

February 13, 2019

SB 83 – Increasing the credit to the EMS revolving fund from district court fines, penalties and forfeitures.

*Joseph House, Paramedic
Executive Director
Emergency Medical Services Board*

Proponent Testimony

Chairman Wilborn and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 83.

SB 83 provides a much needed increase in the amount credited to the EMS revolving fund and restores that amount closer to the its original intent. This increased amount will assist in making EMS equipment available in underserved and under-resourced areas of our state by minimizing the amount of capital outlay an agency must secure in order to purchase equipment and/or to provide regional education and training.

The annual program whereby these funds are disbursed requires the applicant to demonstrate the need for the equipment and/or training as well as the intended benefit of that expenditure for their patients as well as the service's community.

Since FY2009, we have seen a significant decline in not only the total amount remitted to the state (19.6% reduction), but also a disproportionately decreased amount disbursed to the EMS revolving fund (28.2% reduction). This is due, in part, to reductions in the percentage disbursed – FY2011 from 2.50% to 2.28% and in FY2018 from 2.28% to 2.23%.

The 0.7% increase in the disbursement percentage proposed in SB 83 is estimated to bring the total dollar amount credited to the EMS revolving fund closer to the annual \$500,000 that was the original intent behind creation.

The Emergency Medical Services Board believes that this fund and grant program have provided an opportunity for Kansas EMS services to obtain equipment that they would have had no other financial means to obtain. We strongly believe that this has led to:

- services providing clinically appropriate, evidence-based patient care in the EMS setting;
- services consistently providing a higher quality of patient care; and
- services having the opportunity to better utilize advances in medical technology as well as crew and patient safety.

We have provided a brief history and overview of the EMS revolving fund on the back side of this page as well as some additional detail upon the grant program this fund supports.

We urge your support of SB 83 and its favorable passage.

We appreciate your time and consideration. I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

History and Overview of EMS Revolving Fund

In 2007, SB 8 revised K.S.A. 74-7336 to establish the EMS revolving fund. The credit to this fund supports an annual program primarily designed to provide financial assistance to Kansas EMS agencies and organizations in purchasing EMS equipment as well as to assist in regional education and training. This annual program is called the KBEMS Revolving Grant Fund.

In December of each year, ambulance services are given an opportunity to complete and submit a grant application demonstrating the need for the equipment and/or training requested as well as the intended benefit to the community for that equipment and/or training. In addition to this information, applicants also provide what percentage, if any, their organization is willing to share in the cost of the equipment.

Beginning in FY2017 and in an effort to stretch these funds further, the Board chose to place a capped limit on some of the more frequently requested items, as well as a minimum local match amount of 25% for some items, and sought out bids from the vendors for larger dollar items, such as cardiac monitors, automatic CPR devices, and cots/stretchers.

Consistent since FY2014, the Emergency Medical Services Board averages 59 complete applications annually averaging a total of \$1.36M in equipment requests. On average, 75% of the grants are awarded to ambulance services in frontier, rural, or densely-settled rural areas of our state.

In FY2019, the Emergency Medical Services Board received 63 complete applications requesting a total of \$1.55M in equipment. We are projecting approx. \$385,060 available to award this year's recipients.

EMS Revolving Fund (K.S.A. 74-7336)

(as of February 5, 2019)

Fiscal Year	% Disbursement	Amount Received	Total Fines Remitted (Calculated from amount received)
2009	2.50%	\$ 536,961.00	\$ 21,478,440.00
2010	2.50%	\$ 492,954.00	\$ 19,718,160.00
2011	2.28%	\$ 449,780.00	\$ 19,727,192.98
2012	2.28%	\$ 438,033.00	\$ 19,211,973.68
2013	2.28%	\$ 419,376.00	\$ 18,393,684.21
2014	2.28%	\$ 397,406.00	\$ 17,430,087.72
2015	2.28%	\$ 391,310.00	\$ 17,162,719.30
2016	2.28%	\$ 390,856.41	\$ 17,142,825.00
2017	2.28%	\$ 385,812.00	\$ 16,921,578.95
2018	2.23%	\$ 395,064.00	\$ 17,715,874.44
2019 (YTD)	2.23%	\$ 224,620.00	\$ 10,072,645.74
2019 (Est.)	2.23%	\$ 385,060.00	\$ 17,267,264.57

2019 estimate assumes continued disbursements equal to the average amount disbursed over the 1st seven months of the fiscal year.