

Senate Bill No. 1629

CHAPTER 1050

An act to add Section 1797.115 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to emergency services.

[Approved by Governor September 28, 2002. Filed with Secretary of State September 28, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1629, Soto. Emergency services: training.

Existing law, the Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act, requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority to adopt standards for a statewide scope of practice to be used for the training and certification testing of Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) personnel.

This bill would authorize, to the extent permitted by federal law and upon appropriation, the Director of Finance to transfer to the Emergency Medical Services Authority any moneys in the Federal Trust Fund if the money is made available by the United States for expenditure by the state for purposes consistent with the implementation of the bill. This bill would provide for the allocation of funds to the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Program to offset the cost of paramedic training course development, to enter into certain reimbursement contracts with eligible state and local agencies that may contract with educational institutions for the delivery of paramedic training, and to allocate grants to state and local agencies to defray the cost of providing paramedic training for fire service personnel.

The bill would also authorize the authority to recover administrative costs for the bill from specified funds transferred pursuant to the bill, to the extent permitted by federal law.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) In California it costs approximately \$40,000 to cross-train a firefighter as a paramedic. This cost reflects expenses incurred for, among other things, instructional supplies, teaching staff, equipment, and trainee compensation.

(b) It is cost-effective for state and local agencies to integrate their paramedic training course needs into single multiagency courses.



(c) The California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Program, a quasi-governmental agency jointly sponsored by the California State Fire Marshal and the California Professional Firefighters, is a voluntary fire service apprenticeship training program whose broad network represents employers of approximately 90 percent of professional firefighters statewide.

(d) The California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Program is an equal balance partnership benefitting California fire departments, firefighters, and the communities served by the program.

SEC. 2. Section 1797.115 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1797.115. (a) To the extent permitted by federal law and upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute, the Director of Finance may transfer any moneys in the Federal Trust Fund established pursuant to Section 16360 of the Government Code to the Emergency Medical Services Authority if the money is made available by the United States for expenditure by the state for purposes consistent with the implementation of this section.

(b) Moneys appropriated pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be allocated by the authority to the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Program to do all of the following:

(1) Offset the cost of paramedic training course development.

(2) Enter into reimbursement contracts with eligible state and local agencies that in turn may contract with educational institutions for the delivery of paramedic training conducted in compliance with the requirements of subdivision (a) of Section 1797.172.

(3) Allocate funds, in the form of grants, to eligible state and local agencies to defray the cost of providing paramedic training for fire services personnel, including, but not limited to, instructional supplies and trainee compensation expenses. To the extent permitted by federal law, the authority shall recover its costs for administration of this section from the funds transferred pursuant to subdivision (a).

(c) In order to be eligible for a grant under paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), a state or local agency shall demonstrate a need for additional paramedics.

(d) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Fire service personnel" includes, but is not limited to, a firefighter or prehospital emergency medical worker employed by a state or local agency.

(2) "Local agency" means any city, county, city and county, fire district, special district, joint powers agency, or any other political subdivision of the state that provides fire protection services.



(3) “State agency” means any state agency that provides residential or institutional fire protection, including, but not limited to, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

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