CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Emergency Service Transporters
   – Reimbursement

3 FOR the purpose of altering the medical services provided by an emergency service
4 transporter for which the Maryland Department of Health is required to reimburse
5 the emergency service transporter who charges for its services and requests
6 reimbursement from the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; requiring the
7 Department to increase the amount of reimbursement by a certain amount each
8 fiscal year, beginning in a certain fiscal year, until the rate is at least a certain
9 amount and pay at least the increased amount in each subsequent fiscal year; and
10 generally relating to the reimbursement of services provided by emergency service
11 transporters under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Health – General
14 Section 15–114.1
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
   [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
   Underlining indicates amendments to bill.
   Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by
   amendment.
Article – Health – General

15–114.1.

(a) (1) In this section, “emergency service” THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 13–561 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

(3) “EMERGENCY SERVICE” transporter means a public entity or volunteer fire, rescue, or emergency medical service that provides emergency medical services.

(4) “LOW-ACUITY HEALTH CONDITION” MEANS AN ILLNESS, AN INJURY, OR A CONDITION SERIOUS ENOUGH THAT A REASONABLE PERSON WOULD SEEK CARE IMMEDIATELY, BUT NOT SO SEVERE AS TO REQUIRE EMERGENCY ROOM CARE.

(5) “MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICE” MEANS A COMMUNITY–BASED PREVENTIVE, PRIMARY, CHRONIC, PREADMISSION, OR POSTADMISSION HEALTH CARE SERVICE OR TRANSPORT PROVIDED BY AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER TO AN INDIVIDUAL.

(b) (1) [If] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SECTION SUBSECTION, 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 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

(II) 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) (2) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCREASE:

(1) INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SECTION SUBSECTION FOR THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION AND MEDICAL SERVICES BY $25 $50 IN FISCAL YEAR 2023; AND
(II) **Pay at least the amount established under item (i) of this paragraph in each subsequent fiscal year, until the reimbursement for the services is at least $300.**

(C) (1) **Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, the Department shall reimburse an emergency service transporter for mobile integrated health services provided to a Program recipient in an amount as specified by regulations adopted by the Department that is at least $100 per interaction.**

(2) **The services subject to reimbursement under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include:**

   (I) **Health care services, including health assessments, remote medical diagnostics, chronic disease monitoring and education, medication compliance, immunizations and vaccinations, laboratory specimen collection, hospital discharge follow-up care, and minor medical procedures, provided by an emergency medical services provider that are:**

     1. **Within the scope of practice of the emergency medical services provider;**

     2. **Provided in a home or another community–based setting to a Program recipient who does not require emergency medical transport; and**

     3. **Consistent with the protocols issued by the Emergency Medical Services Board; and**

   (II) **Transportation provided by the emergency service transporter to a Program recipient with a low–acuity health condition to a location in which urgent health care services are provided to individuals.**

(3) **The Department shall:**

   (I) **Increase the amount of reimbursement authorized under paragraph (1) of this subsection for the cost of transportation and medical services by $50 in fiscal year 2023; and**

   (II) **Pay at least the amount established under item (i) of this paragraph in each subsequent fiscal year.**
The Department shall adopt any regulations necessary to carry out this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Maryland Department of Health, in coordination with the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, shall study the adequacy of the rate of reimbursement provided under § 15–114.1 of the Health – General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

(b) The study required under subsection (a) of this section shall include an analysis of best practices from other states.

(c) On or before November 1, 2024, the Department shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) shall study the emergency and nonemergency interfacility transport system for patients enrolled in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, including the process for responding to referral requests in a timely manner, the adequacy of reimbursement related to costs, and performance standards.

(b) On or before December 31, 2022, MIEMSS shall report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION # 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.