
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5440

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PHYSICIANS.

SUMMARY:

This bill allows an emergency department physician to (1) enroll separately as a Medicaid provider and (2) qualify for direct reimbursement for professional services he or she provides in a hospital emergency department to a Medicaid recipient. These include services provided on the same day the recipient is admitted to the hospital.

The bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to pay these physicians the Medicaid rate already in effect for such services as of January 1, 2013, for applicable Current Procedural Terminology codes or successor codes developed by the American Medical Association. If the commissioner determines that paying a physician under this provision increases the state's cost, the commissioner must adjust the physician's rates to ensure budget neutrality. The commissioner must do this in consultation with the Connecticut Hospital Association and the Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians. No such adjustment may affect the rates paid to hospitals. Until the adjustments are made, the applicable Current Procedural Terminology codes or successor codes remain in force.

By law, the commissioner may implement policies and procedures regarding Medicaid hospital rates while adopting the policies and procedures as regulations. The bill extends this provision to include the emergency department physician rates. Under current law, to use this provision, the commissioner must publish notice of intent to adopt the regulations in the *Connecticut Law Journal* not later than 20 days after the date of implementation. The bill instead requires DSS to (1) submit the policy electronically to the secretary of the state for posting

online before adopting the policy, (2) post the policy on its Internet web site, and (3) print notice of intent to adopt the regulation in the *Connecticut Law Journal* not later than 20 days after adopting the policy. The policy is valid until the final regulations go into effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 49 Nay 0 (04/01/2014)