

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

NO. 466

An Ordinance establishing the Multnomah County Task Force on Ambulance Rate Structure.

Multnomah County ordains as follows:

SECTION I. FINDINGS

- A. The system currently in place for regulating the provision of advanced life support (ALS) ambulance service in Multnomah County does not contain any mechanism to assure that rates charged for services are reasonable and appropriate, given the level of service rendered.
- B. The ambulance services plan in Multnomah County has an effect on ambulance service rates since it establishes high performance standards and restricts competition through the creation of ambulance service areas. It is therefore appropriate to study the role of government in approving or reviewing rates as part of the overall regulatory system.

SECTION II. PURPOSE AND DUTIES

There is hereby established a Multnomah County Task Force on ALS Ambulance Service Rates. The charge of the Task Force is to prepare and submit to the Emergency Medical Services Policy Board, the Portland City Council and the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners a report with the following contents:

- A. A determination of whether the present ALS ambulance rate structure in Multnomah County is comparable to rates for the same ambulance services of similar quality in other areas of the United States.
- B. A determination of whether the present Multnomah County EMS system could be adjusted to ensure both cost containment and financial stability of the system without compromising patient care.
- C. An evaluation and recommendations for options to provide rate accountability.

SECTION III. MEMBERS

The Task Force shall be composed of twelve (12) members appointed by the County Executive with the approval of the Board of County Commissioners to be appointed on or about June 12, 1985. The membership of the Task Force shall be as follows:

A. Voting Members

1. A health finance representative (private)
2. Three consumer representatives, one each representing the elderly, low income citizens, and insured ambulance users
3. A small business owner
4. A representative of the Medical Advisory Board
5. A representative of the fire department which provides emergency medical services
6. A representative of the State Health Planning and Development Agency

B. Non-Voting Members

1. A representative of each of the three major ambulance service providers
2. A representative of the emergency medical technicians who works in Multnomah County

C. Selection of Chair

The Committee shall be chaired by a member elected from among the three consumer representatives or the small business owner.

SECTION IV. STAFFING

Support services for the Task Force will be provided by the Multnomah County Department of Human Services.

SECTION V. TERM

The Task Force shall submit its report to the Chairperson of the EMS Policy Board by 5:00 P.M. on September 16, 1985. Task Force review of this report with elected bodies shall be completed by November 1, 1985. The Task Force shall automatically be dissolved and cease to exist, without the necessity for any action by the Board of County Commissioners, upon the completion of the duties described in this ordinance. Each member shall serve until the Task Force has been dissolved pursuant to this Section.

SECTION VI. VACANCIES

A vacancy on the Task Force shall be filled by appointment of the County Executive and with approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

SECTION VII. COMPENSATION

Members shall receive no compensation for serving on the Task Force.

SECTION VIII. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Any member of the Task Force who has monetary or investment interest in any matter before the Task Force shall so inform the Task Force. Such member shall be allowed to participate fully in the proceedings of the Task Force.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of May, 1985, upon passage following its 2nd reading.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By *Earl Blumenauer*  
Earl Blumenauer  
Presiding Officer *pro tempore*

AUTHENTICATED this 23rd day of May, 1985.

By *Dennis Buchanan*  
Dennis Buchanan  
County Executive

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN B. LEAHY, COUNTY COUNSEL  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By *Peter Kastig*  
Peter Kastig  
Assistant County Counsel