

HB0301S02 compared with HB0301

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0301 but was omitted in HB0301S02

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0301 but was inserted into HB0301S02

DISCLAIMER: This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

Ambulance Provider Payment Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: A. Cory Maloy

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to ambulance billing and charges.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- codifies a base rate for ground ambulance transports;
- ~~{provides a method for updating the base rate each year;}~~
- prohibits a ground ambulance provider from charging rates that exceed established rates;
- prohibits balance billing; ~~{and}~~
- requires an insurer to allow for established rates ~~{-}~~ ;
- requires the Office of the Legislative Auditor General to conduct an audit if prioritized;

and

- creates a repeal date.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

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18 None

21 AMENDS:

22 **53-2d-503** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 240 , as last amended by Laws of Utah
2024, Chapter 240

23 **63I-1-231** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 28 , as last amended by Laws of
Utah 2023, Chapter 28

24 **63I-1-253** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5 , as last
amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

25 ENACTS:

26 **31A-22-627.1** , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

27

28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section 1 is enacted to read:

30 **31A-22-627.1. Ground ambulance reimbursement.**

27 (1) As used in this section:

28 ~~{(a) {"Adjusted base rate" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-2d-503.}}~~

29 ~~{(b)}~~ (a) "Base rate" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-2d-503.

33 ~~(b)~~ "Medication maximum cost" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-2d-503.

30 (2) For a mileage rate established in a rule created under Section 53-2d-503 ~~{that is not the base rate}~~ ,
a health benefit plan shall ~~{consider}~~ accept a correctly charged ~~{amount under the}~~ mileage rate
~~{established by the rule}~~ as an allowable expense for a claim.

33 (3) ~~{Before July 1, 2026}~~ For claims made under Section 53-2d-503, a health benefit plan shall
~~{consider}~~ accept a correctly charged amount ~~{that is equal to the base rate as an allowable expense}~~
~~for a claim.}~~ ;

35 ~~{(4)}~~ ~~(a)~~ ~~{Beginning on July 1, 2026, a health benefit plan shall consider a correctly charged amount}~~
that is equal to the ~~{adjusted}~~ base rate as an allowable expense ~~{for a claim.}~~ ; and

40 ~~(b)~~ that is equal to the medication maximum cost as an allowable expense for medication provided.

37 ~~{(5)}~~ ~~(4)~~ A health benefit plan shall make a payment for ~~{rates}~~ claims described in this section
directly to the provider, including an out-of-network provider ~~{, not later than:}~~ ;

39 ~~{(a)}~~ ~~{30 days after the day the health benefit plan receives an electronic claim for the services that}~~
~~includes all information necessary to pay the claim; or}~~ }

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41 ~~{(b) {45 days after the day the health benefit plan receives a nonelectronic claim for the services that~~
42 ~~includes all information necessary to pay the claim.}}~~

44 Section 2. Section **53-2d-503** is amended to read:

45 **53-2d-503. Establishment of maximum rates.**

45 (1) [The] As used in this section:

46 ~~{(a) {"Adjusted base rate" means, for each transport type described in Subsection (5)(a), the sum of:}}~~

48 ~~{(i) {the previous year's base rate or adjusted base rate if the adjusted base rate was published; and}}~~

50 ~~{(ii) {the product of the applicable rate described in Subsection (1)(a)(i) multiplied by the previous 12-~~
51 ~~month medical care consumer price index published in June.}}~~

52 ~~{(b)}~~ (a)

. (i) "Balance bill" means the practice of a ~~{healthcare}~~ health care provider billing an individual for
the difference between the individual's billed charges and the amount the individual's health benefit
plan allows for a covered service~~{, except for any applicable deductible, copayment, or coinsurance~~
amounts}.

56 (ii) "Balance bill" does not include billing:

57 (A) ~~{billing}~~ an uninsured individual for services provided;

58 (B) ~~{billing}~~ an individual for ~~{services that}~~ the difference of the amount allowed by a health benefit
plan ~~{determines are unnecessary}~~ for a billed service and the amount paid by the health benefit
plan for the billed service; {or} and

60 (C) ~~{billing}~~ an individual for a ~~{claim}~~ service that was denied by the ~~{individual's}~~ health benefit
plan because the service was an uncovered service under the health benefit plan.

62 ~~{(e)}~~ (b)

. (i) "Base rate" means the rate a ground ambulance provider charges for:

63 (A) transporting an individual to a hospital or patient receiving facility;

64 (B) supplies used when transporting the individual;

65 (C) providing procedures during transport; and

66 (D) administering medications during transport.

67 (ii) "Base rate" does not include charges for:

68 (A) the cost of medications; or

69 (B) mileage.

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- {(d) {"Medical care consumer price index rate" means the percentage rate for medical care published each month by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics to measure inflation.}}
- 65 (c) "Medication maximum cost" means a cost for a medication that equals the lower of the:
- 67 (i) national average drug acquisition cost; and
- 68 (ii) Utah maximum allowable cost established in the Utah Medicaid program.
- 73 (2) ~~{Except as provided for the base rate described in Subsection (5), the}~~ ~~[bureau shall, after receiving~~
~~recommendations under Subsection {f} (2){} (3)}, establish maximum rates for ground ambulance~~
~~providers and paramedic providers that are just and reasonable]~~ The bureau shall establish a
maximum mileage rate for ground ambulance providers and paramedic providers that is just and
reasonable.
- 76 [(2)] (3) The committee may make recommendations to the bureau on the maximum ~~[rates that should~~
~~be]~~ mileage rate set under Subsection [(1)] (2).
- 78 [(3)] (4)
- . (a) Ground ambulance providers and paramedic providers may not charge fees for transporting a patient when the provider does not transport the patient.
- 80 (b) The provisions of Subsection [(3)(a)] (4)(a) do not apply to ambulance providers or paramedic providers in a geographic service area which contains a town as defined in Subsection 10-2-301(2) (f).
- 83 (5)
- . (a) The base rate is as follows:
- 84 (i) for emergency medical technician ground ambulance transport, \$1,234.92;
- 85 (ii) for advanced emergency medical technician ground ambulance transport, \$1,630.31;
- 87 (iii) for paramedic ground ambulance transport, \$2,383.73; and
- 88 (iv) subject to Subsection (5)(b), for a transport described in Subsection (5)(a)(i) or (ii) that has a paramedic on board, \$2,383.73.
- 90 (b) A ground ambulance provider may charge the rate described in Subsection (5)(a)(iv) {or the associated adjusted base rate} if:
- 92 (i) a designated emergency medical service dispatch center dispatches a licensed paramedic provider to treat the individual;
- 94 (ii) the licensed paramedic provider has initiated advanced life support;
- 95 (iii) online medical control directs that a paramedic remain with the patient during transport; and

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- 97 (iv) the licensed ground ambulance provider has a reimbursement for paramedic services agreement
with a paramedic licensed provider for the service provided.
- 99 ~~{(c) {Beginning July 1, 2026, and each July 1 thereafter, the bureau shall calculate and publish the~~
~~adjusted base rate in rule.}}~~
- 101 ~~{(d) {The bureau may only publish an adjusted base rate once each year.}}~~
- 102 (6)
- . (a) For ~~{rates}~~ the mileage rate established in ~~{rules created}~~ rule under this section ~~{that are not the~~
~~base rate}~~, a ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not charge an amount greater
than the amount authorized in the rule ~~{created under this section}~~ setting the mileage rate.
- 105 (b) For the base rate, a ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not charge an amount
greater than the base rate described in Subsection (5)(a) ~~{, unless the amount does not exceed the~~
~~adjusted base rate published in rule}~~ for transportation services.
- 102 (c) For a medication, a ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not charge an amount
greater than the medication maximum cost for a provided medication.
- 108 ~~{(e)}~~ (7) A ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not balance bill.
- 106 (8) Subject to prioritization by the Legislative Audit Subcommittee, the Office of the Legislative
Auditor General created in Section 36-12-15 shall conduct an audit of ground ambulance providers,
paramedic providers, and insurance companies regarding rates and payments described in this
section and Section 31A-22-627.1.
- 110 Section 3. Section 63I-1-231 is amended to read:
- 111 **63I-1-231. Repeal dates: Title 31A.**
- 112 (1) Section 31A-2-217, Coordination with other states, is repealed July 1, 2033.
- 113 (2) Section 31A-22-627.1, Ground ambulance reimbursement, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 114 Section 4. Section 63I-1-253 is amended to read:
- 115 **63I-1-253. Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**
- 116 (1) Section 53-1-122, Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, is repealed July 1,
2028.
- 118 (2) Section 53-2a-105, Emergency Management Administration Council created -- Function --
Composition -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 120 (3) Section 53-2a-1103, Search and Rescue Advisory Board -- Members -- Compensation, is repealed
July 1, 2027.

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- 122 (4) Section 53-2a-1104, General duties of the Search and Rescue Advisory Board, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 124 (5) Title 53, Chapter 2a, Part 15, Grid Resilience Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 125 (6) Section 53-2d-104, State Emergency Medical Services Committee -- Membership -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 127 (7) Section 53-2d-503, Establishment of maximum rates, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 128 [~~7~~] (8) Section 53-2d-703, Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Health Insurance Program -- Creation -- Administration -- Eligibility -- Benefits -- Rulemaking -- Advisory board, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 131 [~~8~~] (9) Section 53-5-703, Board -- Membership -- Compensation -- Terms -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 133 [~~9~~] (10) Section 53-11-104, Board, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 134 [~~10~~] (11) Section 53-22-104.1, School Security Task Force -- Membership -- Duties -- Per diem -- Report -- Expiration, is repealed December 31, 2025.
- 136 [~~11~~] (12) Section 53-22-104.2, The School Security Task Force -- Education Advisory Board, is repealed December 31, 2025.
- 138 [~~12~~] (13) Subsection 53B-1-301(1)(j), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 140 [~~13~~] (14) Section 53B-7-709, Five-year performance goals, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 141 [~~14~~] (15) Title 53B, Chapter 8a, Part 3, Education Savings Incentive Program, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 143 [~~15~~] (16) Title 53B, Chapter 17, Part 11, USTAR Researchers, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 144 [~~16~~] (17) Section 53B-17-1203, SafeUT and School Safety Commission established -- Members, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 146 [~~17~~] (18) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 16, USTAR Researchers, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 147 [~~18~~] (19) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 17, Food Security Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 148 [~~19~~] (20) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 18, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research Center, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 150 [~~20~~] (21) Title 53B, Chapter 35, Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 152

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- 155 [(21)] (22) Subsection 53C-3-203(4)(b)(vii), regarding the distribution of money from the Land Exchange Distribution Account to the Geological Survey for test wells and other hydrologic studies in the West Desert, is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 157 [(22)] (23) Subsection 53E-1-201(1)(q), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 159 [(23)] (24) Subsection 53E-2-304(6), regarding foreclosing a private right of action or waiver of governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 161 [(24)] (25) Subsection 53E-3-503(5), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 163 [(25)] (26) Subsection 53E-3-503(6), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 165 [(26)] (27) Subsection 53E-4-202(8)(b), regarding a standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- 166 [(27)] (28) Section 53E-4-203, Standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- 168 [(28)] (29) Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission, is repealed July 1, 2033.
- 170 [(29)] (30) Subsection 53E-7-207(7), regarding a private right of action or waiver of governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 172 [(30)] (31) Section 53F-2-420, Intensive Services Special Education Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2024.
- 173 [(31)] (32) Section 53F-5-214, Grant for professional learning, is repealed July 1, 2025.
- 175 [(32)] (33) Section 53F-5-215, Elementary teacher preparation grant, is repealed July 1, 2025.
- 177 [(33)] (34) Section 53F-5-219, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2025.
- 179 [(34)] (35) Title 53F, Chapter 10, Part 2, Capital Projects Evaluation Panel, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 181 [(35)] (36) Subsection 53G-4-608(2)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2025.
- 183 [(36)] (37) Subsection 53G-4-608(4)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2025.
- 184 [(37)] (38) Section 53G-9-212, Drinking water quality in schools, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 184 Section 5. **Effective date.**

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This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.

2-13-25 12:02 PM