STATE OF NEW YORK

4770

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 25, 2019

Introduced by Sen. SALAZAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to reimbursement for special transportation services

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 368-d of the social services law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

7. The commissioner shall, beginning upon the effective date of this subdivision and on an ongoing basis thereafter, review whether current state rules, regulations, policy, billing guidelines and amendments under the state plan for medical assistance concerning medicaid reimbursement for special transportation services, which are furnished by school districts to children with handicapping conditions, or such children suspected of having handicapping conditions, receiving medical care and services that qualify for reimbursement under this title, are more restrictive than required by federal law, regulations, or policy. The commissioner shall take all practicable steps to ensure that any necessary changes are made to state rules, regulations, policy, and billing guidelines, and submit any necessary proposed state plan amendments to the centers for medicare and medicaid services, to ensure receipt of all available federal financial participation under title nineteen of the federal social security act for special transportation services furnished by school districts to children with handicapping conditions or such children suspected of having handicapping conditions. In so doing, the commissioner shall:

(a) seek to ensure receipt of all available federal financial participation for transportation services furnished to children with non-physical disabilities;

(b) seek to ensure receipt of all available federal financial participation for transportation services involving accommodations including,

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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but not limited to, safety restraints and harnesses, medical equipment, paraprofessional or nursing services, smaller vehicle size, alternative vehicle routing, and climate control;

(c) consider the policies of other states which may receive federal financial participation for a broader scope of transportation services; and

(d) consult with representatives of school districts, including school districts in any city with a population of one million or more.

§ 2. Section 368-e of the social services law is amended by adding a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

6. The commissioner shall, beginning upon the effective date of this subdivision and on an ongoing basis thereafter, review whether current state rules, regulations, policy, billing guidelines and amendments under the state plan for medical assistance concerning medicaid reimbursement for special transportation services, which are furnished by counties and the city of New York to preschool children with handicapping conditions, or such preschool children suspected of having handicapping conditions, receiving medical care and services that qualify for reimbursement under this title, are more restrictive than required by federal law, regulations, or policy. The commissioner shall take all practicable steps to ensure that any necessary changes are made to state rules, regulations, policy, and billing guidelines, and submit any necessary proposed state plan amendments to the centers for medicare and medicaid services, to ensure receipt of all available federal financial participation under title nineteen of the federal social security act for special transportation services furnished by counties and the city of New York to preschool children with handicapping conditions, or such preschool children suspected of having handicapping conditions. In so doing, the commissioner shall:

(a) seek to ensure receipt of all available federal financial participation for transportation services furnished to preschool children with non-physical disabilities;

(b) seek to ensure receipt of all available federal financial participation for transportation services involving accommodations including, but not limited to, safety restraints and harnesses, medical equipment, paraprofessional or nursing services, smaller vehicle size, alternative vehicle routing, and climate control;

(c) consider the policies of other states which may receive federal financial participation for a broader scope of transportation services; and

(d) consult with representatives of counties and the city of New York.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.