

House Bill No. 849

An act relating to Pinellas County; amending chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida, as amended; increasing the number of members of the Emergency Medical Services Authority required for a quorum from three to four; correcting terminology; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 1 of chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 1. There is hereby created a countywide Emergency Medical Services Authority, hereinafter called the "authority." The governing body of the authority and its membership shall be the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County. Four ~~Three~~ members of the authority shall constitute a quorum. The Chairperson of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council shall be an ex officio ~~ex-officio~~ member of the authority without voting privileges. The authority shall keep a record of its transactions, resolutions, findings, determinations, recommendations and orders, which record shall be a public record.

Section 2. Subsection (9) of section 2 of chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida, as amended by 89-424, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

(9) To establish uniform standards which shall be equal to or stricter than those provided in Chapter 401, Florida Statutes, insofar as it relates to Emergency Medical Services and the Department of Health and ~~Rehabilitative Services~~ EMS Rules, Chapter 10D-66, as they exist and may hereafter be amended and to provide for the enforcement of same. The authority has the power to establish levels of service for all emergency medical services that must be met by EMS providers; provided that levels of service on or after the effective date of this act may not be lower than levels of service as of January 1, 1989, without the consent of the affected EMS providers; and provided further that an EMS provider may not be required to increase its level of service to a level of service established by the authority that results in the authority reducing the payment of reimbursable costs to EMS providers because the total reimbursable costs would exceed the 1.5 millage authorized by this act.

Section 3. Section 3 of chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapter 89-424, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 3. The authority shall make provision for EMS in any designated districts. This may be done on a contract management basis where new services are to be provided. However, where EMS are already being provided, full reimbursement shall be made by the authority to the EMS provider for the reasonable and customary cost of said services, such cost to be defined by the authority. The firm receiving said management contract will operate under the direction of the EMS medical director, carrying out such

policies and programs as the authority deems necessary. In determining reimbursable costs pursuant to this section, where EMS are already being provided, the authority may take into consideration the standards and levels of service established pursuant to section 2 and may reimburse the EMS providers for reasonable actual costs incurred in providing EMS in accordance with the standards and levels of service established by the authority. However, neither the authority nor the Board of County Commissioners may be required to pay or budget for the payment of reimbursable costs to the EMS providers if that payment would cause the annual budget of the authority to exceed the 1.5 millage authorized by this article act. If budget requests approved by the authority for the new fiscal year exceed the total estimated revenue available, including ad valorem tax revenue generated by 1.5 mills, the authority shall:

(1) Calculate the percentage of each provider's share of the total requested and approved increases in the authority's budget for the new fiscal year.

(2) Calculate the revenue available for funding increases by subtracting the approved authority budget for the current fiscal year from the total estimated revenue available for the new fiscal year.

(3) Multiply the percentage calculated in subsection (1) for each provider requesting an increase, by the amount calculated in subsection (2), and add the resulting amount to that provider's approved budget for the current fiscal year. This amount will be the total budgeted for that provider for the new fiscal year.

Section 4. Section 5 of chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 5. There is hereby also created an Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, hereinafter called "the Council," to consist of no fewer than ~~15~~ fifteen (15) nor more than ~~24~~ twenty-four (24) members. Members shall be proposed by the present EMS Advisory Council and ratified by the authority. Members shall constitute a broad spectrum of County representation and shall include members of the emergency medical services system and four ~~(4)~~ mayors (or each mayor's designee, who shall be an elected official from the respective city) to be appointed by the Pinellas County Council of Mayors. The term of appointment shall be for ~~2~~ two years; however, there is no limit on the number of terms an individual may serve. The Director of Civil Emergency Medical Services for Pinellas County shall be a nonvoting non-voting member of the Council. It shall be the responsibility of this Council to evaluate the County's emergency medical services system from a qualitative point of view, to review the operation of EMS on a county-wide basis, to recommend requirements and programs for the contract management firm and monitor performance of same, to review and evaluate studies commissioned by the authority upon the authority's request, and to make such recommendations as may be necessary to the authority on needs, problems and opportunities ~~opportunities~~ relating to emergency medical services, including the financing and establishment of a trauma center or centers, and to carry out such other duties as may be required to ensure ~~insure~~ the delivery of good, countywide EMS at reasonable cost.

Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 30, 2001.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 30, 2001.