
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Ambulette Licensing - Effect on State Government

The bill requires the licensure of ambulettes, rotorcraft air ambulances, and fixed wing air ambulances. Ambulettes are vehicles used to transport individuals to receive health care services in non-emergency situations. The Ohio Ambulance Licensing Board (renamed the Ohio Medical Transportation Board by the bill) estimates that there are approximately 500 to 800 organizations operating 5,000 ambulettes in Ohio.

The bill requires each organization to pay an annual licensing fee of not more than \$100. This would lead to an approximate gain in revenue to the Ambulance Licensing Trust Fund of between \$50,000 and \$80,000 annually. Additionally, the bill requires an annual permit for each vehicle. The permit fee is set at \$25 in the first year that would raise approximately \$125,000 in revenue. In the second year and thereafter, this fee would be set by the Board, not to exceed \$50. Therefore, annual revenue gains could total \$250,000.

Operators of rotorcraft air ambulances and fixed wing air ambulances are also required to be licensed under the bill. The same \$100 maximum licensure fee would apply to the organization as with ambulettes. The permit fee, however, is not to exceed \$100. The Board indicates that there are fewer than 20 such vehicles in the state operated by no more than five organizations. Therefore, revenue gains from this proposal would be approximately \$2,500 annually.

Increased Board Membership

The bill increases the membership of the Ambulance Licensing Board by four from five voting members to nine voting members. (The number of nonvoting members remains the same at one.) The Board indicates that this change could lead to an increase in expenditures of up to \$2,000 annually.

Inspection of Ambulances by State Highway Patrol

The bill removes the requirement that the State Highway Patrol inspects and certifies ambulances for safety. In fiscal year 2002, the Patrol inspected 1,187 ambulances at a fee of \$10 each, for total annual revenue of \$11,870 or approximately \$12,000. While the Patrol would lose this revenue under the bill, the cost of the inspections outweighs the fees received according to a representative of the Highway Patrol, and the time could be used on other duties that will offset overtime commitments, thereby producing savings.

Medicaid Trusts

The county department of job and family services (CDJFS) of the county in which an individual resides is responsible for determining the individual's eligibility for medical assistance reimbursed by Medicaid. In making an eligibility determination, a CDJFS must decide which of the individual's assets and income is a "countable resource," "countable income," both countable income and a countable resource, or not countable as income or a resource. "Countable income"

includes the Medicaid applicant's income from any source, regardless of whether it is taxable or nontaxable. A "countable resource" is cash or anything of value that is capable of being converted to cash that an applicant could use to pay for support and maintenance.

Currently, whether, and to what extent, a CDJFS must count a trust as income, a countable resource, or both income and a countable resource is governed by administrative rule. The administrative rule provides that a trust falls into one of five categories:

- (1) self-settled trusts established before August 11, 1993 (also referred to as "Medicaid qualifying trusts"),
- (2) self-settled trusts established on or after August 11, 1993,
- (3) exempt trusts,
- (4) trusts established by someone else for the benefit of a Medicaid applicant or recipient, and
- (5) trusts established by will for the benefit of a surviving spouse.

The bill codifies those portions of the administrative rule dealing with types (2), (3), and (4) above. The bill does not address types (1) or (5). This provision of the bill has no fiscal impact on the state Medicaid program as it simply codifies some existing Ohio Administrative Code sections regarding Medicaid trusts.

*LSC fiscal staff: Sara D. Anderson, Budget Analyst
Ivy Chen, Economist
Sean Fouts, Budget Analyst*

HB0085EN.doc/arc