

ECONOMIC /BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING AND RESTATING ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 2-3 OF THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA; REGARDING THE AUTHORIZATION OF LIFE SUPPORT TRANSPORT AND NON-TRANSPORT SERVICES WITHIN THE COUNTY; MAKING RELATED FINDINGS; DEFINING CERTAIN TERMS; REQUIRING CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR LIFE SUPPORT TRANSPORT AND NON-TRANSPORT SERVICES; PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS; ESTABLISHING THE AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR; ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR APPLICATIONS, RENEWALS AND AMENDMENTS OF CERTIFICATES; PREVENTING DISCONTINUATION OR INTERRUPTION OF LIFE SUPPORT TRANSPORT AND NON-TRANSPORT SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS; REGULATING RATES; ESTABLISHING RIGHTS AND DUTIES GRANTED BY CERTIFICATION; REQUIRING VEHICLE PERMITS FOR AMBULANCES AND AIR AMBULANCES; ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS OF VEHICLE OPERATING PERMITS FOR AMBULANCES AND AIR AMBULANCES; PROVIDING FOR RESPONSE IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY OR DISASTER; PROVIDING FOR VIOLATIONS, PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR APPEALS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this ordinance is to promote and protect the public health, safety, and welfare by updating and modernizing the standards and procedures governing the issuance of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) for emergency and non-emergency medical transportation services within the County. These updates ensure consistency with current best practices, reflect advancements in medical transport operations, clarify provider obligations, and align with applicable state laws under Chapter 401, Florida Statutes. This ordinance supports equitable access to timely, high-quality prehospital and interfacility care for all residents and visitors of the County.

IMPACT: The updated COPCN ordinance offers a cost-effective regulatory tool that enhances oversight of EMS providers while minimizing fiscal impact. Administrative costs are offset through application and renewal fees, supporting a sustainable system that reduces duplication, streamlines service delivery, and ensures taxpayer resources are used efficiently.

- A. **Cost of Implementation:** The cost of implementing the updated COPCN ordinance is expected to be minimal. Primary expenses include staff time for processing applications, reviewing compliance documentation, and maintaining records.

These duties will be absorbed within existing departmental operations, with no need for new personnel. Any additional costs are anticipated to be offset by application and renewal fees collected from EMS providers.

- B. Source of Funds/Ultimate Burden of Costs: The primary source of funds for administering the updated COPCN ordinance will be application and renewal fees collected from EMS providers. These fees are designed to offset administrative costs and will not require additional taxpayer funding. The ultimate burden of compliance costs rests with licensed EMS providers, who may incur modest expenses to meet updated operational and reporting standards. No direct financial burden is anticipated for the general public or county residents.
- C. Effect on Competition and the Employment Market: The updated COPCN ordinance may modestly limit market entry to ensure only qualified providers operate within the county, promoting fair competition based on service quality rather than volume. It is not expected to negatively impact the employment market and may support job stability by fostering a more sustainable and accountable EMS system.
- D. Benefits of Implementation: The primary benefit of implementing the updated COPCN ordinance is improved control over EMS service quality and coverage, allowing the County to ensure reliable, efficient, and coordinated medical transport while protecting public resources and promoting accountability among providers.