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HOUSE BILL NO. 56

INTRODUCED BY E. BUTTREY

BY REQUEST OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AMBULANCE PROVIDER ASSESSMENT FEE; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING AND DISTRIBUTING THE ASSESSMENT FEE; ALLOWING AUDITING OF AMBULANCE PROVIDER REPORTS AND PAYMENTS; ALLOWING FOR PENALTIES AND INTEREST; REQUIRING REVENUES GENERATED BY THE ASSESSMENT FEE TO BE USED FOR SUPPLEMENTING AMBULANCE PROVIDER MEDICAID PAYMENTS; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING A STATUTORY APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 17-7-502, MCA; PROVIDING FOR CONTINGENT VOIDNESS; AND PROVIDING A CONTINGENT EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Definitions.** As used in [sections 1 through 13], the following definitions

apply:

(1) "Air ambulance services" means ambulance services provided by aircraft as defined in 50-6-302.

~~(1)(2)~~ (a) "Ambulance provider" means a person licensed pursuant to 50-6-306 ~~to provide ground ambulance transport, including transport for a municipal fire or police department or other government entity.~~

(b) The term does not include:

(i) an entity that exclusively provides air ambulance services; ~~or~~

(ii) an entity operated by the United States, an Indian tribe, or any facility authorized under the

Indian Health Care Improvement Act; or

(iii) a public ambulance provider.

~~(2)(3)~~ "Assessment fee" means the ambulance provider assessment fee as provided in [section 2].

~~(3)(4)~~ "Department" means the department of revenue provided for in 2-15-1301.

Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Ed Buttrey - (H) Appropriations

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Julie Johnson,

HB0056.002.002

1 ~~(4)(5)~~ "Emergency ambulance services" means any service delivered by an ambulance provider other
2 than air ambulance services.

3 ~~(5)(6)~~ (a) "Net operating revenue" means gross revenue collected by ambulance providers for the
4 delivery of emergency ambulance services, minus amounts deducted for bad debt, charity care, and payer
5 discounts.

6 (b) The term does not include nonpatient service-related revenue.

7 ~~(7)~~ "Public ambulance provider" means an ambulance provider that is incorporated under Title 7.

8
9 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Ambulance provider assessment fee.** (1) Each ambulance provider
10 shall pay to the department a uniform assessment fee of 5.75% of net operating revenues.

11 (2) ~~The~~ AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION COSTS OF THE DEPARTMENT ARE DEDUCTED, THE department shall
12 deposit the REMAINING proceeds from collection of the assessment fee in the ambulance provider special
13 revenue account provided for in [section 14].

14
15 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Relation to other taxes and fees.** The assessment fee imposed under
16 [section 2] is, in addition to any other taxes and fees, required to be paid by ambulance providers.

17
18 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Rulemaking authority.** The department may adopt rules necessary to
19 administer [sections 1 through 13].

20
21 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Reporting and collection of assessment fee.** (1) On or before ~~March~~
22 ~~31~~ JUNE 30 each year, an ambulance provider shall file with the department a report of its net operating revenue
23 received during the previous calendar year. The report must be:

24 (a) in the form prescribed by the department; and

25 (b) accompanied by a payment in an amount equal to the assessment fee required to be paid
26 under [section 2].

27 (2) Revenue received for all emergency ambulance services provided during the calendar year
28 must be included in the calculation of the ambulance provider's net operating revenue regardless of the source