

1 SENATE BILL NO. 336  
2 INTRODUCED BY F. MANDEVILLE  
3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LOCAL AMBULANCE SERVICE LAWS; ALLOWING A  
5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A SPECIAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT; ESTABLISHING THE POWERS  
6 AND DUTIES OF AN AMBULANCE DISTRICT; ALLOWING AN AMBULANCE DISTRICT TO LEVY A TAX  
7 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT; ALLOWING AN AMBULANCE DISTRICT TO ANNEX ADJACENT  
8 TERRITORY; PROVIDING A PROCESS TO DISSOLVE AN AMBULANCE DISTRICT; LIMITING  
9 GOVERNMENTAL LIABILITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 7-6-621, 7-33-2108, 7-33-2405, 7-33-4112, AND 10-3-  
10 209, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

11  
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13  
14 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Ambulance districts authorized.** (1) The board of county  
15 commissioners may establish ambulance districts in any unincorporated territory or incorporated municipality:

16 (a) by resolution after receiving a petition in writing signed by the owners of 40% or more of the  
17 real property in the proposed district and owners of property representing 40% or more of the taxable value of  
18 property in the proposed district after holding at least one public hearing as provided in [section 2]; or

19 (b) by ordering a referendum to create the ambulance district in accordance with the provisions of  
20 [section 2].

21 (2) (a) A municipality may be included in the district upon approval by the city or town governing  
22 body.

23 (b) A municipality may withdraw from a district 2 years after providing to the board of county  
24 commissioners notice of intent to withdraw.

25  
26 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Notice of hearing -- hearing on petition -- referendum.** (1) The board  
27 of county commissioners shall provide notice as provided in 7-33-2102 after the receipt of a petition allowed in  
28 [section 1].

1 (2) After providing notice, the board shall hear and decide on the petition following the procedures  
2 provided in 7-33-2103.

3 (3) The board may order a referendum on the creation of an ambulance district and shall follow the  
4 procedures provided in 7-11-1011(3) through (6).

5

6 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Operation of ambulance districts.** (1) When a board of county  
7 commissioners establishes an ambulance district ~~in a municipality~~, the commissioners:

8 (a) may contract with a municipality, rural fire district, private company, or other public entity to  
9 furnish all ambulance services for property within the district; or

10 (b) shall appoint five qualified trustees to govern and manage the ~~fire ambulance~~ district. The term  
11 of office and procedures for nomination and election must be followed as provided in 7-33-2106.

12 (2) The board administering and operating the district shall submit the minutes of the district  
13 proceedings for electronic storage as provided in 7-1-204.

14

15 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Powers and duties of trustees.** The trustees:

16 (1) shall prepare and adopt suitable bylaws;

17 (2) have the authority to provide adequate and standard emergency response apparatus,  
18 equipment, personnel, housing, and facilities including real property for the provision of emergency medical  
19 services and ambulance transport within the district;

20 (3) may provide services by contracting with another ambulance district, a rural fire district, a  
21 municipality, a private company, or any other public entity;

22 (4) may adopt rules and establish fees or charges for the furnishing of an ambulance service;

23 (5) shall prepare annual budgets and request special levies for the budgets. The budget laws  
24 relating to county budgets must, as far as applicable, apply to ambulance districts.

25 (6) may enter into contracts as provided in [section 5]; and

26 (7) may pledge income to secure financing of the district as provided in [section 7].

27

28 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Contracts for services.** (1) The trustees of an ambulance district may