



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

**HB4944**

Introduced 1/27/2022, by Rep. Robyn Gabel

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/5-4.2

Amends the Medical Assistance Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that on and after July 1, 2022, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services shall increase the base rate of reimbursement for both base charges and mileage charges for ground ambulance service providers for medical transportation services provided by means of a ground ambulance to a level not lower than 100% of the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule rates for urban areas, by designated Medicare Locality, in effect on January 1, 2022. Effective July 1, 2022.

LRB102 24971 KTG 34226 b

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by  
5 changing Section 5-4.2 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/5-4.2)

7 Sec. 5-4.2. Ambulance services payments.

8 (a) For ambulance services provided to a recipient of aid  
9 under this Article on or after January 1, 1993, the Illinois  
10 Department shall reimburse ambulance service providers at  
11 rates calculated in accordance with this Section. It is the  
12 intent of the General Assembly to provide adequate  
13 reimbursement for ambulance services so as to ensure adequate  
14 access to services for recipients of aid under this Article  
15 and to provide appropriate incentives to ambulance service  
16 providers to provide services in an efficient and  
17 cost-effective manner. Thus, it is the intent of the General  
18 Assembly that the Illinois Department implement a  
19 reimbursement system for ambulance services that, to the  
20 extent practicable and subject to the availability of funds  
21 appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose, is  
22 consistent with the payment principles of Medicare. To ensure  
23 uniformity between the payment principles of Medicare and

1 Medicaid, the Illinois Department shall follow, to the extent  
2 necessary and practicable and subject to the availability of  
3 funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose,  
4 the statutes, laws, regulations, policies, procedures,  
5 principles, definitions, guidelines, and manuals used to  
6 determine the amounts paid to ambulance service providers  
7 under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare).

8 (b) For ambulance services provided to a recipient of aid  
9 under this Article on or after January 1, 1996, the Illinois  
10 Department shall reimburse ambulance service providers based  
11 upon the actual distance traveled if a natural disaster,  
12 weather conditions, road repairs, or traffic congestion  
13 necessitates the use of a route other than the most direct  
14 route.

15 (c) For purposes of this Section, "ambulance services"  
16 includes medical transportation services provided by means of  
17 an ambulance, medi-car, service car, or taxi.

18 (c-1) For purposes of this Section, "ground ambulance  
19 service" means medical transportation services that are  
20 described as ground ambulance services by the Centers for  
21 Medicare and Medicaid Services and provided in a vehicle that  
22 is licensed as an ambulance by the Illinois Department of  
23 Public Health pursuant to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS)  
24 Systems Act.

25 (c-2) For purposes of this Section, "ground ambulance  
26 service provider" means a vehicle service provider as

1 described in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act  
2 that operates licensed ambulances for the purpose of providing  
3 emergency ambulance services, or non-emergency ambulance  
4 services, or both. For purposes of this Section, this includes  
5 both ambulance providers and ambulance suppliers as described  
6 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

7 (c-3) For purposes of this Section, "medi-car" means  
8 transportation services provided to a patient who is confined  
9 to a wheelchair and requires the use of a hydraulic or electric  
10 lift or ramp and wheelchair lockdown when the patient's  
11 condition does not require medical observation, medical  
12 supervision, medical equipment, the administration of  
13 medications, or the administration of oxygen.

14 (c-4) For purposes of this Section, "service car" means  
15 transportation services provided to a patient by a passenger  
16 vehicle where that patient does not require the specialized  
17 modes described in subsection (c-1) or (c-3).

18 (d) This Section does not prohibit separate billing by  
19 ambulance service providers for oxygen furnished while  
20 providing advanced life support services.

21 (e) Beginning with services rendered on or after July 1,  
22 2008, all providers of non-emergency medi-car and service car  
23 transportation must certify that the driver and employee  
24 attendant, as applicable, have completed a safety program  
25 approved by the Department to protect both the patient and the  
26 driver, prior to transporting a patient. The provider must

1 maintain this certification in its records. The provider shall  
2 produce such documentation upon demand by the Department or  
3 its representative. Failure to produce documentation of such  
4 training shall result in recovery of any payments made by the  
5 Department for services rendered by a non-certified driver or  
6 employee attendant. Medi-car and service car providers must  
7 maintain legible documentation in their records of the driver  
8 and, as applicable, employee attendant that actually  
9 transported the patient. Providers must recertify all drivers  
10 and employee attendants every 3 years. If they meet the  
11 established training components set forth by the Department,  
12 providers of non-emergency medi-car and service car  
13 transportation that are either directly or through an  
14 affiliated company licensed by the Department of Public Health  
15 shall be approved by the Department to have in-house safety  
16 programs for training their own staff.

17 Notwithstanding the requirements above, any public  
18 transportation provider of medi-car and service car  
19 transportation that receives federal funding under 49 U.S.C.  
20 5307 and 5311 need not certify its drivers and employee  
21 attendants under this Section, since safety training is  
22 already federally mandated.

23 (f) With respect to any policy or program administered by  
24 the Department or its agent regarding approval of  
25 non-emergency medical transportation by ground ambulance  
26 service providers, including, but not limited to, the

1 Non-Emergency Transportation Services Prior Approval Program  
2 (NETSPAP), the Department shall establish by rule a process by  
3 which ground ambulance service providers of non-emergency  
4 medical transportation may appeal any decision by the  
5 Department or its agent for which no denial was received prior  
6 to the time of transport that either (i) denies a request for  
7 approval for payment of non-emergency transportation by means  
8 of ground ambulance service or (ii) grants a request for  
9 approval of non-emergency transportation by means of ground  
10 ambulance service at a level of service that entitles the  
11 ground ambulance service provider to a lower level of  
12 compensation from the Department than the ground ambulance  
13 service provider would have received as compensation for the  
14 level of service requested. The rule shall be filed by  
15 December 15, 2012 and shall provide that, for any decision  
16 rendered by the Department or its agent on or after the date  
17 the rule takes effect, the ground ambulance service provider  
18 shall have 60 days from the date the decision is received to  
19 file an appeal. The rule established by the Department shall  
20 be, insofar as is practical, consistent with the Illinois  
21 Administrative Procedure Act. The Director's decision on an  
22 appeal under this Section shall be a final administrative  
23 decision subject to review under the Administrative Review  
24 Law.

25 (f-5) Beginning 90 days after July 20, 2012 (the effective  
26 date of Public Act 97-842), (i) no denial of a request for

1 approval for payment of non-emergency transportation by means  
2 of ground ambulance service, and (ii) no approval of  
3 non-emergency transportation by means of ground ambulance  
4 service at a level of service that entitles the ground  
5 ambulance service provider to a lower level of compensation  
6 from the Department than would have been received at the level  
7 of service submitted by the ground ambulance service provider,  
8 may be issued by the Department or its agent unless the  
9 Department has submitted the criteria for determining the  
10 appropriateness of the transport for first notice publication  
11 in the Illinois Register pursuant to Section 5-40 of the  
12 Illinois Administrative Procedure Act.

13 (f-7) For non-emergency ground ambulance claims properly  
14 denied under Department policy at the time the claim is filed  
15 due to failure to submit a valid Medical Certification for  
16 Non-Emergency Ambulance on and after December 15, 2012 and  
17 prior to January 1, 2021, the Department shall allot  
18 \$2,000,000 to a pool to reimburse such claims if the provider  
19 proves medical necessity for the service by other means.  
20 Providers must submit any such denied claims for which they  
21 seek compensation to the Department no later than December 31,  
22 2021 along with documentation of medical necessity. No later  
23 than May 31, 2022, the Department shall determine for which  
24 claims medical necessity was established. Such claims for  
25 which medical necessity was established shall be paid at the  
26 rate in effect at the time of the service, provided the

1 \$2,000,000 is sufficient to pay at those rates. If the pool is  
2 not sufficient, claims shall be paid at a uniform percentage  
3 of the applicable rate such that the pool of \$2,000,000 is  
4 exhausted. The appeal process described in subsection (f)  
5 shall not be applicable to the Department's determinations  
6 made in accordance with this subsection.

7 (g) Whenever a patient covered by a medical assistance  
8 program under this Code or by another medical program  
9 administered by the Department, including a patient covered  
10 under the State's Medicaid managed care program, is being  
11 transported from a facility and requires non-emergency  
12 transportation including ground ambulance, medi-car, or  
13 service car transportation, a Physician Certification  
14 Statement as described in this Section shall be required for  
15 each patient. Facilities shall develop procedures for a  
16 licensed medical professional to provide a written and signed  
17 Physician Certification Statement. The Physician Certification  
18 Statement shall specify the level of transportation services  
19 needed and complete a medical certification establishing the  
20 criteria for approval of non-emergency ambulance  
21 transportation, as published by the Department of Healthcare  
22 and Family Services, that is met by the patient. This  
23 certification shall be completed prior to ordering the  
24 transportation service and prior to patient discharge. The  
25 Physician Certification Statement is not required prior to  
26 transport if a delay in transport can be expected to



1 negatively affect the patient outcome. If the ground ambulance  
2 provider, medi-car provider, or service car provider is unable  
3 to obtain the required Physician Certification Statement  
4 within 10 calendar days following the date of the service, the  
5 ground ambulance provider, medi-car provider, or service car  
6 provider must document its attempt to obtain the requested  
7 certification and may then submit the claim for payment.  
8 Acceptable documentation includes a signed return receipt from  
9 the U.S. Postal Service, facsimile receipt, email receipt, or  
10 other similar service that evidences that the ground ambulance  
11 provider, medi-car provider, or service car provider attempted  
12 to obtain the required Physician Certification Statement.

13 The medical certification specifying the level and type of  
14 non-emergency transportation needed shall be in the form of  
15 the Physician Certification Statement on a standardized form  
16 prescribed by the Department of Healthcare and Family  
17 Services. Within 75 days after July 27, 2018 (the effective  
18 date of Public Act 100-646), the Department of Healthcare and  
19 Family Services shall develop a standardized form of the  
20 Physician Certification Statement specifying the level and  
21 type of transportation services needed in consultation with  
22 the Department of Public Health, Medicaid managed care  
23 organizations, a statewide association representing ambulance  
24 providers, a statewide association representing hospitals, 3  
25 statewide associations representing nursing homes, and other  
26 stakeholders. The Physician Certification Statement shall

1 include, but is not limited to, the criteria necessary to  
2 demonstrate medical necessity for the level of transport  
3 needed as required by (i) the Department of Healthcare and  
4 Family Services and (ii) the federal Centers for Medicare and  
5 Medicaid Services as outlined in the Centers for Medicare and  
6 Medicaid Services' Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Pub.  
7 100-02, Chap. 10, Sec. 10.2.1, et seq. The use of the Physician  
8 Certification Statement shall satisfy the obligations of  
9 hospitals under Section 6.22 of the Hospital Licensing Act and  
10 nursing homes under Section 2-217 of the Nursing Home Care  
11 Act. Implementation and acceptance of the Physician  
12 Certification Statement shall take place no later than 90 days  
13 after the issuance of the Physician Certification Statement by  
14 the Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

15 Pursuant to subsection (E) of Section 12-4.25 of this  
16 Code, the Department is entitled to recover overpayments paid  
17 to a provider or vendor, including, but not limited to, from  
18 the discharging physician, the discharging facility, and the  
19 ground ambulance service provider, in instances where a  
20 non-emergency ground ambulance service is rendered as the  
21 result of improper or false certification.

22 Beginning October 1, 2018, the Department of Healthcare  
23 and Family Services shall collect data from Medicaid managed  
24 care organizations and transportation brokers, including the  
25 Department's NETSPAP broker, regarding denials and appeals  
26 related to the missing or incomplete Physician Certification

1 Statement forms and overall compliance with this subsection.  
2 The Department of Healthcare and Family Services shall publish  
3 quarterly results on its website within 15 days following the  
4 end of each quarter.

5 (h) On and after July 1, 2012, the Department shall reduce  
6 any rate of reimbursement for services or other payments or  
7 alter any methodologies authorized by this Code to reduce any  
8 rate of reimbursement for services or other payments in  
9 accordance with Section 5-5e.

10 (i) On and after July 1, 2022 ~~2018~~, the Department shall  
11 increase the base rate of reimbursement for both base charges  
12 and mileage charges for ground ambulance service providers for  
13 medical transportation services provided by means of a ground  
14 ambulance to a level not lower than 100% of the Medicare  
15 Ambulance Fee Schedule rates for urban areas, by designated  
16 Medicare Locality, in effect on January 1, 2022 ~~112% of the~~  
17 ~~base rate in effect as of June 30, 2018.~~

18 (Source: P.A. 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-649, eff. 7-7-20;  
19 102-364, eff. 1-1-22; 102-650, eff. 8-27-21; revised 11-8-21.)

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
21 2022.