

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1174

Introduced by Assembly Member Hernandez
(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Beall and Ma Beall~~, Chesbro, and
Ma)
(Coauthor: Senator Wiggins)

February 27, 2009

An act to add Article 5.7 (commencing with Section 14186) to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1174, as amended, Hernandez. Medi-Cal: ambulance transportation services.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, and under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services, including ambulance transportation services. Existing law and regulations prescribe various requirements governing payment policies and reimbursement rates for these services.

This bill would enact the Ambulance Payment Reform Act of 2009, which would, notwithstanding any other provision of law, provide that emergency basic life support and advanced life support services are covered under the Medi-Cal program when, as determined by the department, a patient could reasonably expect that an absence of immediate medical attention would result in significant adverse health effects, as provided. The bill would require the department to develop rates for specified emergency and nonemergency ambulance

transportation services, but would prohibit these rates from exceeding the amount charged for these services to the general public. The bill would also require the department to adjust the rates each year in accordance with the California Consumer Price Index.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) It is the intent of this act to ensure the provision of essential
4 medically necessary emergency and nonemergency ambulance
5 response and transportation services to the citizens of the State of
6 California.

7 (b) This act recognizes the vital role of ambulance services in
8 the provision of quality health care and as a critical component of
9 the public safety first response in times of natural or man-made
10 disasters.

11 (c) With the passage of the Emergency Medical Services System
12 and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act in
13 1980, the intent of the Legislature has been to maintain and
14 promote the development of EMT P paramedic programs where
15 appropriate throughout the state and to initiate EMT II limited
16 advanced life support programs only where geography, population
17 density, and resources would not make the establishment of a
18 paramedic program feasible.

19 (d) This act will ensure the continued viability of EMS systems
20 throughout the state of California by establishing payment
21 definitions and policies for the Medi-Cal Program, as related to
22 ambulance services, that meet nationally recognized standards.

23 (e) This act will establish Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for
24 essential emergency and nonemergency ambulance services that
25 would at a minimum cover the actual costs of providing services.

26 SEC. 2. Article 5.7 (commencing with Section 14186) is added
27 to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions
28 Code, to read:

1 Article 5.7. Ambulance Payment Reform Act of 2009

2
3 14186. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, emergency
4 basic life support and advanced life support services are covered
5 under the Medi-Cal program, in accordance with Section 14186.1,
6 when, as determined by the department, a patient could reasonably
7 expect that an absence of immediate medical attention would do
8 at least one of the following:

- 9 (a) Place the person’s health in serious jeopardy.
- 10 (b) Create a serious impairment to bodily function.
- 11 (c) Result in a serious dysfunction in any bodily organ or part.

12 14186.1. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
13 reimbursement for emergency and nonemergency basic life and
14 advanced life support transportation shall be made in accordance
15 with this section, but at no time shall rates exceed charges made
16 to the general public.

17 (b) Maximum reimbursement rates for ambulance transportation
18 services shall be as follows:

19		
20	Ground Mileage, Per Mile	====\$7
21	Advanced Life Support,	
22	Nonemergency Transport	====\$369.15
23	Advanced Life Support, Emergency	
24	Transport, Level 1	====\$584.49
25	Basic Life Support, Nonemergency	
26	Transport	====\$307.62
27	Basic Life Support, Emergency	
28	Transport	====\$492.20
29	Advanced Life Support, Level 2	====\$845.97
30	Specialty Care Transport	====\$999.78

31
32 (c) The department shall adjust the rates described in subdivision
33 (b) each year in accordance with the most recently determined
34 annual change in the California Consumer Price Index.

35 (d) *For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall*
36 *apply:*

37 (1) *“Advanced Life Support, Level 2” means either one of the*
38 *following:*

39 (A) *Transportation by ground ambulance vehicle, medically*
40 *necessary supplies and services, and the administration of at least*

1 *three medications by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous*
2 *infusion, excluding crystalloid, hypotonic, isotonic, and hypertonic*
3 *solutions such as dextrose, normal saline, and Ringer’s solution.*

4 *(B) Transportation, medically necessary supplies and services,*
5 *and the provision of at least one of the following advanced life*
6 *support procedures:*

7 *(i) Manual defibrillation/cardioversion.*

8 *(ii) Endotracheal intubation.*

9 *(iii) Central venous line.*

10 *(iv) Cardiac pacing.*

11 *(v) Chest decompression.*

12 *(vi) Surgical airway.*

13 *(vii) Intraosseous line.*

14 *(2) “Specialty Care Transport” means interfacility*
15 *transportation of a critically injured or ill beneficiary by a ground*
16 *ambulance vehicle, including medically necessary supplies and*
17 *services, at a level of service beyond the scope of an emergency*
18 *medical technician-paramedic, as defined in Section 1797.84 of*
19 *the Health and Safety Code. Specialty Care Transport is necessary*
20 *when a beneficiary’s condition requires ongoing care that must*
21 *be furnished by one or more health professionals in an appropriate*
22 *specialty area, including, but not limited to, nursing, emergency*
23 *medicine, respiratory care, cardiovascular care, or a paramedic*
24 *with additional training.*