

HR

7

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO:

Finance

FROM:

Chief Clerk

DATE:

5/14

SUBJECT:

Please return HR 7 and
CS 53 56 (Kut)

Wanted to Rules

House Resolution No. 7

Position Paper

House Resolution No. 7 relates to funding of the Emergency Medical Services System and calls on the Governor to include an annual permanent funding source for the Emergency Medical Services System in the state.

The Department of Health and Social Services has the following comments on this proposed resolution.

- 1) The department notes that there still is some federal funding for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System through the Alaska Area Native Health Service;
- 2) The department agrees that the state has a responsibility to provide some funding assistance for the statewide Emergency Medical Services System;
- 3) The department supports and values the contributions of the many emergency medical responders statewide, especially the volunteers;
- 4) The department agrees that provision of emergency medical service prehospital systems are the responsibilities of local and state government, but also notes that the Alaska Area Native Health Service shares in this responsibility;
- 5) The department agrees that the quality of service rendered to a victim of an emergency should be standardized throughout the communities of the state, depending on size and level of community as outlined in the Alaska EMS Goals document;
- 6) The department agrees that the State Emergency Medical Services Section, the Advisory Council on EMS, and the EMS Regions have in place and functioning a planning process for ambulance service operations, ambulance service personnel certification, and technical assistance to ambulance services and communities, as well as for other components of the EMS system;
- 7) The department does not necessarily agree that current methods of financial distribution for the Emergency Medical Services System inhibits compliance with AS 18.08, although the department acknowledges that some areas of the state have made more progress toward meeting the EMS Goals than other areas.
- 8) The department agrees that the EMS System is dependent on several funding sources and, in fact, the department over several years has encouraged local governments to provide more funding support for emergency medical services, and, furthermore, it has encouraged all ambulance services to generate their own revenues by collecting patient fees; and
- 9) The department already includes an ongoing funding source for the Emergency Medical Services program in its annual budget request.

The department also notes that there has been significant progress in developing Alaska's Emergency Medical Services System over the past decade, with more and better trained emergency medical responders; more continuing medical education opportunities for rural physicians, nurses, and mid-level practitioners; an expanded EMS Communications system; a developing aeromedical service system, with ten state certified air ambulance and medevac services; and three and one-half times as many organized ambulance services statewide, of which nearly sixty are state certified at either the Basic Life Support or Advanced Life Support level.

The Department of Health and Social Services supports the general intent of House Resolution No. 7, but it believes that an annual state funding source already is provided to the Emergency Medical Services System through funding of the State EMS Section and EMS Grants to Regions.

Recommended by: Elizabeth Ward
Elizabeth Ward, M.N.
Director
Division of Public Health

Date: April 28, 1987

Approved by: Myra M. Munson
Myra M. Munson
Commissioner
Dept. of Health & Social Services

Date: 4/29/87

Original sponsors: Koponen, Miller,
Gruenberg, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

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CS FOR HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7 (HESS)

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the funding of the emergenc

6

medical services system.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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WHEREAS federal grant funding for emergency medical services systems

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to promote and assist non-Alaska Native communities to upgrade prehospital

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emergency medical services has been dissolved; and

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WHEREAS Alaska has more than 2,570 volunteer emergency medical techni-

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cians working in more than 114 volunteer provider agencies; and

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WHEREAS the provision of emergency medical service prehospital care

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systems is a responsibility of local government, the Legislature, Alaska

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Native Health Services, and the administration; and

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WHEREAS the quality of service available to a victim of an emergency

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should be standardized throughout the state, with due regard for the size

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of the community and the level of service; and

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WHEREAS the planning process for ambulance service operation, ambu-

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lance service personnel certification, and technical assistance to ambu-

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lance services and communities is in place and functioning; and

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WHEREAS the Governor is responsible for the faithful execution of the

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laws; and

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WHEREAS Alaska law (AS 18.08) authorizes the adoption of regulations

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relating to certification and recertification of emergency medical techni-

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cians, emergency medical technician instructors, and ambulance and air

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ambulance services; and

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WHEREAS the Legislature is responsible for the promotion and protec-

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tion of public health and welfare; and

1 WHEREAS the state office of emergency medical services, division of
2 public health, Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for
3 the implementation of AS 18.08 to protect the public health and welfare;
4 and

5 WHEREAS the current level of funding and the uncertain distribution of
6 funds for the emergency medical services system inhibit compliance with
7 this law; and

8 WHEREAS the emergency medical services system is dependent on several
9 funding sources; and

10 WHEREAS the amount of money allocated to support the state's emergency
11 medical services system is insufficient to comply with the intent of
12 AS 18.08;

13 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully requests
14 that the Governor include an annual appropriation from identified funding
15 sources to provide a basic level of emergency medical services appropriate
16 to each community in the state.

Introduced: 4/17/87
 Referred: Health, Education &
 Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY KOPONEN, MILLER, GRUENBERG,
 CATO, ELLIS, COLLINS AND MENARD

2 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the funding of the Emergency
 6 Medical Services System.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

8 WHEREAS federal funding for Emergency Medical Services Systems to
 9 promote and assist Alaska communities to upgrade prehospital emergency
 10 medical services has been dissolved; and

11 WHEREAS Alaska has more than 2,570 volunteer emergency medical techni-
 12 cians working in more than 114 volunteer provider agencies; and

13 WHEREAS the provision of emergency medical service prehospital care
 14 systems is a responsibility of local government, the legislature, and the
 15 administration; and

16 WHEREAS the quality of service rendered to a victim of an emergency
 17 should be standardized throughout the communities of the state; and

18 WHEREAS the planning process for ambulance service operation, ambu-
 19 lance service manpower certification, and technical assistance to ambulance
 20 services and communities is in place and functioning; and

21 WHEREAS the Governor is responsible for the faithful execution of the
 22 laws; and

23 WHEREAS Alaska law (AS 18.08) authorizes the adoption of regulations
 24 relating to certification and recertification of emergency medical techni-
 25 cians, emergency medical technician instructors, and ambulances; and

26 WHEREAS the Legislature is responsible for the promotion and protec-
 27 tion of public health and welfare; and

28 WHEREAS the state Office of Emergency Medical Services, division of
 29 public health, Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for

1 the implementation of AS 18.08 to protect the public health and welfare;
2 and

3 WHEREAS the current methods of financial distribution for the Emer-
4 gency Medical Services System inhibit compliance with this law; and

5 WHEREAS the Emergency Medical Services System is dependent on several
6 funding sources;

7 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully requests
8 that the Governor include an annual permanent funding source for the Emer-
9 gency Medical Services System in the state.