

**Additional \$1 Motor Vehicle Registration Fee
For Colorado's EMTS System
FACT SHEET**

- Amending C.R.S. § 42-3-304(21) to increase the base motor vehicle registration fee by an additional \$1 would help offset equipment and training costs for struggling EMTS agencies, improve the statewide emergency medical and trauma response system, and increase the availability of emergency services to rural/frontier communities.
- Presently, the \$1 motor vehicle registration fee provides almost all state/regional level support to Colorado's EMS and trauma system. These funds support the existing grants program that offsets the costs of equipment, training and other needs of the local rural/frontier and underdeveloped EMS and trauma systems.
- The current \$1 per motor vehicle fee for EMTS was passed in 1989 and has not changed since that time. The \$1 passed in 1989 is presently represents \$0.59 in today's financial environment.
- Approximately 60 percent of Colorado's 180 licensed ambulance services provide emergency care and transportation in rural and frontier counties. Many of these agencies respond to less than 500 ambulance calls per year. Several agencies in extreme frontier communities transport less than 20 patients per year and serve communities in extremely remote areas of the state. For ambulance services with such low call volumes, the fees collected for service do not cover the costs of providing these services.
- Many small rural volunteer EMS agencies are struggling to survive and several have closed, including one along Highway 285 that closed in September 2008. If an EMS agency goes out of business in a rural area, response to a 911 call is very unlikely and the possibility of saving someone's life during an emergency is virtually eliminated.
- The EMS grants program has effectively upgraded the state's ambulance fleet and equipment since 1989, but is insufficient to address the needs of Colorado's rural and frontier emergency medical and trauma services system today.
- Colorado Emergency Medical and Trauma Services System Facts
 - There are more than 15,000 certified EMTs and Paramedics providing care and transportation throughout the state of Colorado. The emergency medical and trauma services system is the most pervasive local primary health care system in the state.
 - Approximately 180+ licensed ambulance services provide transportation to over 1000 patients per day in Colorado.
 - Volunteer EMTs and Paramedics staff approximately 60% of Colorado's licensed ambulance services.
 - There are 70 designated trauma centers in Colorado that are the receiving facilities for severely injured patients.

- Colorado's 11 Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Service Advisory Councils (RETACs) ensure input from each county in the development of Colorado's emergency medical and trauma services system.

These new funds will be used to enhance and expand the existing EMTS grants program under the rules and regulations promulgated by the Colorado Board of Health. Opportunity to expand this program will include the ability to support the continued purchase of ambulances, cardiac monitors, training and equipment as well as funding to support the development of stabilized rural and frontier systems by addressing the increasing need for personnel to staff these important agencies. Information regarding the Colorado EMTS grants program can be found in the department's recently released 2008 EMTS legislative report at www.coems.info.

For additional information;

Jesi Dobosz, Legislative Liaison
303-692-3471
Jesi.Dobosz@state.co.us

D. Randy Kuykendall, EMTS Section Chief
303-692-2945
303-916-1060
Randy.Kuykendall@state.co.us