

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31A-22-627.1 (Effective 07/01/26) (Repealed 07/01/27), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 241

34A-2-407.1 (Effective 07/01/26) (Repealed 07/01/27), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 241

53-2d-503 (Effective 07/01/26) (Repealed 07/01/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah

2025, Chapter 241

63I-1-231 (Effective 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 241, 473

63I-1-234 (Effective 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 241

63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 9

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

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

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

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

(2) Beginning July 1, 2026, the department shall pay a reimbursement rate for services described in Subsection (1) that is equal to the highest reimbursement rate allowed by the assessment imposed by this part.

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

31A-22-627.1 (Effective 07/01/26) (Repealed 07/01/27).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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) A health benefit plan shall make a payment for claims described in this section directly

to the provider, including an out-of-network provider.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) As used in this section:

(a)(i) "Balance bill" means the practice of a 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.

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

(A) billing an uninsured individual for services provided;

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

- 97 (II) subtracting the amount actually paid by the health benefit plan or other
98 third party; and
- 99 (C) billing an individual for a service that was denied by the health benefit plan
100 because the service was an uncovered service under the health benefit plan.
- 101 (b)(i) "Base rate" means the rate described in Subsection (5)(a) that a ground
102 ambulance provider charges for:
- 103 (A) transporting an individual to a hospital or patient receiving facility;
104 (B) supplies used when transporting the individual;
105 (C) providing procedures during transport; [and]
106 (D) administering medications during transport[.]; and
107 (E) the cost of medication.
- 108 (ii) "Base rate" includes an adjusted rate published by the bureau in rule in
109 accordance with Subsection (2)(b).
- 110 [(ii)] (iii) "Base rate" does not include charges for[.] mileage.
111 [(A) the cost of a medication; or]
112 [(B) mileage.]
- 113 (c) "Medical care consumer price index" means the unadjusted 12-month medical
114 services rate published each December by the United States Bureau of Labor
115 Statistics to measure inflation.
- 116 [(c) "Medication maximum cost" means a cost for a medication that equals the lower of
117 the:
118 [(i) national average drug acquisition cost; and]
119 [(ii) Utah maximum allowable cost established in the Utah Medicaid program.]
- 120 (2)(a) The bureau shall establish a maximum mileage rate for ground ambulance
121 providers and paramedic providers that is just and reasonable.
- 122 (b) Beginning July 1, 2027, and in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
123 Administrative Rulemaking Act, on or before July 1 of each year, the bureau shall
124 publish an adjusted base rate for each transport type described in Subsection (5)(a) in
125 rule.
- 126 (c) The bureau shall adjust the base rate published under Subsection (2)(b) to be the total
127 of the currently operative base rate multiplied by the medical care consumer price
128 index.
- 129 (d) The bureau may not adjust the base rate more than once each calendar year.
- 130 (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 (ii) that has a paramedic on board, [~~\$2,383.73~~] \$2,426.64.

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

(i) a designated emergency medical service dispatch center dispatches a licensed paramedic provider to treat the individual;

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

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

(iv) the licensed ground ambulance provider has a reimbursement for paramedic services agreement with a paramedic licensed provider for the service provided.

(6)(a) For the mileage rate established in rule under this section, a ground ambulance provider or paramedic provider may not charge an amount greater than the amount authorized in the rule setting the mileage rate.

(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) for transportation]~~ for services covered under the base rate.

~~[(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.]~~

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

165 ~~[(8) Subject to prioritization by the Legislative Audit Subcommittee, the Office of the~~
166 ~~Legislative Auditor General created in Section 36-12-15 shall conduct an audit of~~
167 ~~ground ambulance providers, paramedic providers, and insurance companies regarding~~
168 ~~rates and payments described in this section, Section 31A-22-627.1, and Section~~
169 ~~34A-2-407.1.]~~

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

171 **63I-1-231 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Title 31A.**

- 172 (1) Section 31A-2-217, Coordination with other states, is repealed July 1, 2033.
173 (2) Subsection 31A-22-650(5)(b), regarding the reporting requirement that includes the
174 number of preauthorizations that were approved and denied, is repealed July 1, 2029.
175 (3) Subsection 31A-22-650(8), regarding the rulemaking for the preauthorization reporting
176 requirement, is repealed July 1, 2029.

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

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

179 **63I-1-234 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Titles 34 and 34A.**

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

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

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

190 **63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**

- 191 (1) Section 53-1-122, Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, is
192 repealed July 1, 2028.
193 (2) Section 53-2a-105, Emergency Management Administration Council created --
194 Function -- Composition -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
195 (3) Section 53-2a-1103, Search and Rescue Advisory Board -- Members -- Compensation,
196 is repealed July 1, 2030.
197 (4) Section 53-2a-1104, General duties of the Search and Rescue Advisory Board, is
198 repealed July 1, 2027.

- (5) Title 53, Chapter 2a, Part 15, Grid Resilience Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- (6) Section 53-2d-104, State Emergency Medical Services Committee -- Membership -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- ~~[(7) Section 53-2d-503, Establishment of maximum rates, is repealed July 1, 2027.]~~
- ~~[(8)]~~ (7) Section 53-5a-302, Concealed Firearm Review Board -- Membership -- Compensation -- Terms -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- ~~[(9)]~~ (8) Section 53-11-104, Board, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- ~~[(10)]~~ (9) Title 53, Chapter 31, Department Interaction With Local Law Enforcement, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- ~~[(11)]~~ (10) 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.
- ~~[(12)]~~ (11) Subsection 53E-1-201(1)(q), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- ~~[(13)]~~ (12) Subsection 53E-2-304(6), regarding foreclosing a private right of action or waiver of governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- ~~[(14)]~~ (13) Subsection 53E-3-503(5), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- ~~[(15)]~~ (14) Subsection 53E-3-503(6), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- ~~[(16)]~~ (15) Subsection 53E-4-202(8)(b), regarding a standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- ~~[(17)]~~ (16) Section 53E-4-203, Standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- ~~[(18)]~~ (17) Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission, is repealed July 1, 2033.
- ~~[(19)]~~ (18) Subsection 53E-7-207(7), regarding a private right of action or waiver of governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- ~~[(20)]~~ (19) Section 53F-5-215, Elementary teacher preparation assessment grant, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- ~~[(21)]~~ (20) Section 53F-5-219, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2026.
- ~~[(22)]~~ (21) Title 53F, Chapter 10, Part 2, Capital Projects Evaluation Panel, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- ~~[(23)]~~ (22) Subsection 53G-4-608(2)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is

233 repealed January 1, 2025.

234 [(24)] (23) Subsection 53G-4-608(4)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is
235 repealed January 1, 2025.

236 [(25)] (24) Section 53G-9-212, Drinking water quality in schools, is repealed July 1, 2027.

237 [(26)] (25) Subsection 53G-9-703(4), regarding the parental video presentation concerning
238 student use of technology, is repealed January 1, 2030.

239 [(27)] (26) Subsection 53H-1-402(1)(j), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections
240 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

241 [(28)] (27) Section 53H-1-604, Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July
242 1, 2027.

243 [(29)] (28) Subsection 53H-4-210(3), regarding the creation of the SafeUT and School
244 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

245 [(30)] (29) Subsection 53H-4-210(4), regarding the appointment of the members of the
246 SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

247 [(31)] (30) Subsection 53H-4-210(5), regarding the attorney general designating the chair of
248 the SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

249 [(32)] (31) Subsection 53H-4-210(6), regarding the quorum requirements of the SafeUT and
250 School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

251 [(33)] (32) Subsection 53H-4-210(7), regarding a formal action of the SafeUT and School
252 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

253 [(34)] (33) Subsection 53H-4-210(8), regarding compensation for members of the SafeUT
254 and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

255 [(35)] (34) Subsection 53H-4-210(9), regarding the support staff for the SafeUT and School
256 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

257 [(36)] (35) Section 53H-4-306.1, Definitions -- Electrification of Transportation
258 Infrastructure Research Center, is repealed July 1, 2028.

259 [(37)] (36) Section 53H-4-306.2, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
260 Center -- Designation -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2028.

261 [(38)] (37) Section 53H-4-306.3, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
262 Center -- Steering committee, is repealed July 1, 2028.

263 [(39)] (38) Section 53H-4-306.4, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
264 Center -- Industry advisory board, is repealed July 1, 2028.

265 [(40)] (39) Section 53H-4-306.5, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
266 Center -- Duties of the project director, is repealed July 1, 2028.

267 ~~[(41)]~~ (40) Section 53H-4-306.6, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
268 Center -- Project development and strategic objectives -- Reporting requirements, is
269 repealed July 1, 2028.

270 ~~[(42)]~~ (41) Section 53H-4-307.1, Center for Civic Excellence, is repealed July 1, 2030.
271 ~~[(43)]~~ (42) Section 53H-4-307.2, Center for Civic Excellence -- Duties -- Authority, is
272 repealed July 1, 2030.

273 ~~[(44)]~~ (43) Section 53H-4-307.3, Center for Civic Excellence -- Leadership, is repealed July
274 1, 2030.

275 ~~[(45)]~~ (44) Section 53H-4-307.4, Center for Civic Excellence -- Faculty, is repealed July 1,
276 2030.

277 ~~[(46)]~~ (45) Section 53H-4-307.5, Center for Civic Excellence -- Curriculum, is repealed July
278 1, 2030.

279 ~~[(47)]~~ (46) Section 53H-4-307.6, Center for Civic Excellence -- Oversight -- Reporting, is
280 repealed July 1, 2030.

281 ~~[(48)]~~ (47) Section 53H-4-313, Food Security Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

282 ~~[(49)]~~ (48) Section 53H-8-305, Five-year performance goals, is repealed July 1, 2027.

283 ~~[(50)]~~ (49) Title 53H, Chapter 10, Part 4, Education Savings Incentive Program, is repealed
284 July 1, 2028.

285 Section 8. **Effective Date.**

286 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.