
1 An act relating to Pinellas County; amending chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida, as
2 amended; requiring that effective October 1, 2012 the Authority consolidate existing
3 ALS services with fire based medical transport and equalize funding among EMS
4 Providers by adopting a funding formula based on average actual costs, providing an
5 effective date.

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

7 **Section 1.** Subsection (6) of section 2 of Chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida, as amended is
8 amended to read:

9 (6) To receive and disburse all funds collected through ad valorem taxation and
10 ambulance user and membership fees.

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

13 (9) To establish uniform standards which shall be equal to or stricter than those
14 provided in Chapter 401, Florida Statutes, insofar as it relates to Emergency Medical
15 Services and the Department of Health EMS Rules, Chapter 64J-1 F.A.C., as they exist and
16 may hereafter be amended and to provide for the enforcement of same.; The Authority shall
17 coordinate countywide emergency medical services by providing a 911 system. billing,
18 training, medical direction and administration and by contracting with City Fire
19 Departments and Fire Districts who are currently providing ALS services, (herein after
20 referred to as EMS Providers).to provide ALS services including emergency and non-
21 emergency medical transport provided that levels of service on or after the effective date of
22 this act may not be lower than levels of service as of January 1, 1989, without the consent of
23 the affected EMS providers; and provided further that an EMS provider may not be required
24 to increase its level of service to a level of service established by the authority that results in
25 the authority reducing the payment of reimbursable costs to EMS providers because the
26 total reimbursable costs would exceed the ambulance fees and 1.5 millage authorized by
27 this act.Section 3. Section 3 of chapter 80-585, Laws of Florida, as amended, is amended to
28 read:

29 Section 3. Beginning October 1, 2012 The Authority shall contract with EMS Providers for
30 countywide ALS services including emergency and non-emergency medical transport, with
31 the goal of maintaining the existing level of service (average 4.5 minute response). The
32 service shall be provided utilizing ALS Fire Apparatus, ALS transport capable rescue vehicles
33 and ALS peak time ambulances operated by the EMS Providers as outlined in the Providers
34 Cost Containment and Sustainability Model dated July 2011 The Authority shall reimburse
35 each EMS Provider for all reasonable costs of providing the service. In determining what is a
36 reasonable cost, the Authority shall adopt a funding formula based on the average cost of
37 salary and benefits in Pinellas County. No provider shall receive less than current
38 reimbursable expenses until such time as current labor agreements expire. The number of
39 positions funded shall be based upon the number of personnel and skill level required to
40 provide the service in accordance with the requirements of the County Medical Director.
41 Reimbursement for vehicles including repairs and fuel, equipment, training, licenses and other
42 supplies shall be provided directly by the authority, or by cost reimbursement. In the case of
43 Fire Apparatus the authority shall contribute a dollar amount equivalent to the cost of a
44 transport capable rescue. The Authority shall make use of all existing ALS Fire Apparatus,
45 Fire based transport capable rescues and EMS Providers will cooperate with the Authority in
46 establishing additional fire based ALS peak time units. The EMS Providers will operate under
47 the direction of the EMS medical director, carrying out such policies and programs as the
48 authority deems necessary. Any current EMS Provider not wishing to continue to provide
49 ALS services including transport shall provide 6 months notice to the Authority and the
50 Authority will replace that Provider with another EMS Provider. ~~In determining~~
51 ~~reimbursable costs pursuant to this section, where EMS are already being provided, the~~
52 ~~authority may take into consideration the standards and levels of service established~~
53 ~~pursuant to section 2 and may reimburse the EMS providers for reasonable actual costs~~

54 ~~incurred in providing EMS in accordance with the standards and levels of service established~~
 55 ~~by the authority. However, neither the authority nor the Board of County Commissioners~~
 56 ~~may be required to pay or budget for the payment of reimbursable costs to the EMS~~
 57 ~~providers if that payment would cause the annual budget of the authority to exceed the~~
 58 ~~ambulance fees plus 1.5 millage authorized by this article. If budget requests approved by~~
 59 ~~the authority for the new fiscal year exceed the total estimated revenue available, including~~
 60 ~~ad valorem tax revenue generated by 1.5 mills, the authority shall:~~

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

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

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

70 **Section 4.** Section 7 of Chapter 80-585 Laws of Florida as amended is amended to read

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 72 Section 7. The Authority shall cause to be levied an ad valorem tax not to exceed 1.5 mills on all real estate
 73 within Pinellas County which together with fees collected for emergency and non-emergency medical
 74 transport shall be sufficient to reimburse EMS Providers for reasonable costs and reimburse Pinellas
 75 County for the costs of administering the countywide system.

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