

CHAPTER 63**(HCR 89)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to establish a task force to study the long-term funding needs for emergency medical services.

WHEREAS, ambulance services are funded through a variety of sources, including private pay, Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, and local and state funds; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is the payor source for nearly fifty percent of ambulance services; and

WHEREAS, Medicare in Kentucky is administered by AdminaStar; and

WHEREAS, ambulance services across the Commonwealth are experiencing a financial crisis related to the denial of claims or the failure to process claims in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, AdminaStar takes up to a year to process claim appeals from the ambulance services; and

WHEREAS, Medicare owes more than \$15 million in ambulance claims filed by ambulance providers in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, when ambulance services experiences a financial deficit, county and city governments often must provide funds to cover the deficit; and

WHEREAS, the deficit may be greater than the budgeted funds for ambulance services and could create financial crises for local governments; and

WHEREAS, the financial crisis has led to one ambulance service closing, and several others have filed a notice of intent to close; and

WHEREAS, the current financial crisis that ambulance services are experiencing is threatening the public health and safety of the citizens in many counties of the Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is directed to establish a task force to study the need for long-term funding of emergency medical services in the Commonwealth. The task force shall have the following responsibilities:

- (1) Identify funding necessary to provide emergency medical services across the state, including funds for education, administration, equipment, and services;
- (2) Identify sources of immediate funding for ambulance services;
- (3) Identify sources of long-term funding for emergency medical services and programs;
- (4) Identify deficits in funding for ambulance services; and
- (5) Identify strategies to ensure that governmental payors and private insurers adequately cover ambulance services;

Section 2. The President of the Senate shall appoint three (3) members of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall appoint three (3) members of the House of Representatives. The President of the Senate shall appoint one (1) legislative member as a co-chair, and the Speaker of

the House shall appoint one (1) legislative member as a co-chair of the task force. In addition to the legislative members, the task force shall consist of the following members, one-half of which, in each of the following categories, shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and one-half of which shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

(1) Two (2) mayors of cities that operate, either directly or through contract services, a licensed ambulance service;

(2) Two (2) county judges/executive from counties that operate, either directly or through contract services, a licensed ambulance service;

(3) Four (4) administrators of licensed Class I ground ambulance services; and

(4) Two (2) representatives of private insurance companies that provide coverage for ambulance services.

The membership shall also consist of the following members:

(1) The chairman of the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services;

(2) The executive director of the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services; and

(3) An individual designated by the Kentucky Ambulance Providers Association.

Section 3. The task force shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations no later than September 1, 2001, to the Legislative Research Commission.

Section 4. Provisions of this resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study completion date.

Approved March 15, 2001