

Language to be inserted into any available LD by HHS Committee:

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group Convened by the
Emergency Medical Services' Board Related to Reimbursement Rates for Ambulance
Services by Health Insurance Carriers**

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-JJ is repealed and reenacted as follows:

§3174-JJ. MaineCare reimbursement for ambulance services

1. Reimbursement indexed to Medicare. 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.

2. Medicare add-ons applied to MaineCare rates. In addition to the reimbursement for ambulance services required pursuant to subsection 1, the department shall provide additional add-on supplements that are equivalent to the payments required under Medicare ambulance services under 42 United States Code, section 1395m (l). The department shall use the same geographic zip codes applicable for rural, urban and super rural payments as established by 42 United States Code, section 1395m (l) and related federal rules.

3. Rulemaking. The department may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, Chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Cost-based reimbursement work group. The Department of Health and Human Services shall convene a work group to consider the feasibility and cost of implementing cost-based reimbursement for ambulance services provided to MaineCare members. The work group must include representatives of Emergency Medical Services Board, Department of Public Safety, the Maine Ambulance Association and ambulance providers. The department shall submit a report, with recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than January 15, 2022. The committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the recommendations.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide add-on payments for ambulance services that are based on the same geographical urban, rural and super rural zip codes that are used for Medicare ambulance reimbursement. The bill also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a work group to consider the feasibility

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and cost of implementing cost-based reimbursement for ambulance services provided under
MaineCare.