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## DIGEST

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HB 493 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

**Abstract:** Provides for the imposition of fees for emergency ground ambulance service providers.

Present law provides that the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) may adopt and impose fees for healthcare services provided by the Medicaid program on emergency ground ambulance service providers.

Proposed law provides that LDH may adopt and impose fees for healthcare services provided by the Medicaid program on emergency ground ambulance services and the providers thereof.

Present law requires LDH to calculate, levy, and collect a fee from every emergency ground ambulance service provider on each emergency and nonemergency ground ambulance transport in certain instances provided in present law.

Proposed law requires LDH to calculate, levy, and collect a fee on each emergency and nonemergency ground ambulance services from every emergency ground ambulance service provider upon the occurrence. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires the total amount of the assessment to be paid by the emergency ground ambulance service provider in installments as prescribed by the secretary of LDH in conjunction with the agreement of emergency ground ambulance service providers within 30 days of the notification of the fee amount owed.

Proposed law requires the total amount of the assessment to be paid by the provider of the emergency ground ambulance service in installments as prescribed by the secretary of LDH in conjunction with the agreement of those providers subject to the fee which provide a minimum of 65% of the emergency ground ambulance transports. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires LDH to provide reimbursement enhancements when reimbursement or payment to emergency ground ambulance service providers by any state or state-sponsored program at or above rates at the level which were in effect on July 1, 2015, for emergency and nonemergency transport and related services provided in accordance with the Louisiana medical assistance program provided that funds are appropriated in the budget.

Proposed law requires LDH to provide reimbursement enhancements when reimbursement for emergency ground ambulance services at or above rates at the level which were in effect on July 1, 2022, for ground ambulance transport and related services provided in accordance with the La. medical assistance program provided that funds are appropriated in the budget plus an enhancement.

Present law requires enhancement payment levels to be determined in a manner to bring the payments for these services up to the average commercial rate level as described in present law and any amendments thereto to the extent of the availability of funds in the Emergency Ground Ambulance Service Trust Fund.

Proposed law requires enhancement payment levels to be determined in a manner to bring the payments for these services up to the average commercial rate level as described in any applicable State Plan Amendment pertaining to emergency ground ambulance service provider reimbursement or payment approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Present law prohibits an additional assessment from being collected and provides that any assessment shall be terminated for the remainder of the fiscal year from the date on which certain instances occur as provided in present law.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law redefines "average commercial rate", "emergency ground ambulance services", and "net operating revenue".

Proposed law repeals present law relative to department fee restrictions, reimbursement documentation, assessments, funds from the Emergency Ground Ambulance Service Provider Trust Fund Account, and circumstances for the termination of assessment.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 46:2626(A), (F), (G), (H)(1), and (I)(2), (5), (6), and (7); Repeals R.S. 46:2626(B))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Make technical corrections.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Restore provisions in present law that refer to services provided by emergency ground ambulance service providers.
2. Require certain healthcare services provided in proposed law to be allowed under present law.
3. Establish requirements for payment installments.
4. Add language relative to emergency ground ambulance service provider reimbursement.

5. Provide that no additional assessment shall be collected and no assessment shall be terminated for the remainder of the fiscal year under certain occurrences specified in proposed law.
6. Make technical corrections.