

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1932

Introduced by Assembly Member Hernandez

February 17, 2010

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 1932, 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, under which health care services, including medical transportation services, are provided to qualified low-income persons. The Medi-Cal program is partially governed and funded under federal Medicaid provisions. 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 2010, 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.

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 manmade
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:

29
30 Article 5.7. Ambulance Payment Reform Act of 2010

31
32 14186. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, emergency
33 basic life support and advanced life support services are covered

under the Medi-Cal program, in accordance with Section 14186.1, when, as determined by the department, a patient could reasonably expect that an absence of immediate medical attention would do at least one of the following:

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

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

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

Ground Mileage, Per Mile	\$_____
	\$6.74
Advanced Life Support,	\$_____
Nonemergency Transport	
	\$283.28
Advanced Life Support, Emergency	\$_____
Transport, Level 1	
	\$448.53
Basic Life Support, Nonemergency	\$_____
Transport	
	\$236.07
Basic Life Support, Emergency	\$_____
Transport	
	\$377.71
Advanced Life Support, Level 2	\$_____
	\$649.18
Specialty Care Transport	\$_____
	\$767.21

(c) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Advanced Life Support, Level 2" means either one of the following:

(A) Transportation by ground ambulance vehicle, medically 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 transportation
15 of a critically injured or ill beneficiary by a ground ambulance
16 vehicle, including medically necessary supplies and services, at a
17 level of service beyond the scope of an emergency medical
18 technician-paramedic, as defined in Section 1797.84 of the Health
19 and Safety Code. Specialty Care Transport is necessary when a
20 beneficiary's condition requires ongoing care that must be
21 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.