

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19530

When a patient seeks emergency treatment, which emergency necessitates helicopter or other form of emergency air transport to a hospital, there is no guarantee the patient will receive that emergency air transport from providers and other health care professionals who contract with the patient's health insurance company. When a patient acts in good faith to seek emergency treatment which requires emergency air transport, the patient should not be penalized financially with potentially large balance bills from non-contracting emergency air transport providers.

This bill would require that if an emergency air transport provider who does not contract with a health insurance carrier renders emergency air transport service to a patient, the emergency air transport provider shall collect from the health insurance carrier only the amount paid to contracted providers for the same services, and from the patient, any applicable coinsurance, co-pay or deductible or any charges for non-covered services, but no balance billing would be permitted.

FISCAL NOTE

None.

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