

LFC Requestor: Eric Chenier

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: House

Category: Bill

Number: 203

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 01/24/2024

Sponsor(s): Harlan Vincent, Tara Jaramillo, James Townsend, Jenifer Jones, and Luis Terrazas

Short Title: HEALTH-RELATED REIMBURSEMENT RATE

Reviewing Agency: Agency 665 - Department of Health

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Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 24	FY 25		
\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 24	FY 25	FY 26		
\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: SB62

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: No

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

House Bill 203 (HB203) proposes to appropriate \$2 million to create a fund from which the Health Care Authority Department (HCAD) may reimburse the cost of all mileage for ambulance agencies, environmental modification services, and durable medical equipment providers rendering these services to Medicaid patients. HB203 also proposes to have HCAD establish a reimbursement rate for these providers that travel to the homes of Medicaid patients.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

New Mexico ambulance agencies frequently report that current mileage reimbursement from Medicaid for mileage is very low and does not cover costs. New Mexico Medicaid mileage reimbursement is \$10.45 per mile but only billable after the first 15 miles ([Final-LOD-103-State-Fiscal-Year-2024-Payment-Rate-Increases_wAttachment.pdf](#)). The Medicare rate is \$8.71 per mile but allows billing at the first mile. The state ambulance tariff administered by the Public Regulation Commission also allows billing from the first mile at a rate of \$12.75.

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?

Yes No

If yes, describe how.

- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan? Yes No

Goal 1: We expand equitable access to services for all New Mexicans

Goal 2: We ensure safety in New Mexico healthcare environments

Goal 3: We improve health status for all New Mexicans

Goal 4: We support each other by promoting an environment of mutual respect, trust, open communication, and needed resources for staff to serve New Mexicans and to grow and reach their professional goals

3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH? Yes No

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH? Yes No

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

HB203 is the house version of SB62.

6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill? Yes No

7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written? Yes No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)? Yes No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?
 Yes No
- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs? Yes No

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

None.

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

HB203 may assist in assuring ambulance services remain available to all New Mexico residents.

10. ALTERNATIVES

None.

11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If HB203 is not enacted, then \$2 million will not be appropriated to create a fund from which the Health Care Authority Department (HCAD) may reimburse the cost of all mileage for

ambulance agencies, environmental modification services, and durable medical equipment providers rendering these services to Medicaid patients. Further, HCAD would not establish a reimbursement rate for providers that travel to the homes of Medicaid patients.

12. AMENDMENTS

None.