



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Raised Bill No. 179**

LCO No. 1016



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING RATES FOR AMBULANCE AND PARAMEDIC 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 2024 supplement  
2 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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

16 services shall not include emergency air transport services or mobile  
17 integrated health care programs.

18 (B) Adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter  
19 54, establishing methods for setting rates and conditions for charging  
20 such rates. Such regulations shall include, but need not be limited to,  
21 provisions requiring that: [on and after July 1, 2000:] (i) Requests for rate  
22 increases [may] shall be filed no more frequently than once a year,  
23 except, [that,] in any case where an agency's rate schedule [of maximum  
24 allowable rates] falls below that of the Medicare allowable rates for that  
25 agency, the commissioner shall immediately amend such schedule so  
26 that the rates are at or above the Medicare allowable rates; (ii) only  
27 licensed ambulance services, certified ambulance services and  
28 paramedic intercept services that apply for a rate increase in excess of  
29 the Medical Care Services Consumer Price Index, as published by the  
30 Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, for  
31 the prior year, and do not accept the [maximum allowable rates] rate  
32 schedule contained in any voluntary state-wide rate schedule  
33 established by the commissioner for the rate application year shall be  
34 required to file detailed financial information with the commissioner,  
35 provided any hearing that the commissioner may hold concerning such  
36 application shall be conducted as a contested case in accordance with  
37 chapter 54; (iii) licensed ambulance services, certified ambulance  
38 services and paramedic intercept services that do not apply for a rate  
39 increase in any year in excess of the Medical Care Services Consumer  
40 Price Index, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United  
41 States Department of Labor, for the prior year, or that accept the  
42 [maximum allowable rates] rate schedule contained in any voluntary  
43 state-wide rate schedule established by the commissioner for the rate  
44 application year shall, not later than the last business day in August of  
45 such year, file with the commissioner a statement of emergency and  
46 nonemergency call volume, and, in the case of a licensed ambulance  
47 service, certified ambulance service or paramedic intercept service that  
48 is not applying for a rate increase, a written declaration by such licensed  
49 ambulance service, certified ambulance service or paramedic intercept

50 service that no change in its currently approved [maximum allowable  
51 rates] rate schedule will occur for the rate application year; and (iv)  
52 detailed financial and operational information filed by licensed  
53 ambulance services, certified ambulance services and paramedic  
54 intercept services to support a request for a rate increase in excess of the  
55 Medical Care Services Consumer Price Index, as published by the  
56 Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, for  
57 the prior year, shall cover the time period pertaining to the most recently  
58 completed fiscal year and the rate application year of the licensed  
59 ambulance service, certified ambulance service or paramedic intercept  
60 service. Not later than November first, annually, the commissioner shall  
61 issue the licensed ambulance service, certified ambulance service and  
62 paramedic intercept service rate schedule for each such agency that  
63 applies for a rate increase pursuant to clause (ii) of this subparagraph.  
64 Not later than October first, annually, the commissioner shall issue the  
65 rate schedule for each such agency that accepts the ambulance rate  
66 schedule pursuant to clause (iii) of this subparagraph.

67 (C) Establish rates for licensed ambulance services, certified  
68 ambulance services or paramedic intercept services for the following  
69 services and conditions: (i) "Advanced life support assessment" and  
70 "specialty care transports", which terms have the meanings provided in  
71 42 CFR 414.605; and (ii) mileage, which may include mileage for an  
72 ambulance transport when the point of origin and final destination for  
73 a transport is within the boundaries of the same municipality. The rates  
74 established by the commissioner for each such service or condition shall  
75 be equal to (I) the ambulance service's base rate plus its established  
76 advanced life support/paramedic surcharge when advanced life  
77 support assessment services are performed; (II) two hundred twenty-  
78 five per cent of the ambulance service's established base rate for  
79 specialty care transports; and (III) "loaded mileage", as the term is  
80 defined in 42 CFR 414.605, multiplied by the ambulance service's  
81 established rate for mileage. Such rates shall remain in effect until such  
82 time as the commissioner establishes a new rate schedule as provided  
83 in this subdivision.

84 (D) Establish rates for the treatment and release of patients by a  
85 licensed or certified emergency medical services organization or a  
86 provider who does not transport such patients to an emergency  
87 department and who is operating within the scope of such  
88 organization's or provider's practice and following protocols approved  
89 by the sponsor hospital. The rates established pursuant to this  
90 subparagraph shall not apply to the treatment provided to patients  
91 through mobile integrated health care programs;

92 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2025*) Each individual health  
93 insurance policy providing coverage of the type specified in  
94 subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 of the general  
95 statutes that is delivered, issued for delivery or renewed, amended or  
96 continued in this state on or after January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage  
97 for (1) the conveyance and treatment of a patient by a licensed  
98 ambulance service or invalid coach, (2) emergency services provided by  
99 a certified ambulance services, and (3) paramedic intercept services  
100 pursuant to the rate schedule issued by the Commissioner of Public  
101 Health to each such agency of such services pursuant to subdivision (9)  
102 of section 19a-177 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

103 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2025*) Each group health insurance  
104 policy providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2),  
105 (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 of the general statutes that is  
106 delivered, issued for delivery or renewed, amended or continued in this  
107 state on or after January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage for (1) the  
108 conveyance and treatment of a patient by a licensed ambulance service  
109 or invalid coach, (2) emergency services provided by a certified  
110 ambulance services, and (3) paramedic intercept services pursuant to  
111 the rate schedule issued by the Commissioner of Public Health to each  
112 such agency of such services pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 19a-  
113 177 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	19a-177(9)

Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To change the maximum allowable rate for the conveyance and treatment of patients by licensed ambulance services and invalid coaches and emergency services rates for certified ambulance services and paramedic intercept services to a rate schedule accepted by providers and require insurance coverage for such services pursuant to such rate schedule.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*