STATE OF NEW YORK

3768

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 29, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- 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 of transportation costs for emergency care

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 365-h of the social services law, as amended by section 20 of part B of chapter 109 of the laws of 2010, is amended and a new subdivision 7 is added to read as follows:

1. The local social services official and, subject to the provisions of subdivision four of this section, the commissioner of health shall have responsibility for prior authorizing transportation of eligible persons and for limiting the provision of such transportation to those recipients and circumstances where such transportation is essential, medically necessary and appropriate to obtain medical care, services or supplies otherwise available under this title. **However, prior authorization shall not be required for transportation to obtain emergency care, including emergency medical transportation by an ambulance service certified under article thirty of the public health law.**

7. With respect to transportation and care provided to an eligible person by an ambulance service certified under article thirty of the public health law, the commissioner of the department of health shall establish a reimbursement methodology that ensures that providers are reimbursed at the greater of the medical assistance rate in effect on the effective date of this subdivision, or the medicare allowable charge (pursuant to title XVIII of the federal social security act) for such transportation and care. The amount of increase in reimbursement produced by this methodology over what would otherwise have been paid shall be phased in as follows: in the state fiscal year in which the provisions of this subdivision become law, thirty-three percent; in the following state fiscal year, sixty-six percent; and in the second state

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

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fiscal year following the state fiscal year in which the provisions of this subdivision become law and all subsequent fiscal years, one hundred percent.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 368-a of the social services law is amended by adding a new paragraph (aa) to read as follows:

(aa) Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of this chapter or any other provision of law to the contrary, one hundred percent of the amount expended for medical assistance under this title for transportation and care furnished under subdivision four of section three hundred sixty-five-h of this title on or after April first, two thousand twenty-five, after first deducting therefrom any federal funds properly received or to be received on account thereof.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of April next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law, provided that the amendments to section 365-h of the social services law made by section one of this act shall not affect the repeal and reversion of such section pursuant to subdivision (a) of section 40 of part B of chapter 109 of the laws of 2010, as amended.