

Summary of Structure and Financing of H.R. 3144

Primary Federal Agency at HHS: H.R. 3144 establishes the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the primary federal agency for EMS and Trauma. The bill states that nothing in it shall be construed to supersede any statutory authority of any Federal agency that is not within HHS.

Office of EMS and Trauma: It further establishes an Office of EMS and Trauma within HHS. The bill provides the Secretary with discretion regarding the location of the Office within several outlined parameters to ensure that its location is of sufficiently high stature to enable it to fulfill its function. The Office of Trauma and EMS would administer new Field EMS programs created by the bill as well as the existing trauma and other programs already authorized under current law and such other programs or functions as determined by the Secretary that she may move from other locations within HHS to the Office. Programs that would be under the jurisdiction of the new Office of EMS and Trauma include:

Field EMS Programs (as newly created in H.R. 3144)

- \$200 million for Field EMS agency EQUIP grants
- \$50 million for State SPIA Grants
- \$40 million for Field EMS Research
- \$15 million for Field EMS Education Grants
- \$12 million for other Field EMS sections of the bill

Trauma/Regionalization/Rural Programs (already authorized in Public Health Service Act that would be moved to the Office of EMS)

- \$100 million for Trauma Center Grants
- \$100 million for Trauma Service Availability Grants
- \$24 million for Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Pilots
- Rural Emergency Medical Equipment Grants (no specified level of authorization)

Financing: The bill includes start up funding as well as sustained funding without adding to the federal deficit as follows:

- *EMS Trust Fund* -- the legislation provides for the establishment of an EMS Trust Fund to be funded through voluntary donations from individuals on their federal income tax return. The EMS Trust Fund will be utilized to provide appropriations for the new field EMS programs and activities established and authorized under H.R. 3144. If there are extra funds beyond the amount needed to fully fund the field EMS programs (EQUIP, SPIA, Education, Research, etc) created in H.R. 3144, such extra funds may be used to fund the other trauma, regionalization of emergency care and rural emergency equipment programs under the jurisdiction of the Office of EMS and Trauma.
- *Start Up Funding* -- For the initial two years while the EMS Trust Fund is being established and begins collecting voluntary contributions, the Secretary of HHS would utilize \$40 million in discretionary funding to start up the field EMS and trauma programs co-located within the Office of EMS and Trauma.