

1 AN ACT relating to emergency medical services.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 311A IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 (1) There is hereby established an emergency medical services education grant
6 program overseen by the board to increase the number of persons seeking
7 paramedic initial certification, provide more facilities for certification, and
8 encourage persons to be employed by Class I ground ambulance providers
9 located in Kentucky. The program shall consist of three (3) components:

10 (a) Student tuition support;

11 (b) Agency support; and

12 (c) Emergency medical services training or educational institution support.

13 (2) The student tuition support component shall be used for the training and
14 education of individuals seeking initial paramedic certification under this chapter
15 who are employed by a Class I ground ambulance provider. The tuition support
16 shall be paid periodically to the emergency medical services training or education
17 institution in which the person is enrolled seeking paramedic certification. The
18 board shall, at a minimum, promulgate administrative regulations on the
19 following aspects of this component:

20 (a) Time limits for the individual seeking initial paramedic certification to
21 complete certification and begin or continue service with a Class I ground
22 ambulance provider;

23 (b) Minimum service length requirements that may be imposed by the board, by
24 contract, or both, on the individual seeking initial paramedic certification;

25 (c) Uses of the funds, including but not limited to a prohibition against
26 spending funds on prerequisite courses not included in the core course
27 content of the paramedic certification program;

1 (d) Providing priority consideration for geographic areas that are underserved
2 in terms of paramedic coverage, including those with lower populations and
3 higher emergency medical response times, and for agencies that do not meet
4 national standards of minimum staffing levels or response times for the
5 dispatch of emergency medical care; and

6 (e) Any other aspect necessary to implement the student tuition support
7 component.

8 (3) The agency support component shall be used to reimburse Class I ground
9 ambulance providers the wages paid to an employee while the employee seeks
10 initial paramedic certification. The board shall, at a minimum, promulgate
11 administrative regulations on the following aspects of this component:

12 (a) Maximum reimbursement for each employee of a Class I ground
13 ambulance provider seeking initial paramedic certification;

14 (b) Maximum number of employees eligible for wage reimbursement within
15 each Class I ground ambulance provider; and

16 (c) Any other aspect necessary to implement the agency support component.

17 (4) The emergency medical services training or educational institution support
18 component shall be used to provide funding to existing and start-up emergency
19 medical service training and educational institutes that are certified or seeking
20 certification by the board and that offer or will offer initial education courses for
21 emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, and
22 paramedic programs. The board shall, at a minimum, promulgate administrative
23 regulations on the following aspects of this component:

24 (a) Grant ceilings per applicant;

25 (b) Applicant qualification priorities, including but not limited to those that are
26 nonprofit entities operating under KRS Chapter 273 and those that are
27 serving or plan to serve areas in need of improved emergency medical

1 service coverage;

2 (c) Time limits for commencing the classes or programs for which the grant
3 was sought;

4 (d) 1. Eligible costs, which shall include but not be limited to:

5 a. Computer and computer-related equipment and software;

6 b. Medical and training equipment, such as cardiac monitors,
7 defibrillators, mannequins, and other medical equipment,
8 personal protective gear, and durable emergency medical and
9 trauma education simulation equipment;

10 c. Personnel costs used in directly delivering the education
11 program; and

12 d. Services used in operating the program; and

13 2. Ineligible costs, which shall include but not be limited to:

14 a. Real property purchases or improvements;

15 b. Building construction, renovation, or maintenance;

16 c. Personnel costs not directly related to delivering the education
17 program, such as that related to educator training, including
18 travel and meals, and perquisites that are part of a compensation
19 package;

20 d. Lobbying; and

21 e. Uniforms and clothing; and

22 (e) Any other aspect necessary to implement the emergency medical services
23 training or educational institution support component.

24 (5) (a) There is established in the State Treasury a trust and agency account to be
25 known as the emergency medical services education grant fund.

26 (b) The fund shall be administered by the Kentucky Board of Emergency
27 Medical Services.

1 (c) The fund shall consist of state appropriations, contributions, donations, and
2 gifts.

3 (d) Amounts deposited in the fund shall be used for the purposes outlined
4 under this section.

5 (e) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, fund amounts not expended at the close of a
6 fiscal year shall not lapse but shall remain in the fund.

7 (f) Moneys deposited in the fund are hereby appropriated for the purposes set
8 forth in this section.

9 (6) The board shall administer the emergency medical services education grant
10 program. The board may cease any or all components of the program once the
11 desired goals have been achieved in the judgement of the board. The board shall
12 provide staffing for the program and may use moneys in the emergency medical
13 services education grant fund to do so. Staffing and administrative costs shall not
14 exceed five percent (5%) of the fund amount. The board may promulgate any
15 administrative regulations necessary, in addition to those listed in subsections (2)
16 to (4) of this section for its implementation and operation.