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S.F. No. 3886 – Establishing Emergency Ambulance Service Onetime Aid (as proposed to be amended by A-5)

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SF 3886 (as proposed to be amended by A-5) establishes a onetime aid program for licensed ambulance service providers.

Section 1—Emergency Ambulance Service Aid

Subdivision 1. Definitions. Defines the following terms: ambulance service, board, capital expenses, commissioner, EMS responses, licensed ambulance service provider, operational expenses, primary service area, response density, and unit of government.

Subdivision 2. Excluded services. Requires the commissioner to exclude responses by specialized life support when calculating EMS responses, response density, and aid payments under this section.

Subdivision 3. Multiple licenses. Establishes that when a licensed ambulance service provider (or parent company, subsidiary, or subsidiary to parent company) holds one more licenses, the commissioner must treat all related licensed ambulance service providers as a single provider for the purposes of calculating EMS responses, response density, and aid payments. Applies only to licensed ambulance service providers that hold one or more licenses and are mainly located with the seven metropolitan counties or are partially within Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, Rochester, or St. Cloud.

Subdivision 4. Eligibility. Provides that, except where otherwise specified, a licensed ambulance service provider is eligible for aid if the provider possessed a license in 2022, continues to operate under license in 2024, and completes the application requirements under subdivision 5.

Subdivision 5. Application Process. Authorizes the commissioner to establish an application process for eligible ambulance service providers to apply for aid and to require

applicants to submit any necessary information to calculate aid payments. Applicant must submit application to the commissioner of revenue and provide a copy of the application to the executive director of the Emergency Medical Services Review Board by September 16, 2024.

Subdivision 6. Commissioner calculations. Requires the commissioner to calculate the following aid amounts for each eligible licensed ambulance service provider:

- 20 percent of the total aid appropriation, distributed equally among all eligible licensed ambulance service providers. An eligible provider qualifies for this aid unless they are (1) mainly located within the seven metropolitan counties or partially located within the city of Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, Rochester, or St. Cloud; and (2) have a response density of greater than 30 responses per square mile.
- 40 percent of the total aid appropriation, distributed among all eligible licensed ambulance service providers proportionally to the size of their primary service areas. Requires an eligible ambulance service provider to have a response density of 30 or fewer to qualify for this aid.
- 40 percent of total aid appropriation, distributed among all eligible licensed ambulance service providers proportionally using a point system that awards points based on number of EMS responses. Requires an eligible ambulance service provider to have a response density of 30 or fewer to qualify for this aid.

Subdivision 7. Aid amount. Requires the commissioner to pay each eligible licensed ambulance service provider an aid amount equal to the sum of the amounts calculated under subdivision 6.

Subdivision 8. Eligible Uses. Requires that a licensed ambulance service provider spend aid on operational and capital expenses incurred providing services within the primary service area that is located in Minnesota.

Subdivision 9. Administration. Requires the commissioner to certify aid amounts by December 1, 2024 and to make full aid payments by December 26, 2024. Funds not spent or encumbered for eligible uses by December 31, 2025 must be returned to the commissioner.

Subdivision 10. Report. Requires each licensed ambulance service provider that received aid to submit a report by February 15, 2026 to the commissioner and to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over taxes and property taxes. Specifies required items in the report. Authorizes the commissioner to request necessary information to verify aid was spent on eligible uses.

Subdivision 11. Appropriation. Appropriates an amount sufficient to make aid payments in fiscal year 2025, not to exceed \$120,000,000, to the commissioner from the general fund. Allows the commissioner to retain up to \$60,000 for administrative costs.

This section is effective for aids payable in 2024.