

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF  
3 HEALTH AND WELFARE DEVELOP DRAFT LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A STATEWIDE  
4 PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND FUNDING SYSTEM FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SER-  
5 VICES.

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 WHEREAS, emergency medical services (EMS) are an essential pillar of a  
8 well-functioning health system that can provide a range of services, includ-  
9 ing life-saving treatment for acute illnesses and injuries, patient trans-  
10 port, and community health outreach and follow-up; and

11 WHEREAS, the existence of a reliable EMS response throughout Idaho is  
12 vital to the well-being of all those who live, work, and recreate in Idaho;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Idaho does not have a statewide EMS planning, coordination,  
15 and funding system that ensures reasonable availability of EMS throughout  
16 the state; and

17 WHEREAS, EMS in Idaho's rural communities is often provided by volun-  
18 teer personnel; and

19 WHEREAS, demand for EMS is rapidly increasing across the state due  
20 to population growth, changing demographics, and increasing travel and  
21 tourism; and

22 WHEREAS, the rising cost of meeting increased EMS demand and readiness  
23 for residents and visitors is exceeding the resources and capabilities of  
24 local EMS agencies across the state, especially in rural areas served by vol-  
25 unteer EMS personnel; and

26 WHEREAS, the Legislature requested that the Office of Performance Eval-  
27 uations (OPE) study the availability of EMS in rural Idaho in 2010 and 2020,  
28 resulting most recently in OPE's 2021 report, "Volunteer Providers of Emer-  
29 gency Medical Services"; and

30 WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Welfare convened the EMS Sus-  
31 tainability Task Force in June 2022 to seek policy solutions that provide a  
32 sustainable EMS system capable of appropriate, reliable response to medical  
33 emergencies throughout Idaho.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
35 sion of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of  
36 Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature requests that the  
37 Department of Health and Welfare continue to convene the EMS Sustainability  
38 Task Force and, in cooperation with the Legislative Services Office, draft  
39 legislation for the 2024 regular legislative session that recognizes EMS as  
40 an essential service and establishes a statewide EMS planning, coordina-  
41 tion, and funding system to ensure reasonable availability of EMS across the  
42 state.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that the Depart-  
2           ment of Health and Welfare facilitate planning activities with county offi-  
3           cials to develop proposed EMS operational plans for each county that support  
4           the findings of the EMS Sustainability Task Force and identify current capa-  
5           bilities, proposed response structures, and resource needs.