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H.742

Introduced by Representatives Harrison of Chittenden, Austin of Colchester,
Bancroft of Westford, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of
Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Colston of Winooski,
Cordes of Lincoln, Dolan of Waitsfield, Fegard of Berkshire,
Gannon of Wilmington, Gardner of Richmond, Goslant of
Northfield, Graham of Williamstown, Hango of Berkshire,
Hashim of Dummerston, Helm of Fair Haven, Hooper of
Randolph, Jerome of Brandon, Morgan of Milton, Nicoll of
Ludlow, Notte of Rutland City, Noyes of Wolcott, O'Brien of
Tunbridge, Pajala of Londonderry, Palasik of Milton, Redmond
of Essex, Reed of Braintree, Rogers of Waterville, Rosenquist
of Georgia, Shaw of Pittsford, Sibia of Dover, Smith of Derby,
Troiano of Stannard, Wood of Waterbury, and Yantachka of
Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; Department of Health; emergency medical services;
appropriations

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to appropriate
\$750,000.00 to the Department of Health in fiscal year 2021 to provide grants

1 to emergency medical technician and paramedic training programs. It would
2 also authorize the Department to use up to \$750,000.00 annually for these
3 grants from the funds appropriated to the Department for emergency medical
4 personnel training. It would generate the revenue needed for the grants by
5 increasing the amount of the assessment on insurance companies for the Fire
6 Safety Special Fund.

7 An act relating to grants for emergency medical personnel training

8 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

9 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 906 is amended to read:

10 § 906. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION;

11 RESPONSIBILITIES

12 To implement the policy of section 901 of this title, the Department of
13 Health shall be responsible for:

14 * * *

15 (6)(A) Training, or assisting in the training of, emergency medical
16 personnel, including using up to \$750,000.00 of the monies in the Emergency
17 Medical Services Fund established pursuant to section 908 of this chapter or
18 other monies appropriated to the Department for emergency medical personnel
19 training as follows:

1 (i) 50 percent shall be used for competitive grants to emergency
2 medical technician training programs based on documented regional and
3 multiagency support;

4 (ii) 25 percent shall be used to support the online, distance-
5 learning emergency medical technician training opportunities developed by the
6 Department pursuant to subsection 908(b) of this chapter and to support
7 partnerships with regional ambulance services to provide practical education
8 and skill development; and

9 (iii) 25 percent shall be used to provide tuition reimbursement
10 grants to newly licensed paramedics serving Vermont communities.

11 (B) The Department shall adopt rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A.
12 chapter 25 to specify eligibility criteria for applicants to receive grants under
13 subdivision (A) of this subdivision. The Department's rules shall include a
14 requirement that recipient programs offer their training courses at no or low
15 cost to participants who intend to provide volunteer services as a member of a
16 local or regional first responder service.

17 * * *

18 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 908 is amended to read:

19 § 908. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ~~SPECIAL~~ FUND

20 (a) The Emergency Medical Services Fund is established as a special fund
21 pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 comprising revenues received by

1 the Department from the Fire Safety Special Fund; pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §
2 8557(a); that are designated for this ~~Special~~ Fund; and public and private
3 sources, such as gifts, grants, and donations; together with additions and
4 interest accruing to the Fund. The Commissioner of Health shall administer
5 the Fund to the extent funds are available to support online and regional
6 training programs, data collection and analysis, and other activities relating to
7 the training of emergency medical personnel and delivery of emergency
8 medical services and ambulance services in Vermont, as determined by the
9 Commissioner, after consulting with the EMS Advisory Committee established
10 under section 909 of this title. Any balance at the end of the fiscal year shall
11 be carried forward in the Fund.

12 (b) From the funds in the Emergency Medical Services ~~Special~~ Fund, the
13 Commissioner of Health shall develop and implement by September 1, 2012
14 online training opportunities and offer regional classes to enable individuals to
15 comply with the requirements of subdivision 906(10)(C) of this title.

16 Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 8557 is amended to read:

17 § 8557. VERMONT FIRE SERVICE TRAINING COUNCIL

18 (a)(1) Sums for the expenses of the operation of training facilities and
19 curriculum of the Vermont Fire Service Training Council not to exceed
20 ~~\$1,200,000.00~~ \$1,950,000.00 per year shall be paid to the Fire Safety Special
21 Fund created by 20 V.S.A. § 3157 by insurance companies; writing fire,

1 homeowners multiple peril, allied lines, farm owners multiple peril,
2 commercial multiple peril (fire and allied lines), private passenger and
3 commercial auto, and inland marine policies on property and persons situated
4 within the State of Vermont within 30 days after notice from the
5 Commissioner of Financial Regulation of such estimated expenses. Captive
6 companies shall be excluded from the effect of this section.

7 (2) The Commissioner shall annually, on or before July 1, apportion
8 such charges among all such companies and shall assess them for the charges
9 on a fair and reasonable basis as a percentage of their gross direct written
10 premiums on such insurance written during the second prior calendar year on
11 property situated in the State. The Department of Taxes shall collect all
12 assessments under this section.

13 (3) An amount not less than \$100,000.00 shall be specifically allocated
14 to the provision of what are now or formerly referred to as Level I, units I, II,
15 and III (basic) courses for entry-level firefighters.

16 (4) An amount not less than ~~\$150,000.00~~ \$900,000.00 shall be
17 specifically allocated to the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund
18 established under 18 V.S.A. § 908 for the provision of training programs for
19 emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, and
20 paramedics.

1 (5) The Department of Health shall present a plan to the Joint Fiscal
2 Committee that shall review the plan prior to the release of any funds.

3 (b) All administrative provisions of chapter 151 of this title, including those
4 relating to the collection and enforcement of the income tax by the
5 Commissioner, shall apply to this section.

6 Sec. 4. EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL TRAINING;

7 APPROPRIATION

8 The sum of \$750,000.00 is appropriated from the Fire Safety Special Fund
9 to the Emergency Medical Services Fund in fiscal year 2021 for use by the
10 Department of Health for emergency medical personnel training as follows:

11 (1) \$375,000.00 shall be used for competitive grants for emergency
12 medical technician training programs based on documented regional and
13 multiagency support;

14 (2) \$187,500.00 shall be used to support online, distance-learning
15 emergency medical technician training opportunities developed by the
16 Department pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 908(b) and to support partnerships with
17 regional ambulance services to provide practical education and skill
18 development; and

19 (3) \$187,500.00 shall be used to provide tuition reimbursement grants to
20 newly licensed paramedics serving Vermont communities.

1 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on passage, with the amendments to 32 V.S.A.
3 § 8557 in Sec. 3 of this act to be applied beginning with the charges to be
4 apportioned and assessed by the Commissioner of Financial Regulation on or
5 before July 1, 2020 in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 8557(a)(2).