

1 AN ACT relating to nonprofit emergency medical services and making an
2 appropriation therefor.

3 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

4 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 273 IS CREATED TO
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 *(1) If an entity created under the provisions of this chapter is authorized by law to*
7 *collect membership charges or subscriber fees for the provision of emergency*
8 *medical services, not in conjunction with a fire department created under the*
9 *provisions of this chapter, the legislative body of the city or county where the*
10 *entity is located may require those elective, annual membership charges or*
11 *subscriber fees to be added to property tax bills. The county clerk shall add the*
12 *annual membership charges or subscriber fees to the tax bills of the affected*
13 *property owners.*

14 *(2) The membership charges or subscriber fees shall be collected and distributed by*
15 *the sheriff to the appropriate entities in the same manner as the other taxes on*
16 *the bill and unpaid fees or charges shall bear the same penalty as general state*
17 *and county taxes. This shall be a lien on the property against which it is levied*
18 *from the time of the levy. The legislative body of the city or county where the*
19 *entity is located shall, in consultation with the sheriff and the governing body of*
20 *the entity, set a collection fee for the sheriff to retain an amount not to exceed*
21 *four and one-fourth percent (4.25%) of the membership charges or subscriber*
22 *fees collected.*

23 *(3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, annual membership*
24 *charges and subscriber fees shall not be added to the property tax bills of property*
25 *owners within a territory that lies within the corporate limits of a city or that lies*
26 *within a fire protection district or volunteer fire protection district established*
27 *pursuant to KRS 75.010 to 75.080, offering emergency medical services, or*

1 ambulance service district established pursuant to KRS 108.080 to 108.180,
2 without the written approval of the governing body of the city or the district.

3 (4) A property holder within the boundaries of an entity may elect to opt out of
4 payment of the membership charges or subscriber fee. To opt out of payment the
5 property holder shall send a letter, return receipt requested, to the mailing
6 address of the entity receiving the membership charge or subscriber fee, no later
7 than October 30 of that tax year, stating the desire of the property holder to opt
8 out of any membership charge or subscriber fee. The entity shall, no later than
9 December 15 of that tax year, provide a list of property holders wishing to opt out
10 of payment to the sheriff.

11 (5) The entity shall respond within its jurisdiction to all incidents for which it is
12 responsible as set forth in its mission statement. The entity shall levy no charge
13 for the provision of services to any subscriber to the entity's services. Persons
14 receiving services from the entity that have not paid a subscriber fee shall be
15 billed by the entity for the services provided. The amount of the fee to be charged
16 shall be determined by a fee schedule established by the Kentucky Board of
17 Emergency Medical Services, through the promulgation of administrative
18 regulations. The billing schedule shall take into account both the services
19 provided by an entity and the level of licensure of the personnel providing the
20 service. Recipients of Medicare who are not subscribers shall be billed a fee of no
21 more than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) for any services rendered by the entity
22 providing the services.

23 ➔Section 2. KRS 67.327 is amended to read as follows:

24 (1) If a county fire department or a nonprofit entity providing emergency medical
25 services operating under the provisions of Section 1 of this Act is authorized by
26 law to collect membership charges or subscriber fees for combating fires or serving
27 in other emergencies, the fiscal court may adopt an ordinance to require those

1 annual membership charges or subscriber fees to be added to property tax bills. In
2 any county where the fiscal court has adopted such an ordinance, the county clerk
3 shall add the annual membership charges or subscriber fees to the tax bills of the
4 affected property owners.

5 (2) The membership charges or subscriber fees shall be collected and distributed by the
6 sheriff to the appropriate fire departments and nonprofit entities in the same
7 manner as the other taxes on the bill and unpaid fees or charges shall bear the same
8 penalty as general state and county taxes. This shall be a lien on the property against
9 which it is levied from the time of the levy. In the case of nonprofit entities
10 providing emergency medical services, those property owners who have opted out
11 of paying the fee shall not be held liable for the membership charges or fees.

12 ➔Section 3. KRS 95.018 is amended to read as follows:

13 (1) If a city fire department or a nonprofit entity providing emergency medical
14 services operating under the provisions of Section 1 of this Act is authorized by
15 law to collect membership charges or subscriber fees for combatting fires or serving
16 in other emergencies, the city legislative body may adopt an ordinance to require
17 those annual membership charges or subscriber fees to be added to property tax
18 bills. In any city where the legislative body has adopted such an ordinance, the
19 county clerk shall add the annual membership charges or subscriber fees to the tax
20 bills of the affected property owners.

21 (2) The membership charges or subscriber fees shall be collected and distributed by the
22 sheriff to the appropriate fire departments in the same manner as the other taxes on
23 the bill and unpaid fees or charges shall bear the same penalty as general state and
24 county taxes. This shall be a lien on the property against which it is levied from the
25 time of the levy. In the case of nonprofit entities providing emergency medical
26 services, those property owners who have opted out of paying the fee shall not be
27 held liable for the membership charges or fees.