

**Local Government Mandate Statement  
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission  
2025 Regular Session**

**Part I: Measure Information**

<b>Bill Request #:</b>	1000	<b>Bill #:</b>	HB 343
<b>Document ID #:</b>	2154	<b>Sponsor:</b>	Representative Mark Allen Hart
<b>Bill Title:</b>	AN ACT relating to emergency medical services.		

Unit of Government:     City                             County                             Urban-County  
                                   Charter County             Consolidated Local         Unified Local

Office(s) Impacted:    Local Governments; EMS Services

Requirement:             Mandatory             Optional

Effect on Powers & Duties:     Modifies Existing     Adds New     Eliminates Existing

Other Fiscal Statement(s) that may exist:     Actuarial Analysis             Corrections Impact  
     Health Benefit Mandate     State Employee Health Plan

**Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government**

HB 343 would establish the EMS Professionals Foundation Program Fund to provide financial support to emergency medical services (EMS) professionals and ambulance services in Kentucky. It would define eligible ambulance services, EMS professionals, and work schedules, specifying that full-time EMS professionals would need to meet education, training, and legal compliance requirements to qualify for funding. The fund would consist of state appropriations, insurance premium surcharge proceeds, and other potential sources, and a board would administer it by determining eligibility and distributing payments. Eligible EMS professionals would receive an annual supplement of \$4,800, paid in monthly installments, with pension contributions included. If state funding is insufficient to cover all employer pension contributions, the available funds will be prorated among eligible ambulance services, ensuring that each receives the same percentage of their required pension costs. The supplement would be excluded from scheduled overtime calculations but would be included for unscheduled overtime. The bill would also allow reimbursement from the fund for out-of-pocket mental health treatment costs related to work-induced PTSD. Eligible ambulance services would need

to provide 911 emergency response, employ at least two full-time EMS professionals, meet wage and training requirements, and comply with state regulations. The board would oversee the fund's administration, with annual administrative costs capped at 5% of total funds.

Sections 5 and 7 of HB 343 would amend KRS 42.190 and 136.392 to authorize insurance premium surcharge fees to be allocated to the EMS Professionals Foundation Program fund.

Section 6 would amend KRS 61.315 to include eligibility for in the line of duty death benefits to specified ambulance service providers as defined in Section 1.

**HB 343 is expected to have a positive fiscal impact on local EMS Services that would receive new money from the Fund to be used to increase employee pay and help pay for pension contributions.**

There may be some small administrative costs associated with keeping track of these funds and ensuring compliance with eligibility criteria in the bill and any regulations that are yet to be promulgated. There may also be an improvement in employee retention due to increased pay, which would reduce hiring costs.

Under HB 343, the \$4,800 provided to EMS professionals from the fund is a supplement and is not classified as wages. The legislation does not govern how local governments set or adjust EMS wages.

According to the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA), the estimated number of individuals potentially affected by HB 343 as of June 30, 2023 are 1,248 full-time EMS professionals earning benefits in the County Employees Retirement Systems (CERS) (683 Hazardous and 565 Nonhazardous) administered by KPPA. A slight increase in benefits will occur due to the additional \$4,800 in annual creditable compensation that members in these positions will receive. The estimated change in employer costs would be de minimis, as the number of EMS members and modest increase in pensionable earnings are small in relation to total membership and payroll in the plan. KPPA's independent actuary previously conducted an actuarial analysis for House Bill 416 (2024 RS BR 147), a materially similar bill, which confirms the statements above.

**Data Source(s):** KY Board of Emergency Medical Services; Kentucky Public Pensions Authority; LRC Staff

**Preparer:** AS **Reviewer:** MS (MDA) **Date:** 2/14/25