

CHAPTER 651

(House Bill 235)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Medical Assistance Program - ~~Emergency Service Transporters~~ Payments Transporters

FOR the purpose of repealing the statutory cap on reimbursement by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for emergency service transporters under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and replacing it with a cap as specified by regulation adopted by the Department; requiring the Department, in consultation with certain stakeholders, to study certain issues regarding the creation of a uniform nonemergency statewide transportation program to serve enrollees of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; requiring the Department to report certain findings to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to ~~emergency~~ service transporters for enrollees of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 15–114.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

15–114.1.

(a) In this section, “emergency service transporter” means a public entity or volunteer fire, rescue, or emergency medical service that provides emergency medical services.

(b) If an emergency service transporter charges for its services and requests reimbursement from the Program, the Department shall reimburse the emergency service transporter, in an amount [not to exceed \$100 per transport] **AS SPECIFIED BY REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT**, for the cost of:

(1) Transportation the emergency service transporter provides to a Program recipient to a facility in response to a 911 call; and

(2) Medical services the emergency service transporter provides to the Program recipient while transporting the Program recipient to a facility in response to a 911 call.

(c) The Department shall adopt any regulations necessary to carry out this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall study:

(1) the feasibility of creating a uniform nonemergency statewide transportation program to serve enrollees of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program;

(2) any cost savings that might arise from the creation of a statewide program;

(3) any potential for quality improvement that would result from the creation of a statewide program; and

(4) the impact that creation of a statewide program would have on local health departments.

(b) In conducting the study, the Department shall consult with the appropriate stakeholders, including providers, consumers, and local health departments.

(c) On or before October 1, 2008, the Department shall report its findings under this section, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ July 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, May 22, 2008.