

By: Representatives Carpenter, Hobgood-
Wilkes, Barton, Arnold, Hines, Mickens

To: Insurance

HOUSE BILL NO. 1629

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE MINIMUM ALLOWABLE REIMBURSEMENT
2 RATE UNDER ANY POLICY OF ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE TO A
3 PARTICIPATING AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDER OR AN OUT-OF-NETWORK
4 AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDER SHALL BE THE GREATER OF THE RATES
5 CONTRACTED BETWEEN AN AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDER AND A COUNTY,
6 MUNICIPALITY OR SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT OR AUTHORITY, OR
7 OTHERWISE APPROVED OR ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE OR REGULATION
8 ENACTED BY ANY SUCH COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY OR SPECIAL PURPOSE
9 DISTRICT OR AUTHORITY, OR THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE
10 REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWED BY MEDICARE FOR SERVICES ORIGINATING IN
11 RURAL AREAS; TO DEFINE THE TERM "AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDER" FOR
12 THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT; TO PROVIDE THAT IF AN AMBULANCE SERVICE
13 PROVIDER'S BILLED CHARGES ARE LESS THAN THE MINIMUM ALLOWABLE
14 REIMBURSEMENT RATE PROVIDED FOR IN THIS ACT, THEN SUCH MINIMUM
15 ALLOWABLE REIMBURSEMENT RATE SHALL BE THE PROVIDER'S BILLED
16 CHARGES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

18 **SECTION 1.** (1) (a) The minimum allowable reimbursement
19 rate under any policy of accident and sickness insurance as
20 defined by Section 83-9-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, to a
21 participating ambulance service provider or an out-of-network
22 ambulance service provider shall be the greater of:

23 (i) The rates contracted between an ambulance
24 service provider and a county, municipality or special purpose
25 district or authority, or otherwise approved or established by



26 ordinance or regulation enacted by any such county, municipality
27 or special purpose district or authority; or

28 (ii) Three hundred twenty-five percent (325%) of
29 the reimbursement allowed by Medicare for services originating in
30 rural areas.

31 For the purposes of this section, "ambulance service
32 provider" means a person or entity that provides ambulance
33 transportation and emergency medical services to a patient for
34 which a permit is required under Section 41-59-9, Mississippi Code
35 of 1972.

36 (b) If an ambulance service provider's billed charges
37 are less than the reimbursement rate provided in paragraph (a) of
38 this subsection (1), the minimum allowable reimbursement rate
39 under any policy of accident and sickness insurance to the
40 participating ambulance service provider or an out-of-network
41 ambulance service provider shall be the provider's billed charges.

42 (2) A payment made under this section shall be considered
43 payment in full for the covered services provided, except for any
44 copayment, coinsurance, deductible, and other cost-sharing feature
45 amounts required to be paid by the enrollee.

46 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified as a new
47 section in Chapter 9, Title 83, Mississippi Code of 1972.

48 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
49 and after July 1, 2024.

