

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 594

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**Version:** As introduced

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**Subject:** MA Nonemergency Medical Transportation

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### Overview

This bill contains provisions related to the purchase, management, and reimbursement of nonemergency medical transportation services.

#### Section

- 1** **Competitive bidding.** Amends § 256B.04, subd. 14. Allows the commissioner to utilize volume purchase through competitive bidding and negotiation, to provide nonemergency medical transportation services level of need determinations, disbursement of public transportation passes and tokens, and volunteer and recipient mileage and parking reimbursement. Eliminates the authority for the commissioner to volume purchase special transportation services.
- 2** **Level of need determination.** Amends § 256B.04, by adding subd. 14a. Requires nonemergency medical transportation level of need determinations to be performed by a physician, a registered nurse working under the direct supervision of a physician, a physician's assistant, a nurse practitioner, or a discharge planner. Prohibits level of need determinations from being performed more than semiannually on any individual, unless the individual's circumstances have sufficiently changed. Exempts individuals residing in skilled nursing facilities or requiring stretcher transportation from a level of need determination, and states that these individuals are eligible for special transportation services.
- 3** **Transportation costs.** Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 17. Provides that MA covers special transportation if the recipient resides in a skilled nursing facility or requires stretcher transportation. Requires special transportation providers to take recipients to the nearest health care provider using the quickest route, as determined by a commercially available

mileage software program approved by the commissioner (eliminates a reference to the "most direct" route). Increases MA reimbursement rates for special transportation as follows:

- (1) from \$17 to \$17.50 for the base rate and from \$1.35 to \$1.85 per mile for services to persons who need a wheelchair-accessible van;
- (2) from \$11 to \$11.55 for the base rate and from \$1.30 to \$1.35 per mile for services to persons who do not need a wheelchair-accessible van; and
- (3) from \$60 to \$63 for the base rate and from \$2.40 to \$2.45 per mile, for services to persons who need a stretcher-accessible vehicle.