

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1429

H.P. 938

House of Representatives, April 3, 2025

An Act to Provide Full Reimbursement for Emergency Ambulance Services Provided to MaineCare Members

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hm+)
ROBERT B. HUNT

Clerk

Presented by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-JJ, as amended by PL 2019, c. 530, Pt. B, §1, is further amended to read:

§3174-JJ. MaineCare reimbursement for ambulance services

The Except as provided in section 3174-PPP, the department shall reimburse for ambulance services under MaineCare at a level that is not less than the average allowable reimbursement rate under Medicare for such services or at the highest percent of that level that is possible within resources appropriated for those purposes. Beginning March 1, 2015, the department shall reimburse for ambulance services under MaineCare at a level that is not less than 65% of the average allowable reimbursement rate under Medicare for such services. Beginning January 1, 2020, the department shall reimburse for ambulance services under MaineCare at a level that is not less than the average allowable reimbursement rate under Medicare for such services and shall reimburse for neonatal transport services under MaineCare at the average rate for critical care transport services under Medicare.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3174-PPP is enacted to read:

§3174-PPP. Full reimbursement for emergency ambulance services

- 1. **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.
 - A. "Emergency ambulance services" means services provided, in response to an emergency call for assistance, by:
 - (1) Municipal and quasi-municipal ambulance services;
 - (2) Fire department emergency medical services; and
 - (3) Private ambulance services, as applicable under MaineCare guidelines.
 - B. "Full rate" means the reimbursement rate determined to be usual, customary and reasonable by the department and consistent with federal guidelines and applicable state law.
- 2. Reimbursement requirements. The department shall reimburse providers of emergency ambulance services for MaineCare members at the full rate for services eligible under the MaineCare program.
- 3. Funding. The department shall identify and allocate sufficient funding from state and federal sources to meet the reimbursement requirements under subsection 2. The department shall prioritize the use of available federal matching funds to minimize the effect on state resources.
- 4. Report. Beginning December 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters relating to reimbursement under this section. The report must include, but is not limited to:
 - A. Data on the number of reimbursed emergency ambulance services;
- 40 B. The total amount of funds disbursed for reimbursed emergency ambulance services; 41 and

- C. Recommendations for improving reimbursement policies and ensuring the sustainability of emergency ambulance services statewide.
 - 5. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

6 SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse providers of emergency ambulance services at the full rate for services provided to MaineCare members. It applies to municipal, quasi-municipal and private ambulance services and fire department emergency medical services. The bill also requires the department to adopt rules to implement the reimbursement requirement and to submit an annual report to the Legislature.