

SESSION OF 2024

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 384**

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

**Brief\***

SB 384, as amended, would prohibit the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Board from requiring a vehicle providing emergency medical service in a city or county with a population of less than 50,000 to operate with more than the minimum personnel required by statute.

The bill also would make a technical amendment to clarify the personnel required on each vehicle providing emergency medical service.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Local Government at the request of a representative of the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM).

***Senate Committee on Local Government***

In the Senate Committee hearing on February 1, 2024, a representative of LKM provided **proponent** testimony, stating rules and regulations adopted by the EMS Board require a minimum of two medical certified staff on an ambulance, and rural communities especially face shortages of people serving as emergency medical staff. He noted the EMS Board offers 12-month waivers.

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Administrator of the North Central Kansas Medical Center (Concordia), a representative of the City of Concordia, and the President of the Kansas Legislative Policy Group.

The Executive Director of the EMS Board and representatives of the the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association, Kansas State Firefighters Association, and Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue provided **opponent** testimony, stating having only one medically certified person both driving an ambulance and also responsible for the patient would increase risk to patients and to providers. The EMS Board Executive Director described variances granted to five ambulance services from certain staffing requirements.

A representative of the American Heart Association provided written-only neutral testimony.

In the Senate Committee hearing on February 13, 2024, a representative of LKM described an amendment to which proponents had agreed.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to:

- Authorize the EMS Board to grant a permanent variance to any rule and regulation regarding minimum staffing on any emergency medical service vehicle; and
- Remove provisions that would have prohibited the EMS Board from requiring more staff on any emergency medical service vehicle than minimal staffing required by statute in a city or county with a population of less than 50,000. [*Note:* The populations of 10 Kansas counties and 9 Kansas cities exceed 50,000, according to a 2022

American Community Survey estimate provided to the Senate Committee.]

### ***House Committee on Local Government***

In the House Committee hearing on March 13, 2024, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Droge and representatives of the EMS Board, Kansas EMS Association, and League of Kansas Municipalities. The proponents generally stated that the bill would address an issue that has existed for five to six years and does so while providing flexibility to rural communities without compromising the oversight responsibilities of the EMS Board.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Legislative Policy Group who identified himself as a Meade County Commissioner.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the American Heath Association. The representative urged for the consideration of additional tools such as training 911 operators in telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation in order to increase the survival rate of individuals suffering cardiac arrest in rural areas.

No other testimony was provided.

### ***House Committee of the Whole***

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to:

- Remove the provision granting permanent variance authority to the EMS Board; and
- Reinstate the provision prohibiting the EMS Board from requiring more staff on any emergency medical service vehicle than minimal staffing

required by statute in a city or county with a population of less than 50,000.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the EMS Board indicated enactment would result in fee fund expenditures of \$290,000 in FY 2025, and \$280,00 in FY 2026 to support 3.0 new full-time equivalent analyst positions, who would review eligibility for operating with only one staff member. The State Board of Healing Arts indicated enactment of the bill would not have an effect on its operations. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

LKM and the Kansas Association of Counties indicated the bill would reduce emergency medical service staffing costs for local governments.

Emergency medical service; ambulance; variance from rule and regulation