LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE Louisiana egislative 🛉 **Fiscal Note** Fiscal 562 HLS 25RS HB Office Fiscal Note On: 173 Fiscal Bill Text Version: ORIGINAL Notes Opp. Chamb. Action: Proposed Amd.: Sub. Bill For.: 4:44 PM Date: April 23, 2025 Author: FONTENOT

Dept./Agy.: Statewide

Subject: Provides for reimbursement of emergency services

FIRE PROTECT/FIRE DEPTS

OR INCREASE SG EX See Note

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Analyst: John McKay

Provides relative to costs for certain emergency services provided by fire departments and fire protection districts

Proposed legislation authorizes fire departments and fire protection districts to seek reimbursement for the cost of medical services provided to an individual and for automobile extraction services provided to an individual involved in a motor vehicle accident. Proposed measure provides that costs for medical services may be recovered from the individual or the individual's personal health insurance. Proposed measure provides costs for automobile extraction services that may be recovered from the automobile insurance company of the individual at fault for the motor vehicle accident. Proposed legislation authorizes fire departments and fire protection districts to seek reimbursement from an emergency service provider for services provided pursuant to proposed law if the fire departments or fire protection districts who are seeking reimbursement to submit itemized invoices with corresponding receipts and an explanation. Authorizes the fire departments and fire protection districts to collect and enforce the collection of such costs.

| EXPENDITURES | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | 2029-30 | 5 -YEAR TOTAL |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| State Gen. Fd. | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Agy. Self-Gen. | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | |
| Ded./Other | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Federal Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Local Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Annual Total | | | | | | |
| REVENUES | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | 2029-30 | 5 -YEAR TOTAL |
| State Gen. Fd. | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Agy. Self-Gen. | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Ded./Other | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Federal Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Local Funds | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | INCREASE | |
| Annual Total | | | | | | |

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed legislation will likely increase SGR expenditures due to a higher volume of self-funded health plan medical claims and their associated reimbursement costs. Proposed measure authorizes parish, municipal, and volunteer fire departments, as well as fire protection districts, to seek reimbursement for: (1) medical services provided to individuals during emergencies; and (2) automobile extraction services provided to individuals involved in motor vehicle accidents. Additionally, if the fire department or district provides medical or vehicle extraction services at the request of another emergency service provider, it may seek reimbursement from that provider as well.

Office of Group Benefits

Currently, OGB's self-funded health plans only reimburse fire department ambulance providers, not parish, municipal, or volunteer fire departments, for medical services. If proposed measure is enacted, OGB will likely experience increased medical claims costs due to new reimbursement requests. Any estimate by OGB or its third-party medical administrator (Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana) regarding the number or cost of potential claims is speculative, as these reimbursements are not currently being made.

Note: The LFO is awaiting a response from OGB on the average annual reimbursement amount paid to fire department ambulance providers for medical services rendered.

Office of Risk Management

Proposed measure allows fire departments and fire protection districts to recover costs for certain emergency services, including medical and vehicle extraction services. Medical service costs may be recovered from the individual or their health insurance, but the Office of Risk Management (ORM) is not a health insurer and would not be liable for such costs. However, extraction service costs may be recovered from the at-fault party's auto insurance. ORM might be responsible if a state vehicle was involved, but this depends on factors such as vicarious liability and insurance priority rules, which the bill does not address. ORM cannot determine the fiscal impact due to the absence of a fee schedule and the lack of clarity regarding potential liability scenarios. However, due to vehicle extractions being rare and the associated costs being relatively low (\$700-\$1,800), any impact is expected to be minimal.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

To the extent parish or municipal fire departments, fire protection districts, or volunteer fire departments seek and recover reimbursement under the provisions of proposed measure, local revenues will increase. The LFO anticipates any increase in revenue will be used to offset the cost of the services provided.

| SenateDual Referral I13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual | | House 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S} | Costace Mama |
|---|------------|---|-----------------------|
| 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual | Tax or Fee | 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase | Patrice Thomas |
| Change {S & H} | | or a Net Fee Decrease {S} | Deputy Fiscal Officer |