

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 767

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Senator M. Maynard

[Introduced February 5, 2026; referred
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources;
and then to the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article,
2 designated §16-4G-1, §16-4G-2, §16-4G-3, §16-4G-4, §16-4G-5, §16-4G-6, §16-4G-7,
3 and §16-4G-8, relating to requiring needs-based assessments of emergency medical
4 services departments so that funding may be distributed according to need and not equally
5 across the board; providing short title; providing legislative findings; providing definitions;
6 providing process for implementation; providing for application of the assessment;
7 providing for reporting and legislative oversight; authorizing rulemaking to the Office of
8 Emergency Medical Services; and establishing an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 4G. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES NEEDS-BASED ASSESSMENT
AND FUNDING ACT.**

§16-4G-1. Short title.

1 This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Emergency Medical Services Needs-
2 Based Assessment Act".

§16-4G-2. Legislative findings.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that emergency medical services (EMS) are a critical component
2 of public health and safety in West Virginia.

3 (b) Disparities in funding allocation have led to resource shortages in high-need areas,
4 affecting response times and service quality.

5 (c) A needs-based assessment will provide a data-driven approach to ensuring EMS
6 funding is distributed equitably.

§16-4G-3. Definitions.

1 For the purposes of this act:

2 (1) "Emergency Medical Services" or "EMS" refers to pre-hospital emergency medical care
3 and transportation services.

4 (2) "Needs-Based Assessment" refers to a comprehensive evaluation of EMS agencies to
5 determine funding requirements based on factors such as call volume, response times,
6 geographic coverage, and financial sustainability.

7 (3) "Department" refers to the West Virginia Department of Health, Bureau for Public
8 Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services.

§16-4G-4. Needs-based assessment implementation.

1 (a) The department shall conduct a statewide EMS needs-based assessment every two
2 years.

3 (b) The assessment shall evaluate:

4 (1) Call volume and response times by jurisdiction;

5 (2) Availability of ambulances and trained personnel;

6 (3) Financial stability of EMS providers;

7 (4) Geographic challenges impacting service delivery;

8 (5) Mutual aid agreements and reliance on volunteer services; and

9 (6) Equipment and training deficiencies.

10 (c) The department shall collaborate with local EMS agencies, county commissions, and
11 regional health authorities in conducting the assessment.

12 (d) The first needs-based assessment shall be conducted within one year of the act's
13 passage.

§16-4G-5. Needs-based funding application.

1 (a) The department shall establish a funding distribution formula based on the findings of
2 the needs-based assessment.

3 (b) Funding priority shall be given to EMS agencies demonstrating:

4 (1) High call volumes and slow response times;

5 (2) Financial instability that threatens operational viability;

6 (3) A shortage of certified personnel;

7 (4) Insufficient medical equipment or vehicles; and
8 (5) Service coverage gaps in rural and underserved areas.
9 (c) No EMS provider shall receive reduced funding unless justified by assessment findings
10 and alternative funding availability.

§16-4G-6. Reporting; legislative oversight.

1 (a) The department shall submit a report to the Legislature every two years detailing:
2 (1) Assessment results;
3 (2) Funding allocations and justifications;
4 (3) Improvements and deficiencies in EMS services; and
5 (4) Recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes.
6 (b) The Joint Committee on Government and Finance shall review the report and make
7 recommendations for policy adjustments if necessary.

§16-4G-7. Rulemaking.

1 Pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.*, the department shall propose legislative rules to implement
2 this act.

§16-4G-8. Effective date.

1 This Act shall be effective from passage.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish the Emergency Medical Services Needs-Based Assessment and Funding Act.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.