



TACIR INSIGHT

TENNESSEE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
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IMPROVING TENNESSEE'S AMBULANCE SERVICES THROUGH INCREASED FUNDING, COLLABORATION, AND TRAINING

Background

Public Chapter 413, Acts of 2025, directed the commission to study the economic impact on counties that are required to provide ambulance services, which counties provide services directly or franchise those services, which municipalities provide ambulance services, and whether policy changes may benefit the overall health and delivery of ambulance services in this state. Additionally, the Act directed the commission to study emergency and non-emergency transport reimbursement including from commercial payers, Medicare, Medicaid, and the way counties and municipalities fund the deficit at which these services operate.

Findings and Recommendations

The commission finds that all 95 counties provide ambulance services as required, and the cost of providing ambulances services continues to grow. Eleven cities provide their own ambulance services, while others voluntarily assist their county's ambulance service either directly via funding agreements or in-kind contributions. Senate Bill 160 by Senator Hensley and House Bill 83 by Representative Capley (114th General Assembly) would have required a municipality that does not provide ambulance service to reimburse the county for such service in proportion to the percentage of the county's population housed within the city, up to 50% of the service's total cost. **The commission**

- **does not recommend Senate Bill 160 and House Bill 83 as originally filed but instead encourages counties and cities to continue exploring mutually beneficial avenues to share costs and improve ambulance services;**
- **recommends the General Assembly make funding for the equipment grant recurring; and**
- **encourages ambulance services to explore opportunities for increasing revenue and reducing costs of their operations.**

The commission also finds that there are opportunities to improve access to training for emergency service personnel.

See TACIR's full report at the following link for additional information:

<https://www.tn.gov/tacir/tacir-publications.html>.