

**Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary**

Bill No. H4120
Title: *An Act to declare emergency medical services an essential service*
Sponsor: Representative Leigh Davis
Committee: Public Health
Hearing Date: June 25, 2025
Similar Matters: None
Prior History: New file
Reporting Deadline: August 24, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 29** pertains to state finance.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 111C** pertains to the statewide emergency medical services system.

Summary:

This bill establishes the EMS Essential Service Fund to provide financial support for all types of EMS agencies in the commonwealth, designates EMS as an essential service in MA and requires EMS agencies to be prioritized in state and local planning, funding and resource allocation efforts.

SECTION 1 amends M.G.L. Chapter 29 by inserting a new section, Section 2KKKKKK.

Section 2KKKKKK:

Subsection (a) defines “commissioner” and “department” for the purposes of Section 2KKKKKK.

Subsection (b) establishes the EMS Essential Service Fund to provide financial support for all types of EMS agencies in the commonwealth. The fund is to be administered by the commissioner of public health.

Subsection (c) identifies the revenues that shall be credited to the EMS Essential Service Fund:

- Revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund;
- Interest earned on money in the fund;
- Contributions from private sector entities; and
- Federal grants and other gifts, grants and donations for the support of EMS.

Subsection (d) requires the secretary to make expenditures from the fund, including, but not limited to, for the following purposes:

- Operational costs;
- Training and certification programs for EMS personnel;
- Investments in underserved or high-need areas to address disparities in service availability; and
- Incentives and technical assistance for emergency and medical service agencies that adopt shared services models.

Subsection (e) makes all EMS agencies receiving funding subject to regular audits to ensure compliance with state standards and effective use of resources.

Subsection (f) requires DPH to submit an annual report on the activity of the fund no later than December 31 to the chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Health, the chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, the chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and the clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SECTION 2 amends M.G.L. Chapter 111C by inserting a new section, Section 26.

Section 26:

Subsection (a) defines “office” as the Office of Emergency Medical Services under the Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality within DPH for this section.

Subsection (b) designates EMS as an essential service in MA and requires EMS agencies to be prioritized in state and local planning, funding and resource allocation efforts.

Subsections (c) - (e) require the Office of Emergency Medical Services to develop and publish statewide standards to ensure consistent delivery of high-quality EMS and outline the required standards to be developed. The Office of Emergency Medical Services must collaborate with regional and local EMS agencies to identify service gaps and implement measures to address disparities in EMS availability and quality. Additionally, the Office of Emergency Medical Services must encourage and support regionalization efforts among EMS agencies to improve efficiency and resource utilization.

Subsection (f) requires that funding for this section be provided by the EMS Essential Service Fund.

Subsection (g) requires the Office of Emergency Medical Services to establish an advisory committee to guide EMS development and implementation in the commonwealth and outlines membership. The advisory committee must meet at least quarterly to review progress and recommend strategies for improving EMS in the commonwealth.

Subsection (h) makes all EMS agencies receiving funding subject to regular audits to ensure compliance with state standards and effective use of resources.

Subsection (i) requires the Office of Emergency Medical Services to prepare an annual report in consultation with DPH. The report must be submitted by December 31 of each calendar year to the chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Health, the chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, the chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and the clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The report must include:

- The status of EMS, including funding needs and workforce challenges;

- An evaluation of the effectiveness in improving access to EMS care;
- An analysis of cost savings and financial sustainability;
- Data collected from EMS agencies; and
- Any recommendations for the expansion of EMS.