

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 1537 (Delegate Krimm)  
Health and Government Operations

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Commission to Study Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Funding

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This bill establishes the Commission to Study Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Funding, which is to be jointly staffed by the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Department of Transportation. By June 30, 2019, the commission must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and specified committees of the General Assembly. A member of the commission may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018, and terminates July 31, 2019.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Any reimbursement for task force members and staffing costs are considered to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The commission must (1) study Maryland's requirements for non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) funding and the implications that the current demand for NEMT funding may have on other forms of transportation provided by locally operated transit systems (LOTS) and (2) make recommendations regarding the criteria for choosing which medical providers would be required to reimburse costs related to a patient's use of NEMT as well as the best methodology for collecting and distributing NEMT reimbursements to LOTS providers.

In undertaking the study and making recommendations, the commission must:

- measure NEMT funding requirements relative to the revenue for NEMT and the total revenue for all LOTS activities;
- compare NEMT service volume to that of other LOTS services on a per person, per hour, and per dollar basis;
- determine the impact of NEMT costs on the existing and projected future status of LOTS funding adequacy and the feasibility and methodology of assessing medical providers for the reimbursement of certain NEMT costs; and
- consider any other data the commission deems necessary.

**Current Law/Background:** NEMT is available for Medicaid recipients who have no other means of getting to their medical appointments. NEMT typically covers ambulatory, ambulance, aero medical, and wheelchair transportation. Transportation services are provided by local jurisdictions. Generally, transportation services must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance, with the exception of hospital discharges. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2019 budget includes \$43.8 million for Medicaid NEMT, which is typically distributed to local health departments in the form of transportation grants.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 5, 2018  
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