



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 209

January Session, 2003

House Bill No. 5617

House of Representatives, April 8, 2003

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. FELTMAN of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (9) of section 19a-177 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (9) (A) Establish rates for the conveyance of patients by licensed
5 ambulance services and invalid coaches and establish emergency
6 service rates for certified ambulance services, provided (i) the present
7 rates established for such services and vehicles shall remain in effect
8 until such time as the commissioner establishes a new rate schedule as
9 provided in this subdivision, and (ii) any rate increase not in excess of
10 the Medical Care Services Consumer Price Index, as published by the
11 Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor,
12 for the prior year, filed in accordance with subparagraph (B)(iii) of this
13 subdivision shall be deemed approved by the commissioner; (B) adopt
14 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,

15 establishing methods for setting rates and conditions for charging such
16 rates. Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to, provisions
17 requiring that on and after July 1, 2000: (i) Requests for rate increases
18 may be filed no more frequently than once a year; (ii) only licensed
19 ambulance services and certified ambulance services that apply for a
20 rate increase in excess of the Medical Care Services Consumer Price
21 Index, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United
22 States Department of Labor, for the prior year, and do not accept the
23 maximum allowable rates contained in any voluntary state-wide rate
24 schedule established by the commissioner for the rate application year
25 shall be required to file detailed financial information with the
26 commissioner, provided any hearing that the commissioner may hold
27 concerning such application shall be conducted as a contested case in
28 accordance with chapter 54; (iii) licensed ambulance services and
29 certified ambulance services that do not apply for a rate increase in any
30 year in excess of the Medical Care Services Consumer Price Index, as
31 published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States
32 Department of Labor, for the prior year, or that accept the maximum
33 allowable rates contained in any voluntary state-wide rate schedule
34 established by the commissioner for the rate application year shall, not
35 later than July fifteenth of such year, file with the commissioner [either
36 an audited financial statement or an accountant's review report
37 pertaining to the most recently completed fiscal year of the licensed
38 ambulance service or certified ambulance service, including total
39 revenue and total expenses,] a statement of emergency and
40 nonemergency call volume, and, in the case of a licensed ambulance
41 service or certified ambulance service that is not applying for a rate
42 increase, a written declaration by such licensed ambulance service or
43 certified ambulance service that no change in its currently approved
44 maximum allowable rates will occur for the rate application year; and
45 (iv) detailed financial and operational information filed by licensed
46 ambulance services and certified ambulance services to support a
47 request for a rate increase in excess of the Medical Care Services
48 Consumer Price Index, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics
49 of the United States Department of Labor, for the prior year, shall

50 cover the time period pertaining to the most recently completed fiscal
51 year and the rate application year of the licensed ambulance service or
52 certified ambulance service; and (C) establish rates for licensed
53 ambulance services and certified ambulance services for the following
54 services and conditions: (i) "Advanced life support assessment" and
55 "specialty care transports", which terms shall have the meaning
56 provided in 42 CFR 414.605; and (ii) intramunicipality mileage, which
57 means mileage for an ambulance transport when the point of origin
58 and final destination for a transport is within the boundaries of the
59 same municipality. The rates established by the commissioner for each
60 such service or condition shall be equal to (I) the ambulance service's
61 base rate plus its established advanced life support/paramedic
62 surcharge when advanced life support assessment services are
63 performed; (II) two hundred twenty-five per cent of the ambulance
64 service's established base rate for specialty care transports; and (III)
65 "loaded mileage", as the term is defined in 42 CFR 414.605, multiplied
66 by the ambulance service's established rate for intramunicipality
67 mileage. Such rates shall remain in effect until such time as the
68 commissioner establishes a new rate schedule as provided in this
69 subdivision.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

PH *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Department of Public Health	General Fund - Savings	\$5,000	\$5,000

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Various Municipalities	Savings	\$3,000 - \$5,000	\$3,000 - \$5,000

Explanation

The Department of Public Health will experience an annual savings in consultant services of approximately \$5,000 since fewer audited financial statements or accountant’s review reports will have to be reconciled with ambulance service rate applications. The agency currently expends approximately \$25,000 annually for this purpose.

Certain ambulance services that are affiliated with municipal governments (those that either do not apply for a rate increase in excess of the Medical Care Services Consumer Price Index for the prior year or accept the published statewide rate) will experience savings of \$3,000 - \$5,000 annually since they will no longer have to submit to the annual audit/review requirement.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5617

AN ACT CONCERNING AMBULANCE SERVICES

SUMMARY:

By law, the Department of Public Health (DPH) sets the maximum allowable rates for ambulance services. This bill removes a requirement that ambulance services file with DPH an audited financial statement or an accountant's review report for the most recently completed fiscal year if they (1) do not apply for a rate increase in excess of the Medical Care Services Consumer Price Index for the prior year, or (2) accept the maximum allowable rates in a voluntary statewide rate schedule established by DPH.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 20 Nay 0