AN ACT CONCERNING NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION FOR MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES.

SUMMARY

Under this bill, the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner must require any transportation brokerage vendor contracting with him to provide nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) to (1) make all reasonable efforts to provide rides in a timely manner and (2) educate HUSKY Health plan (i.e., Medicaid and the state children's health insurance program) members on how to obtain an alternative ride if the vendor’s arranged ride does not occur as scheduled. It also requires the commissioner to monitor compliance with these requirements, including DSS on-site reviews with the vendor, and ensure that monthly vendor reports to DSS include:

1. the number of HUSKY members seeking assistance when a NEMT provider is late or does not arrive,

2. wait times to fulfill scheduled rides for such members, and

3. the number and transportation mode of these rides.

*House Amendment “A” replaces the underlying bill, which would have prohibited the DSS commissioner, or a transportation brokerage vendor contracting with him, from (1) failing to provide NEMT to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries; (2) exceeding certain wait times; (3) providing a mode of transportation other than the medically necessary one requested; or (4) maintaining a network incapable of meeting the state’s Medicaid beneficiaries’ NEMT needs. It also eliminates provisions in the bill allowing (1) certain beneficiaries denied these services to seek injunctive relief and (2) the court to order DSS to impose penalties on the vendor."
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

NEMT

Federal law requires state Medicaid programs to provide an assurance that NEMT will be available to transport Medicaid recipients to and from medically necessary appointments. DSS regulations generally require that NEMT be provided when needed to obtain necessary medical services covered by Medicaid. In Connecticut, DSS provides this service through a transportation broker who arranges for rides when recipients call in with a request. DSS, through its broker, determines the least expensive, most appropriate mode of transportation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 12  Nay 6  (03/07/2019)