

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill renames “special” transportation services “ambulette” transportation services, and increases ambulette transportation service reimbursement rates.

Section

1 Transportation costs. Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 17. A new paragraph (a) defines terms. “Ambulette transportation” is defined using a definition similar to that for special transportation services (this bill throughout replaces the term “special transportation” with the term “ambulette transportation”). “Medical transportation” is defined to mean the transport of a recipient to obtain a covered service or transport after provision of the service. “Rural urban commuting area” (RUCA) is defined to mean an area determined to be urban, rural, or super rural by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for purposes of Medicare reimbursement of ambulance services.

The amendment to a recodified paragraph (b) requires medical transportation to be provided by: (1) an ambulance, (2) ambulette transportation, or (3) a common carrier, and makes related changes.

The amendments to a recodified paragraph (c) modify reimbursement rates for ambulette transportation services, by:

- Specifying that the reimbursement rates listed are “minimum” rates (current law provides that these rates are “maximum” rates);
- Specifying that the rates in current law are for areas defined under RUCA as urban, and increasing reimbursement for miles equal to or exceeding 51 miles to 125 percent of the mileage rates in current law;
- Increasing base rates by one percent for ambulette transportation services in areas defined under RUCA to be rural;

- Increasing base rates by 22.6 percent for ambulette transportation services in areas defined under RUCA to be super rural;
- Setting the following mileage rates for ambulette transportation services in areas defined to be rural and super rural: 150 percent of the current rate for trips of 17 miles or less; 100 percent of the current rate for trips between 18 and 50 miles; and 125 percent of the current rate for trips equal to or greater than 51 miles.

A new paragraph (d) provides that the recipient's place of residence determines whether the urban, rural, or super rural reimbursement rate applies.

2 Reimbursement reform act. States that section 1 shall be referred to as the "Nonemergency Medical Transportation Reimbursement Reform Act of 2009."

3 Revisor's instruction. Directs the revisor to change the term "special transportation services" or "special transportation" to "ambulette transportation services" or "ambulette transportation" in specified sections of law and rule.