

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 493

2023 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

MEDICAID: Provides for fees on emergency ground ambulance providers and the disposition of fees

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Restores provisions from present law relative to emergency ground ambulance service providers.
2. Makes technical changes.

Present law provides that the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) may adopt and impose fees for healthcare services provided by the Medicaid program on emergency ground ambulance service providers. Proposed law provides that LDH may adopt and impose fees on emergency ground ambulance services providers for services allowed under federal law provided by emergency ground ambulance providers.

Present law requires LDH to calculate, levy, and collect a fee from every emergency ground ambulance service provider on each emergency and nonemergency ground ambulance transport in certain instances provided in present law. Proposed law requires LDH to calculate, levy, and collect a fee on each ground ambulance services allowed under federal law if reimbursements are implemented in accordance with proposed law and approval is received from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires the total amount of the assessment to be paid by the emergency ground ambulance service provider in installments as prescribed by the secretary of LDH in conjunction with the agreement of emergency ground ambulance service providers within 30 days of the notification of the fee amount owed. Proposed law requires the total amount of the assessment to be paid in installments as prescribed by the secretary of LDH in conjunction with the agreement of those providers subject to the fee which provide a minimum of 65% of the emergency ground ambulance transports.

Present law requires LDH to provide reimbursement enhancements for any Medicaid reimbursement or payment to emergency ground ambulance service providers at or above rates at the level which were in effect on July 1, 2015, if funds are appropriated in the budget. Proposed law requires LDH to provide reimbursement for ground ambulance transport and services at or above rates at the level which were in effect on July 1, 2022, plus an enhancement.

Present law requires enhancement payment levels to be sufficient to bring the payments for these services up to the average commercial rate level as described in present law to the extent of the availability of funds in the Emergency Ground Ambulance Service Trust Fund. Proposed law requires enhancement payment levels to be sufficient to bring the payments for these services up to the level contained any applicable state plan amendment pertaining to emergency ground ambulance service provider reimbursement or payment approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Present law prohibits an additional assessment from being collected and provides that any assessment shall be terminated for the remainder of the fiscal year from the date on which certain criteria are met as provided in present law. Proposed law changes the qualifying criteria to the following:

- (1) The reimbursements are reduced below the base reimbursement.

- (2) The amount of the reimbursement for ground ambulance services payable by any Medicaid managed care organization falls below 100% of the Medicaid rate in effect at the time the service is rendered.

Proposed law redefines "average commercial rate", "emergency ground ambulance service provider trust fund account", and "net operating revenue".

Proposed law repeals present law relative to department fee restrictions, reimbursement documentation, assessments, funds from the Emergency Ground Ambulance Service Provider Trust Fund Account, and circumstances for the termination of assessment.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 46:2626(A), (F), (G), (H)(1), and (I)(2), (6), and (7); Repeals R.S. 46:2626(B))