

Evan J. Vickers proposes the following substitute bill:

Ambulance Provider Payment Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: A. Cory Maloy

Senate Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions regarding ambulance provider payments.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- adjusts ambulance rates related to Medicaid;
- defines terms;
- amends provisions related to the base rate;
- authorizes the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services to adjust the base rate each year;
- amends the base rate to include the cost of medicine;
- allows an ambulance provider to collect up to the base rate and mileage rate;
- repeals sunset dates; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

26B-3-804 (Effective 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 340, 470

31A-22-627.1 (Effective 07/01/26) (Repealed 07/01/27), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 241

34A-2-407.1 (Effective 07/01/26) (Repealed 07/01/27), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 241

53-2d-503 (Effective 07/01/26) (Repealed 07/01/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah

29 2025, Chapter 241
 30 **63I-1-231 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 241,
 31 473
 32 **63I-1-234 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 241
 33 **63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
 34 Session, Chapter 9

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

37 Section 1. Section **26B-3-804** is amended to read:

38 **26B-3-804 (Effective 07/01/26). Medicaid ambulance service provider**
 39 **adjustment under fee-for-service rates.**

40 (1) [The] Subject to Subsection (2), the division shall, if the assessment imposed by this
 41 part is approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, for fee-for-service
 42 rates effective on or after July 1, 2015, reimburse an ambulance service provider in an
 43 amount up to the Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Rates adopted annually by
 44 the Department of Public Safety under Section 53-2d-503.

45 (2) Beginning July 1, 2026, the department shall adjust the reimbursement rate described in
 46 Subsection (1) if:

47 (a) the assessment is not able to cover the rate increase; and

48 (b) legislative appropriations are insufficient to cover the rate increase.

49 Section 2. Section **31A-22-627.1** is amended to read:

50 **31A-22-627.1 (Effective 07/01/26) (Repealed 07/01/27). Ground ambulance**
 51 **reimbursement.**

52 (1) As used in this section[;] ,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

65 Section 3. Section **34A-2-407.1** is amended to read:

66 **34A-2-407.1 (Effective 07/01/26) (Repealed 07/01/27). Ground ambulance**
67 **reimbursement.**

68 (1) As used in this section[;] ,

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

70 [(b) "~~Medication maximum cost~~" means the same as that term is defined in Section
71 ~~53-2d-503.~~]

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

75 (3) For claims made under Section 53-2d-503, an employer or the employer's workers'
76 compensation insurance carrier, if any, shall accept a correctly charged amount[;]

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

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

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

83 Section 4. Section **53-2d-503** is amended to read:

84 **53-2d-503 (Effective 07/01/26) (Repealed 07/01/27). Establishment of maximum**
85 **rates.**

86 (1) As used in this section:

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

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

91 (A) billing an uninsured individual for services provided;

92 (B) [~~an individual for the difference of the amount allowed by a health benefit~~
93 ~~plan for a billed service and the amount paid by the health benefit plan for the~~
94 ~~billed service; and] if an individual's health benefit plan or other health
95 insurance does not allow the total of the base rate and the mileage rate as an
96 allowable expense, billing the individual for the total of the following:~~

- 97 (I) the base rate plus the mileage rate; and
- 98 (II) subtracting the amount actually paid by the health benefit plan or other
- 99 third party; and
- 100 (C) billing an individual for a service that was denied by the health benefit plan
- 101 because the service was an uncovered service under the health benefit plan.
- 102 (b)(i) "Base rate" means the rate described in Subsection (5)(a) that a ground
- 103 ambulance provider charges for:
- 104 (A) transporting an individual to a hospital or patient receiving facility;
- 105 (B) supplies used when transporting the individual;
- 106 (C) providing procedures during transport; ~~[and]~~
- 107 (D) administering medications during transport~~[-]~~; and
- 108 (E) the cost of medication.
- 109 (ii) "Base rate" includes an adjusted rate published by the bureau in rule in
- 110 accordance with Subsection (2)(b).
- 111 ~~[(ii)]~~ (iii) "Base rate" does not include charges for~~[-]~~ mileage.
- 112 ~~[(A) the cost of a medication; or]~~
- 113 ~~[(B) mileage.]~~
- 114 (c) "Medical care consumer price index" means the unadjusted 12-month medical
- 115 services rate published each December by the United States Bureau of Labor
- 116 Statistics to measure inflation.
- 117 ~~[(e) "Medication maximum cost" means a cost for a medication that equals the lower of~~
- 118 ~~the:-]~~
- 119 ~~[(i) national average drug acquisition cost; and]~~
- 120 ~~[(ii) Utah maximum allowable cost established in the Utah Medicaid program.]~~
- 121 (2)(a) The bureau shall establish a maximum mileage rate for ground ambulance
- 122 providers and paramedic providers that is just and reasonable.
- 123 (b) Beginning July 1, 2027, and in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
- 124 Administrative Rulemaking Act, on or before July 1 of each year, the bureau shall
- 125 publish an adjusted base rate for each transport type described in Subsection (5)(a) in
- 126 rule.
- 127 (c) The bureau shall adjust the base rate published under Subsection (2)(b) to be the total
- 128 of the currently operative base rate multiplied by the medical care consumer price
- 129 index.
- 130 (d) The bureau may not adjust the base rate more than once each calendar year.

- 131 (3) The committee may make recommendations to the bureau on the maximum mileage rate
 132 set under Subsection (2).
- 133 (4)(a) Ground ambulance providers and paramedic providers may not charge fees for
 134 transporting a patient when the provider does not transport the patient.
- 135 (b) The provisions of Subsection (4)(a) do not apply to ambulance providers or
 136 paramedic providers in a geographic service area which contains a town as defined in
 137 Subsection 10-2-301(2)(f).
- 138 (5)(a) ~~[The]~~ Subject to adjustments published in rule under Subsection (2)(b), the base
 139 rate is as follows:
- 140 (i) for emergency medical technician ground ambulance transport, ~~[\$1,234.92]~~
 141 \$1,257.15;
- 142 (ii) for advanced emergency medical technician ground ambulance transport, [
 143 ~~\$1,630.31]~~ \$1,659.66;
- 144 (iii) for paramedic ground ambulance transport, ~~[\$2,383.73]~~ \$2,426.64; and
- 145 (iv) subject to Subsection (5)(b), for a transport described in Subsection (5)(a)(i) or
 146 (ii) that has a paramedic on board, ~~[\$2,383.73]~~ \$2,426.64.
- 147 (b) A ground ambulance provider may charge the rate described in Subsection (5)(a)(iv)
 148 if:
- 149 (i) a designated emergency medical service dispatch center dispatches a licensed
 150 paramedic provider to treat the individual;
- 151 (ii) the licensed paramedic provider has initiated advanced life support;
- 152 (iii) online medical control directs that a paramedic remain with the patient during
 153 transport; and
- 154 (iv) the licensed ground ambulance provider has a reimbursement for paramedic
 155 services agreement with a paramedic licensed provider for the service provided.
- 156 (6)(a) For the mileage rate established in rule under this section, a ground ambulance
 157 provider or paramedic provider may not charge an amount greater than the amount
 158 authorized in the rule setting the mileage rate.
- 159 (b) For the base rate, a ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not
 160 charge an amount greater than the base rate ~~[described in Subsection (5)(a) for~~
 161 ~~transportation]~~ for services covered under the base rate.
- 162 ~~[(e) For a medication, a ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not~~
 163 ~~charge an amount greater than the medication maximum cost for a provided~~
 164 ~~medication.]~~

165 (7) A ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not balance bill.
 166 [~~(8) Subject to prioritization by the Legislative Audit Subcommittee, the Office of the~~
 167 ~~Legislative Auditor General created in Section 36-12-15 shall conduct an audit of~~
 168 ~~ground ambulance providers, paramedic providers, and insurance companies regarding~~
 169 ~~rates and payments described in this section, Section 31A-22-627.1, and Section~~
 170 ~~34A-2-407.1.]~~

171 Section 5. Section **63I-1-231** is amended to read:

172 **63I-1-231 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Title 31A.**

- 173 (1) Section 31A-2-217, Coordination with other states, is repealed July 1, 2033.
 174 (2) Subsection 31A-22-650(5)(b), regarding the reporting requirement that includes the
 175 number of preauthorizations that were approved and denied, is repealed July 1, 2029.
 176 (3) Subsection 31A-22-650(8), regarding the rulemaking for the preauthorization reporting
 177 requirement, is repealed July 1, 2029.
 178 [~~(4) Section 31A-22-627.1, Ground ambulance reimbursement, is repealed July 1, 2027.]~~

179 Section 6. Section **63I-1-234** is amended to read:

180 **63I-1-234 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Titles 34 and 34A.**

- 181 (1) Subsection 34A-1-202(2)(b)(i), regarding the Workers' Compensation Advisory
 182 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
 183 (2) Subsection 34A-1-202(2)(b)(iii), regarding the Coal Miner Certification Panel, is
 184 repealed July 1, 2034.
 185 (3) Section 34A-2-107, Appointment of workers' compensation advisory council --
 186 Composition -- Terms of members -- Duties -- Compensation, is repealed July 1, 2027.
 187 (4) Section 34A-2-202.5, Offset for occupational health and safety related donations, is
 188 repealed December 31, 2030.
 189 [~~(5) Section 34A-2-407.1, Ground ambulance transport, is repealed July 1, 2027.]~~

190 Section 7. Section **63I-1-253** is amended to read:

191 **63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**

- 192 (1) Section 53-1-122, Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, is
 193 repealed July 1, 2028.
 194 (2) Section 53-2a-105, Emergency Management Administration Council created --
 195 Function -- Composition -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
 196 (3) Section 53-2a-1103, Search and Rescue Advisory Board -- Members -- Compensation,
 197 is repealed July 1, 2030.
 198 (4) Section 53-2a-1104, General duties of the Search and Rescue Advisory Board, is

- 199 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 200 (5) Title 53, Chapter 2a, Part 15, Grid Resilience Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 201 (6) Section 53-2d-104, State Emergency Medical Services Committee -- Membership --
202 Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 203 [~~(7)~~ Section 53-2d-503, Establishment of maximum rates, is repealed July 1, 2027.]
- 204 [~~(8)~~ (7) Section 53-5a-302, Concealed Firearm Review Board -- Membership --
205 Compensation -- Terms -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 206 [~~(9)~~ (8) Section 53-11-104, Board, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 207 [~~(10)~~ (9) Title 53, Chapter 31, Department Interaction With Local Law Enforcement, is
208 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 209 [~~(11)~~ (10) Subsection 53C-3-203(4)(b)(vii), regarding the distribution of money from the
210 Land Exchange Distribution Account to the Geological Survey for test wells and other
211 hydrologic studies in the West Desert, is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 212 [~~(12)~~ (11) Subsection 53E-1-201(1)(q), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections
213 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 214 [~~(13)~~ (12) Subsection 53E-2-304(6), regarding foreclosing a private right of action or
215 waiver of governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 216 [~~(14)~~ (13) Subsection 53E-3-503(5), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is
217 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 218 [~~(15)~~ (14) Subsection 53E-3-503(6), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is
219 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 220 [~~(16)~~ (15) Subsection 53E-4-202(8)(b), regarding a standards review committee, is repealed
221 January 1, 2028.
- 222 [~~(17)~~ (16) Section 53E-4-203, Standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- 223 [~~(18)~~ (17) Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission,
224 is repealed July 1, 2033.
- 225 [~~(19)~~ (18) Subsection 53E-7-207(7), regarding a private right of action or waiver of
226 governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 227 [~~(20)~~ (19) Section 53F-5-215, Elementary teacher preparation assessment grant, is repealed
228 July 1, 2028.
- 229 [~~(21)~~ (20) Section 53F-5-219, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program, is
230 repealed July 1, 2026.
- 231 [~~(22)~~ (21) Title 53F, Chapter 10, Part 2, Capital Projects Evaluation Panel, is repealed July
232 1, 2027.

- 233 [~~(23)~~] (22) Subsection 53G-4-608(2)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is
234 repealed January 1, 2025.
- 235 [~~(24)~~] (23) Subsection 53G-4-608(4)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is
236 repealed January 1, 2025.
- 237 [~~(25)~~] (24) Section 53G-9-212, Drinking water quality in schools, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 238 [~~(26)~~] (25) Subsection 53G-9-703(4), regarding the parental video presentation concerning
239 student use of technology, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 240 [~~(27)~~] (26) Subsection 53H-1-402(1)(j), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections
241 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 242 [~~(28)~~] (27) Section 53H-1-604, Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July
243 1, 2027.
- 244 [~~(29)~~] (28) Subsection 53H-4-210(3), regarding the creation of the SafeUT and School
245 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 246 [~~(30)~~] (29) Subsection 53H-4-210(4), regarding the appointment of the members of the
247 SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 248 [~~(31)~~] (30) Subsection 53H-4-210(5), regarding the attorney general designating the chair of
249 the SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 250 [~~(32)~~] (31) Subsection 53H-4-210(6), regarding the quorum requirements of the SafeUT and
251 School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 252 [~~(33)~~] (32) Subsection 53H-4-210(7), regarding a formal action of the SafeUT and School
253 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 254 [~~(34)~~] (33) Subsection 53H-4-210(8), regarding compensation for members of the SafeUT
255 and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 256 [~~(35)~~] (34) Subsection 53H-4-210(9), regarding the support staff for the SafeUT and School
257 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 258 [~~(36)~~] (35) Section 53H-4-306.1, Definitions -- Electrification of Transportation
259 Infrastructure Research Center, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 260 [~~(37)~~] (36) Section 53H-4-306.2, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
261 Center -- Designation -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 262 [~~(38)~~] (37) Section 53H-4-306.3, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
263 Center -- Steering committee, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 264 [~~(39)~~] (38) Section 53H-4-306.4, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
265 Center -- Industry advisory board, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 266 [~~(40)~~] (39) Section 53H-4-306.5, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research

267 Center -- Duties of the project director, is repealed July 1, 2028.
268 [~~(41)~~] (40) Section 53H-4-306.6, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
269 Center -- Project development and strategic objectives -- Reporting requirements, is
270 repealed July 1, 2028.
271 [~~(42)~~] (41) Section 53H-4-307.1, Center for Civic Excellence, is repealed July 1, 2030.
272 [~~(43)~~] (42) Section 53H-4-307.2, Center for Civic Excellence -- Duties -- Authority, is
273 repealed July 1, 2030.
274 [~~(44)~~] (43) Section 53H-4-307.3, Center for Civic Excellence -- Leadership, is repealed July
275 1, 2030.
276 [~~(45)~~] (44) Section 53H-4-307.4, Center for Civic Excellence -- Faculty, is repealed July 1,
277 2030.
278 [~~(46)~~] (45) Section 53H-4-307.5, Center for Civic Excellence -- Curriculum, is repealed July
279 1, 2030.
280 [~~(47)~~] (46) Section 53H-4-307.6, Center for Civic Excellence -- Oversight -- Reporting, is
281 repealed July 1, 2030.
282 [~~(48)~~] (47) Section 53H-4-313, Food Security Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
283 [~~(49)~~] (48) Section 53H-8-305, Five-year performance goals, is repealed July 1, 2027.
284 [~~(50)~~] (49) Title 53H, Chapter 10, Part 4, Education Savings Incentive Program, is repealed
285 July 1, 2028.
286 Section 8. **Effective Date.**
287 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.