

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: McDonald and others
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Analyst: Randall Chun, (651) 296-8639

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Overview

This bill contains various provisions related to nonemergency medical transportation services. The bill sets payment levels for level of need determinations and provides certain exemptions from these determinations. The bill defines and sets payment rates and other criteria for for-hire access transportation. The bill also establishes a common carrier pilot program and requires the commissioner of human services to develop a proposal to create a single administrative structure for access and special transportation services. The bill also requires the commissioner to make certain recoveries from brokers of nonemergency medical transportation services.

- 1** **Level of need determination.** Amends § 256B.04, subd. 14a. Limits charges and payments for level of need determinations for nonemergency medical transportation to \$20. Exempts from level of need determinations special transportation services to persons who need a stretcher-accessible vehicle from a hospital, if the services are ordered by specified health care professionals according to Medicare guidelines. Exempts level of need determinations for persons transported to a nursing facility.
- 2** **Transportation costs.** Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 17. Defines nonemergency medical transportation and for-hire access transportation. Requires the most direct route for purposes of reimbursement to special transportation providers to be determined by commercially available mileage software. Sets requirements and payment rates for for-hire access transportation services.
- 3** **Nonemergency medical transportation common carrier pilot program.** Requires the commissioner of human services to establish a pilot program in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties to test the use of public transportation as an alternative to the use of nonemergency medical transportation. Limits eligibility to persons residing in these counties who do not have a physical or mental impairment that would prohibit safe access and use of commercial transportation or private automobile. Requires the program to provide free public transportation, and prohibits for-hire access transportation providers from being paid for nonemergency medical transportation provided to eligible individuals.
- 4** **Nonemergency medical transportation single administrative structure proposal.** (a) Requires the commissioner of human services to develop a proposal to create a single administrative structure for providing nonemergency medical transportation services to MA fee-for-service recipients. Requires

the proposal to consolidate access and special transportation services into one administrative structure, with the goal of standardizing eligibility determination processes, scheduling arrangements, billing procedures, data collection, and oversight mechanisms.

(b) Requires the commissioner, in developing the proposal, to:

(1) examine the current responsibilities of the counties and DHS and consider any cost-shifting if responsibilities are changed;

(2) identify key performance measures to assess the cost effectiveness of medical nonemergency transportation, including a process to collect, audit, and report data;

(3) develop a statewide complaint system for recipients;

(4) establish a standardized billing process;

(5) establish a process for public input;

(6) establish eligibility criteria, including the frequency of eligibility assessments and the length of the eligibility period; and

(7) develop a reimbursement method to compensate volunteers for no-load miles.

(c) Requires the commissioner to consult with the nonemergency medical transportation advisory council when developing the proposal.

(d) Requires the commissioner to establish the nonemergency medical transportation advisory council, and specifies membership and governance.

(e) Requires the commissioner to submit the proposal and draft legislation to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health care policy and finance, by January 15, 2012.

- 5 Recovery from broker.** Requires the commissioner of human services, in cooperation with the commissioner of management and budget, to recover from any broker of nonemergency medical transportation services overpayments for administrative services, cost of living adjustments, and certain access transportation for wheelchair door-to-door services. Requires recoveries to be based on the findings of the Office of Legislative Auditor's report on nonemergency transportation.