



Talking Points

SB1597 HB719

- HB719 designates ambulance services as an essential service.
- Under the current legislative structure, providing pre-hospital care for state citizens is considered a non-essential service. While every county provides this critical service for their citizens, there is no requirement that such services be provided. HB719 would give the “essential service” designation to ambulance services, like it is given to police and fire.
- Amendment drafting code 4473 was written in conjunction with the County Mayors Association and the County Service Association to clarify that this bill does not direct the method for providing these services. The amendment states that this service can be provided by a public, private, or nonprofit entity by contract, through interlocal agreement, agreement with a hospital or healthcare facility, or any other structure suitable to provide a least one licensed ambulance service.
- This amendment also reiterates that a county is not required to appropriate county revenues for this service if it can be provided by other means.
- Lastly, this amendment codifies the existing relationship between counties and municipalities in regard to their ability to provide this service with the approval of the governing bodies.
- **All 95 counties currently have an ambulance service whether government, hospital based or private operator.**
- Enhances opportunity for federal grant opportunities.
- Ensures that in the event of disaster, power and other utilities will be restored in the top tier of response.