for separately. No benefits due from the other pension plan will be paid from the funds of the Firemen's Retirement System.

The bill provides that no expenses incurred by the Board in the administration of any other pension plan or in the investment of any other pension plan's funds will be paid by the funds of the Firemen's Retirement System.

These provisions are the same as SB 255 (2025) and similar to HB 205 (2025), HB 147 (2025), and HCS HB 532 (2025).

USE TAXES OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS (Section 144.757)

Currently, any county or municipality can, by a vote of its governing body, impose a local use tax if a local sales tax is imposed. This bill extends this authority to any taxing jurisdiction with the ability to impose a sales tax for emergency services.

This provision is similar to HCS HB 641 (2025).

AMBULANCE DISTRICTS (Sections 190.053, 190.076, 190.109, 190.112, and 190.166)

This bill modifies training requirements for members of an ambulance district board of directors. Board members are required to complete three hours of continuing education for each term of office. Failure to do so will result in immediate disqualification with the office remaining vacant until filled.

Each ambulance district must arrange for an audit of the district's records and accounts every three years by a certified public accountant. The audit will be made available to the public on the district's website or otherwise freely available by other electronic means.

The Department of Health and Senior Services, as a part of regulating ground ambulance service licenses, will promulgate rules regarding participation with regional emergency medical services advisory committees, and ambulance service administrator qualifications.

This bill requires ambulance services to report to the Department individuals serving as ambulance service administrators. Each administrator is required to complete at least 40 hours of training regarding the operations and staffing of the ambulance service and two hours of continuing education annually, as specified in the bill. Ambulance service administrators serving in this capacity as of August 28, 2025, will have until January 1, 2026, to demonstrate compliance with the provisions of this section.

The Department can refuse to issue, deny renewal of, or suspend a license required for ground ambulance services or take other corrective actions based on the following considerations:

(1) If the license holder is determined to be financially insolvent;

(2) The ambulance service has inadequate personnel to provide basic operations;

(3) The ambulance service requires an inordinate amount of mutual aid from neighboring services;

(4) The principal manager, board members, or other executives determined to be criminally liable for actions related to the license or service provided;

(5) The license holder has been determined to be ineligible for participation in Medicare or MO HealthNet;

(6) The ambulance district administrator has failed to meet the required qualifications or the required training; and

(7) If three or more board members have failed to complete required training.

If the Department makes a determination of insolvency or insufficiency of services, then the Department can require the license holder to submit and complete a corrective plan, as specified in the bill.

The Department is required to provide notice of any determination of insolvency or insufficiency of services to other license holders operating in the license holder's vicinity, members of the General Assembly who represent that area, other governing officials, the appropriate regional emergency medical services advisory committee, and the State Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services.

The Department must immediately engage with other license holders in the area to determine how ground ambulance services can be provided to the affected area during the service disruption. Assisting license holders can be compensated for the assistance, as specified in the bill.

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (Section 190.101)

The bill changes the number of council members from 16, to no more than 23 and updates the criteria for member appointment.

This bill changes the procedure for electing a chairperson by removing the designation of the chairperson by the Governor and instead requiring the council to select the chairperson annually or any other officer as deemed necessary. The appointment of council members are specified in the bill.

The bill also repeals a provision stating that the regional EMS advisory committees must serve as a resource for identifying potential members of the council.

This provision is the same as HCS HB 943 (2025) and similar to SCS SB 317 (2025), SB 548 (2025), SB 206 (2025), and SB 270 (2025).

#### GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICE (Section 190.800)

Currently, ground ambulance services owned and operated by an entity owned and operated by the State, including but not limited to, any hospital owned or operated by the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri, are exempt from the requirement to pay an ambulance service reimbursement allowance tax. This bill repeals this exemption.

This provision is the same as SB 629 (2025).

#### SPECIALTY HOSPITAL TRANSFER AGREEMENTS (Section 197.135)

This bill exempts specialty hospitals from certain provisions of State law relating to forensic examinations of victims of sexual assault if the hospital has a policy for the transfer of those individuals to an appropriate hospital with an emergency department.

#### FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE DISTRICT SALES TAX (Sections 321.552, 321.554, and 321.556)

Currently, upon voter approval, ambulance districts and fire protection districts are authorized to impose a sales tax of up to 0.5% in all counties with the exception of St. Louis, St. Charles, Clay, Platte, and Greene. An ambulance district or fire protection district imposing a sales tax authorized by this section must reduce any property tax levy imposed by the district or political subdivision for the purposes of providing ambulance and fire protection services such that the revenue generated by the property tax levy is offset in an amount equal to 50% of the amount of revenue generated by the sales tax imposed pursuant to this bill.

This bill increases the amount of the sales tax authorization to 1% and repeals statutory language prohibiting ambulance districts and fire protection districts in St. Louis, St. Charles, Clay, Platte, and Greene counties from submitting this tax authorization to voters.

These provisions are the same as SCS SB 33 (2025).

#### IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY FOR CIVIL DAMAGES (Section 537.038)

This bill provides that any person can, without compensation, render emergency care or assistance at the scene of an emergency or

accident without being liable for any civil damages, unless the damages are occasioned by gross negligence or willful or wanton acts or omissions.

This provision is similar to SB 521 (2025).