

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 28, 2022

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Martin, Vice Chairman Riggs, Senators Heider, Lee, VanOrden (Bair), Zito, Stennett, and Wintrow

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Harris

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Martin** called to order the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) at 3:01 p.m.

H 561 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - Amends existing law to provide for uses of moneys in the Emergency Medical Services Fund III. Representative Rubel** introduced herself to the Committee. She stated there is an EMS III fund which was funded by a small surcharge on drivers licenses. The fund was only to be used for ambulances and equipment. **Representative Rubel** reported the greatest pressure was personnel who were usually volunteers and the need to train them also for dispatch and software costs. **Mike McGrane** introduced himself to the Committee. He provided background of the fund and detailed the changes requested on **H 561**. (see Attachment 1)

TESTIMONY: **Bill Arsenault**, Fire Chief and Ambulance Director, Kamiah Fire-Rescue introduced himself to the Committee. He testified for passage of this bill. (see Attachment 2)

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** asked about medical services being covered at the county level. **Mr. Arsenault** responded that some counties provided that service through an ambulance taxing district but that was not done in his area. He stated they were fee for service which is provided through the city. **Senator Wintrow** inquired about a state answer for funding. **Mr. Arsenault** responded that use of the budget surplus would be beneficial. **Senator VanOrden** asked about the \$140,000 cap for a vehicle. **Mr. Arsenault** replied that the cap was increased this year to \$185,000 but when he recently spoke to a vendor the cost to purchase was at \$225,000 which would put them \$40,000 short. **Senator VanOrden** asked if they would buy an ambulance if they had the full funding. **Mr. Arsenault** responded yes but it would not work without the staffing. **Senator VanOrden** inquired about reservations paying for services. **Mr. Arsenault** reported that some provided reimbursement money or had set up their own services but some do not do either. He stated that EMS treated everyone regardless of where they were located.

TESTIMONY: **Bill Spencer**, rural EMS, introduced himself to the Committee. He provided background on the 400 square miles that his responders covered. Mr. Spencer stated his support for the bill with 1 caveat being that at least 60% be kept for equipment.

VOTE: **Senator Stennett** moved to send **H 561** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Nelson will carry on the floor.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Heider** moved to approve the Minutes of February 1, 2022. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES
APPROVAL:**

Senator Lee moved to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2022. **Senator Riggs** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Martin** adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Senator Martin
Chair

Lena Amoah
Secretary