

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 6944
BILL NUMBER: HB 1251

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 12, 2026
BILL AMENDED: Feb 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Emergency Ambulance Services.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. O'Brien
FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Crider

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill specifies that emergency medical services, including emergency ambulance services, are essential services in Indiana. It specifies that the provision of emergency medical services is an essential purpose of political subdivisions.

This bill requires the county commissioners of each county to: (1) identify areas that are unserved by emergency ambulance services; and (2) provide emergency ambulance services to those areas by establishing a county emergency ambulance service, contracting with a public, private, or nonprofit provider of emergency ambulance services, or by any other available means.

This bill also allows a governing body to opt out of the requirement to provide emergency ambulance services to unserved areas in certain cases. It provides that a county governing body that opts out of the provision of emergency ambulance services is immune from civil liability for personal injury or death resulting from a lack of emergency ambulance services in an area of the county.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill's requirements will increase workload for the Department of Homeland Security to accept and maintain ordinances from counties, but should be able to be implemented using existing staffing and resources.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill may increase expenditures and workload for a county to the extent the county commissioners identify areas of the county that are unserved by emergency ambulance services and determine how to establish the service to the unserved area, if the county does not opt out as set forth in the bill. Expenditures will vary depending on the county's decision on contracting, establishing, or entering into an interlocal cooperation agreement for ambulance service. The county is not required to appropriate county revenues to provide the service if it can be provided through other means.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties.

Information Sources:

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