

1 **A. Cory Maloy** proposes the following substitute bill:

1 **Ambulance Provider Payment Amendments**

2 2026 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: A. Cory Maloy**

5 Senate Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

6 **LONG TITLE**

7 **General Description:**

8 This bill amends provisions regarding ambulance provider payments.

9 **Highlighted Provisions:**

10 This bill:

- 11 ▸ defines terms;
- 12 ▸ amends provisions related to the base rate;
- 13 ▸ authorizes the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services to adjust the base rate each year;
- 14 ▸ amends the base rate to include the cost of medicine;
- 15 ▸ allows an ambulance provider to collect up to the base rate and mileage rate;
- 16 ▸ repeals sunset dates; and
- 17 ▸ makes technical changes.

18 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

19 None

20 **Other Special Clauses:**

21 This bill provides a special effective date.

22 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

23 **AMENDS:**

24 **31A-22-627.1 (Effective 01/01/27) (Repealed 07/01/27)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah
25 2025, Chapter 241

26 **34A-2-407.1 (Effective 01/01/27) (Repealed 07/01/27)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah
27 2025, Chapter 241

28 **53-2d-503 (Effective 01/01/27) (Repealed 07/01/27)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah
29 2025, Chapter 241

30 **63I-1-231 (Effective 01/01/27)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 241,
31 473

29 **63I-1-234 (Effective 01/01/27)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 241

30 **63I-1-253 (Effective 01/01/27)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
31 Session, Chapter 9

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

34 Section 1. Section **31A-22-627.1** is amended to read:

35 **31A-22-627.1 (Effective 01/01/27) (Repealed 07/01/27). Ground ambulance
36 reimbursement.**

37 (1) As used in this section[‡] ,

38 [(a) "Base" "base rate" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-2d-503.

39 [(b) "Medication maximum cost" means the same as that term is defined in Section
40 53-2d-503.]

41 (2) For a mileage rate established in a rule created under Section 53-2d-503, a health benefit
42 plan shall accept a correctly charged mileage rate as an allowable expense for a claim.

43 (3) For claims made under Section 53-2d-503, a health benefit plan shall accept a correctly
44 charged amount[‡]

45 [(a)] that is equal to the base rate as an allowable expense[‡; and] .

46 [(b) that is equal to the medication maximum cost as an allowable expense for a
47 provided medication.]

48 (4) A health benefit plan shall make a payment for claims described in this section directly
49 to the provider, including an out-of-network provider.

50 Section 2. Section **34A-2-407.1** is amended to read:

51 **34A-2-407.1 (Effective 01/01/27) (Repealed 07/01/27). Ground ambulance
52 reimbursement.**

53 (1) As used in this section[‡] ,

54 [(a) "Base" "base rate" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-2d-503.

55 [(b) "Medication maximum cost" means the same as that term is defined in Section
56 53-2d-503.]

57 (2) For a mileage rate established in a rule created under Section 53-2d-503, an employer or
58 the employer's workers' compensation insurance carrier, if any, shall accept a correctly
59 charged mileage rate as an allowable expense for a claim.

60 (3) For claims made under Section 53-2d-503, an employer or the employer's workers'
61 compensation insurance carrier, if any, shall accept a correctly charged amount[‡]
62 [(a)] that is equal to the base rate as an allowable expense[‡; and] .

63 [({b}) that is equal to the medication maximum cost as an allowable expense for a
64 provided medication.]

65 (4) An employer or the employer's workers' compensation insurance carrier, if any, shall
66 make a payment for claims described in this section directly to the provider, including
67 an out-of-network provider.

68 Section 3. Section **53-2d-503** is amended to read:

69 **53-2d-503 (Effective 01/01/27) (Repealed 07/01/27). Establishment of maximum
70 rates.**

71 (1) As used in this section:

72 (a)(i) "Balance bill" means the practice of a health care provider billing an individual
73 for the difference between the individual's billed charges and the amount the
74 individual's health benefit plan allows for a covered service.

75 (ii) "Balance bill" does not include [billing]:

76 (A) billing an uninsured individual for services provided;
77 (B) [an individual for the difference of the amount allowed by a health benefit
78 plan for a billed service and the amount paid by the health benefit plan for the
79 billed service; and] if an individual's health benefit plan or other health
80 insurance does not allow the total of the base rate and the mileage rate as an
81 allowable expense, billing the individual for the total of the following:

82 (I) the base rate plus the mileage rate; and

83 (II) subtracting the amount actually paid by the health benefit plan or other
84 third party; and

85 (C) billing an individual for a service that was denied by the health benefit plan
86 because the service was an uncovered service under the health benefit plan.

87 (b)(i) "Base rate" means the rate described in Subsection (5)(a) that a ground
88 ambulance provider charges for:

89 (A) transporting an individual to a hospital or patient receiving facility;
90 (B) supplies used when transporting the individual;
91 (C) providing procedures during transport; [and]
92 (D) administering medications during transport[.]; and
93 (E) the cost of medication.

94 (ii) "Base rate" includes an adjusted rate published by the bureau in rule in
95 accordance with Subsection (2)(b).

96 [({iii}) (iii) "Base rate" does not include charges for[.] mileage.

[A] the cost of a medication; or]

[~~(B) mileage.~~]

(c) "Medical care consumer price index" means the unadjusted 12-month medical services rate published each December by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics to measure inflation.

[e] "Medication maximum cost" means a cost for a medication that equals the lower of the:

[*(i)* national average drug acquisition cost; and]

[(ii) Utah maximum allowable cost established in the Utah Medicaid program.]

(2)(a) The bureau shall establish a maximum mileage rate for ground ambulance providers and paramedic providers that is just and reasonable.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2027, and in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, on or before July 1 of each year, the bureau shall publish an adjusted base rate for each transport type described in Subsection (5)(a) in rule.

(c) The bureau shall adjust the base rate published under Subsection (2)(b) to be the total of the currently operative base rate multiplied by the medical care consumer price index.

(d) The bureau may not adjust the base rate more than once each calendar year.

(3) The committee may make recommendations to the bureau on the maximum mileage rate set under Subsection (2).

(4)(a) Ground ambulance providers and paramedic providers may not charge fees for transporting a patient when the provider does not transport the patient.

(b) The provisions of Subsection (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).

(5)(a) [The-] Subject to adjustments published in rule under Subsection (2)(b), the base rate is as follows:

(i) for emergency medical technician ground ambulance transport, [\$1,234.92]
\$1,257.15;

(ii) for advanced emergency medical technician ground ambulance transport, [\$1,630.31] \$1,659.66;

(iii) for paramedic ground ambulance transport, ~~[\$2,383.73]~~ \$2,426.64; and

(iv) subject to Subsection (5)(b), for a transport described in Subsection (5)(a)(i) or

131 (ii) that has a paramedic on board, [\$2,383.73] \$2,426.64.

132 (b) A ground ambulance provider may charge the rate described in Subsection (5)(a)(iv)

133 if:

134 (i) a designated emergency medical service dispatch center dispatches a licensed

135 paramedic provider to treat the individual;

136 (ii) the licensed paramedic provider has initiated advanced life support;

137 (iii) online medical control directs that a paramedic remain with the patient during
138 transport; and

139 (iv) the licensed ground ambulance provider has a reimbursement for paramedic

140 services agreement with a paramedic licensed provider for the service provided.

141 (6)(a) For the mileage rate established in rule under this section, a ground ambulance

142 provider or paramedic provider may not charge an amount greater than the amount

143 authorized in the rule setting the mileage rate.

144 (b) For the base rate, a ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not

145 charge an amount greater than the base rate [described in Subseetion (5)(a) for
146 transportation] for services covered under the base rate.

147 [(c) For a medication, a ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not

148 charge an amount greater than the medication maximum cost for a provided
149 medication.]

150 (7) A ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not balance bill.

151 [(8) Subject to prioritization by the Legislative Audit Subcommittee, the Office of the

152 Legislative Auditor General created in Seetion 36-12-15 shall conduct an audit of

153 ground ambulance providers, paramedic providers, and insurance companies regarding

154 rates and payments described in this seetion, Seetion 31A-22-627.1, and Seetion

155 34A-2-407.1.]

156 Section 4. Section **63I-1-231** is amended to read:

157 **63I-1-231 (Effective 01/01/27). Repeal dates: Title 31A.**

158 (1) Section 31A-2-217, Coordination with other states, is repealed July 1, 2033.

159 (2) Subsection 31A-22-650(5)(b), regarding the reporting requirement that includes the
160 number of preauthorizations that were approved and denied, is repealed July 1, 2029.

161 (3) Subsection 31A-22-650(8), regarding the rulemaking for the preauthorization reporting
162 requirement, is repealed July 1, 2029.

163 [(4) Seetion 31A-22-627.1, Ground ambulance reimbursement, is repealed July 1, 2027.]

164 Section 5. Section **63I-1-234** is amended to read:

165 **63I-1-234 (Effective 01/01/27). Repeal dates: Titles 34 and 34A.**

166 (1) Subsection 34A-1-202(2)(b)(i), regarding the Workers' Compensation Advisory
167 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

168 (2) Subsection 34A-1-202(2)(b)(iii), regarding the Coal Miner Certification Panel, is
169 repealed July 1, 2034.

170 (3) Section 34A-2-107, Appointment of workers' compensation advisory council --
171 Composition -- Terms of members -- Duties -- Compensation, is repealed July 1, 2027.

172 (4) Section 34A-2-202.5, Offset for occupational health and safety related donations, is
173 repealed December 31, 2030.

174 ~~[(5) Section 34A-2-407.1, Ground ambulance transport, is repealed July 1, 2027.]~~

175 Section 6. Section **63I-1-253** is amended to read:

176 **63I-1-253 (Effective 01/01/27). Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**

177 (1) Section 53-1-122, Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, is
178 repealed July 1, 2028.

179 (2) Section 53-2a-105, Emergency Management Administration Council created --
180 Function -- Composition -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.

181 (3) Section 53-2a-1103, Search and Rescue Advisory Board -- Members -- Compensation,
182 is repealed July 1, 2030.

183 (4) Section 53-2a-1104, General duties of the Search and Rescue Advisory Board, is
184 repealed July 1, 2027.

185 (5) Title 53, Chapter 2a, Part 15, Grid Resilience Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.

186 (6) Section 53-2d-104, State Emergency Medical Services Committee -- Membership --
187 Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.

188 ~~[(7) Section 53-2d-503, Establishment of maximum rates, is repealed July 1, 2027.]~~

189 ~~[(8) Section 53-5a-302, Concealed Firearm Review Board -- Membership --
190 Compensation -- Terms -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2029.]~~

191 ~~[(9) Section 53-11-104, Board, is repealed July 1, 2029.]~~

192 ~~[(10) Title 53, Chapter 31, Department Interaction With Local Law Enforcement, is
193 repealed July 1, 2027.]~~

194 ~~[(11) Subsection 53C-3-203(4)(b)(vii), regarding the distribution of money from the
195 Land Exchange Distribution Account to the Geological Survey for test wells and other
196 hydrologic studies in the West Desert, is repealed July 1, 2030.]~~

197 ~~[(12) Subsection 53E-1-201(1)(q), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections
198 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.]~~

199 [¶13] (12) Subsection 53E-2-304(6), regarding foreclosing a private right of action or
200 waiver of governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.

201 [¶14] (13) Subsection 53E-3-503(5), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is
202 repealed July 1, 2027.

203 [¶15] (14) Subsection 53E-3-503(6), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is
204 repealed July 1, 2027.

205 [¶16] (15) Subsection 53E-4-202(8)(b), regarding a standards review committee, is repealed
206 January 1, 2028.

207 [¶17] (16) Section 53E-4-203, Standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.

208 [¶18] (17) Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission,
209 is repealed July 1, 2033.

210 [¶19] (18) Subsection 53E-7-207(7), regarding a private right of action or waiver of
211 governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.

212 [¶20] (19) Section 53F-5-215, Elementary teacher preparation assessment grant, is repealed
213 July 1, 2028.

214 [¶21] (20) Section 53F-5-219, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program, is
215 repealed July 1, 2026.

216 [¶22] (21) Title 53F, Chapter 10, Part 2, Capital Projects Evaluation Panel, is repealed July
217 1, 2027.

218 [¶23] (22) Subsection 53G-4-608(2)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is
219 repealed January 1, 2025.

220 [¶24] (23) Subsection 53G-4-608(4)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is
221 repealed January 1, 2025.

222 [¶25] (24) Section 53G-9-212, Drinking water quality in schools, is repealed July 1, 2027.

223 [¶26] (25) Subsection 53G-9-703(4), regarding the parental video presentation concerning
224 student use of technology, is repealed January 1, 2030.

225 [¶27] (26) Subsection 53H-1-402(1)(j), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections
226 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

227 [¶28] (27) Section 53H-1-604, Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July
228 1, 2027.

229 [¶29] (28) Subsection 53H-4-210(3), regarding the creation of the SafeUT and School
230 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

231 [¶30] (29) Subsection 53H-4-210(4), regarding the appointment of the members of the
232 SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

233 [({31})] (30) Subsection 53H-4-210(5), regarding the attorney general designating the chair of
234 the SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

235 [({32})] (31) Subsection 53H-4-210(6), regarding the quorum requirements of the SafeUT and
236 School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

237 [({33})] (32) Subsection 53H-4-210(7), regarding a formal action of the SafeUT and School
238 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

239 [({34})] (33) Subsection 53H-4-210(8), regarding compensation for members of the SafeUT
240 and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

241 [({35})] (34) Subsection 53H-4-210(9), regarding the support staff for the SafeUT and School
242 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

243 [({36})] (35) Section 53H-4-306.1, Definitions -- Electrification of Transportation
244 Infrastructure Research Center, is repealed July 1, 2028.

245 [({37})] (36) Section 53H-4-306.2, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
246 Center -- Designation -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2028.

247 [({38})] (37) Section 53H-4-306.3, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
248 Center -- Steering committee, is repealed July 1, 2028.

249 [({39})] (38) Section 53H-4-306.4, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
250 Center -- Industry advisory board, is repealed July 1, 2028.

251 [({40})] (39) Section 53H-4-306.5, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
252 Center -- Duties of the project director, is repealed July 1, 2028.

253 [({41})] (40) Section 53H-4-306.6, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
254 Center -- Project development and strategic objectives -- Reporting requirements, is
255 repealed July 1, 2028.

256 [({42})] (41) Section 53H-4-307.1, Center for Civic Excellence, is repealed July 1, 2030.

257 [({43})] (42) Section 53H-4-307.2, Center for Civic Excellence -- Duties -- Authority, is
258 repealed July 1, 2030.

259 [({44})] (43) Section 53H-4-307.3, Center for Civic Excellence -- Leadership, is repealed July
260 1, 2030.

261 [({45})] (44) Section 53H-4-307.4, Center for Civic Excellence -- Faculty, is repealed July 1,
262 2030.

263 [({46})] (45) Section 53H-4-307.5, Center for Civic Excellence -- Curriculum, is repealed July
264 1, 2030.

265 [({47})] (46) Section 53H-4-307.6, Center for Civic Excellence -- Oversight -- Reporting, is
266 repealed July 1, 2030.

267 [({48})] (47) Section 53H-4-313, Food Security Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
268 [({49})] (48) Section 53H-8-305, Five-year performance goals, is repealed July 1, 2027.
269 [({50})] (49) Title 53H, Chapter 10, Part 4, Education Savings Incentive Program, is repealed
270 July 1, 2028.
271 Section 7. **Effective Date.**
272 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.