

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1863

By: Representatives L. Johnson, Perry

By: Senator Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT MANAGER
ACT; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT
MANAGER ACT; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 23-99-1705 is amended to read as follows:
23-99-1705. Claims.

(a) A contracting entity shall pay a claim for ambulance services for which prior authorization was received regardless of the terminology used by the transportation benefit manager or health benefit plan within thirty (30) days of receipt of the claim from an ambulance provider, unless:

(1) Authorized ambulance services were never performed; or
(2) There is specific information available for review by the appropriate state or federal agency that the subscriber or ambulance provider has engaged in material misrepresentation, fraud, or abuse regarding the claim for the authorized ambulance services.

~~(b)(1) A healthcare insurer or transportation benefit manager shall pay two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule, Rural Rate for a claim for ambulance services to an ambulance provider.~~

~~(2) An ambulance provider shall accept the payment under subdivision (b)(1) of this section as payment in full for services provided to the subscriber.~~



~~(3) An ambulance provider shall not balance bill or otherwise demand a payment from the subscriber other than a deductible, copayment, or coinsurance required under the subscriber's health benefit plan.~~

~~(e)~~ Ambulance services authorized or guaranteed for payment under this section for which the prior authorization is not rescinded or reversed under subsection (a) of this section are not subject to audit recoupment.

~~(d)~~(c) A claim submitted by an ambulance provider shall include any information as required by the Insurance Commissioner.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 23-99-1706, concerning enforcement and rules of the Transportation Benefit Manager Act, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(d)(1) On and after July 1, 2025, the Arkansas Ambulance Association shall collect the rates that are approved or contracted for between an ambulance provider and a local government entity as provided for under § 14-266-105.

(2) The information required under subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall be submitted annually to the commissioner.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is necessary to resolve a conflict regarding in-network and out-of-network reimbursement rates for ambulance services; that the conflict is causing confusion between ambulance providers, insurers, and the State Insurance Department; and that this act is immediately necessary to alleviate confusion concerning reimbursement rates for ambulance services. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 4/17/25