

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1850

By: Representatives L. Johnson, Perry

By: Senator Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICES; TO CLARIFY THE MINIMUM ALLOWABLE REIMBURSEMENT FOR GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICES; TO CLARIFY THE MINIMUM ALLOWABLE REIMBURSEMENT FOR GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICES; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 23-99-1802(a), concerning the minimum allowable reimbursement for ground ambulance services, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The minimum allowable reimbursement rate under any health benefit plan issued by a healthcare insurer to a participating ground ambulance service provider or an out-of-network ground ambulance service provider shall be at the rates approved or contracted between ~~an~~ the ambulance service provider and ~~a~~ the local government entity as provided for in § 14-266-105.

(2) ~~In~~ On and after July 1, 2025, in the absence of rates set as provided under subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the minimum allowable rate of reimbursement under a health benefit plan issued by a healthcare insurer shall be the lesser of:



(A) ~~The rate established by the Workers' Compensation Commission under its medical fee schedule for ambulance services Three hundred twenty-five percent (325%) of the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule, Arkansas Rural Rate, as established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services at the time of the date of service for the same service provided; or~~

(B) The provider's billed charges.

SECTION 2. 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 because 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