

Fair Compensation for Emergency Medical Services Workers

Today, the Board of Supervisors is considering the approval and adoption of an ordinance amending Title 7 of the Los Angeles County Code which will increase the limits on what private ambulance companies can charge for ground ambulance transportation and associated ancillary services, and modify the formula used to calculate annual increases in those rates, to mitigate the inflationary costs for these services. We acknowledge that during the COVID-19 pandemic, our economy experienced significant inflation, causing local private ground ambulance companies to face significant increases in their operation costs. When coupled with the limits on what they could charge for their medical transportation services, ground ambulance companies found it difficult to recruit and retain Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and EMT-Paramedics (EMT-Ps) in sufficient numbers.

At the same time, however, the County's local ordinance does not address wages for EMTs and EMT-Ps, who are on the frontline of our first responders and a critical part of the County's emergency medical services (EMS) system. The County

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recognizes that there are many factors that affect wages offered by ambulance company employers, but it is important to also acknowledge that qualified EMTs and EMT-Ps are similarly affected by nationwide inflation and it is in the interest of the County's EMS system to determine if some portion of the ground ambulance transportation rate increases can be dedicated to those salaries.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of the Department of Health Services, through the Emergency Medical Services Agency, in collaboration with County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office, and in consultation with the EMS Commission, labor, and impacted industries, report back in 120 days on the feasibility of further amending Title 7 to provide that a portion of the increased revenues resulting from the Title 7 amendments under consideration today be allocated toward private ground ambulance company-employed EMTs and EMT-Ps to facilitate their recruitment and retention.

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