



# Resolution

No. 2021-49

## Supporting Changes in State Regulations and Legislation to Support Rural Emergency Medical Services in Rural Areas

**WHEREAS**, many rural areas have primarily volunteer service providers; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, the aging of rural populations together with declining working populations has further exasperated the situation; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, increasingly Counties are seen as the provider for EMS Services; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, regardless of the location, **more** area providers helps ensure quick life saving emergency medical care; *and*,

**WHEREAS**, Bayfield County believes that Counties must join with municipalities to ensure a strong EMS network thrives.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021, requests that the WCA plays an active role in supporting rural EMS initiatives including but not limited to:

- A. Allowing for towns to fund EMS using the same options available to fund fire protection under §60.55(2). This would allow towns to move EMS to a fee across the community. Like with fire, it would need to come with a negative levy limit penalty back to what was spent on EMS in 2013.
- B. Create a definition of Joint EMS District that encompasses how towns collaborate to obtain EMS service. The definition should include when two or more communities engage in: a) joint ownership; b) joint purchase of services from a non-profit corporation; and c) joint contracting with a public or private provider. This would allow use of the 2% + CPI revenue flexibility. This flexibility is afforded to fire and was created for EMS last session; however, due to the differences between how fire and EMS are provided the flexibility remains much greater for fire.
- C. Sparsity Aid. On a per land base basis.
- D. Increase FAP funding (LRB-0719).
- E. Develop a funding source to pay for would-be EMT training and travel associated with obtaining training.
- F. Recalibrate the shared revenue formula to increase funding to rural areas.
- G. Fully fund Length of Service Award.
- H. Providing a \$1,000 income tax credit for volunteer fire/EMS personnel.
- I. Providing a \$400 income tax credit for unreimbursed volunteer fire/EMS expenses.
- J. Providing a college tuition reimbursement for volunteer fire/EMS personnel or their families.
- K. Providing a business tax incentive for those businesses that allow volunteer fire/EMS personnel to leave their job during the workday.
- L. LRB-0720 EMR not required to take NREMT.
- M. LRB-0721 Ambulance Staffing: 1) FAP funding streamlining; 2) interfacility transport staffing; c) clarifies Act 97 from 2017 on flexible staffing; and 4) prohibits career departments from forbidding someone from volunteering.

- N. Investigate a regional joint EMS district. Alternatively, investigate a county-wide EMS, including the potential to simply have the county facilitate expenditures to contract with multiple public and private providers as a way to address the hurdle of levy limits.
- O. Change the levy limit law to allow for the levy limit to not apply to both countywide EMS and a joint EMS district encompassing a larger area. The county boundary is an artificial one. For example, in Florence County this means only 8 towns whereas in Marathon County it means 61 towns, cities, and villages and a lot more land area. Furthermore, a county boundary does not take into consideration road infrastructure, topography, landscape, etc.
- P. Examine the training requirements, strengths/weaknesses of replacing the National Registry Test, why some states/areas of WI do better or worse on the current test.
- Q. Investigate if EMS personnel that are not affiliated with a service are prevented from assisting on a call with another service.
- R. Develop a "reverse TIF" to fund EMS based on the rationale that "but for" EMS investment, property values will decrease; *and*,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Bayfield County this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021 requests that the Wisconsin Counties Association supports the above legislation and regulations assisting Rural Emergency Medical Services to survive and thrive in this changing economy.

By Action of the:

**Bayfield County Board of Supervisors**

  
 Dennis M. Pocernich, *Chair*

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 ) ss.  
 COUNTY OF BAYFIELD )

I, Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2021-49, Volume 29, adopted by the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

  
 Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*