

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5122

As of January 16, 2023

Title: An act relating to extending the expiration date of the ambulance transport fund.

Brief Description: Extending the expiration date of the ambulance transport fund.

Sponsors: Senators Cleveland, Muzzall, Van De Wege and Wellman.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long Term Care: 1/17/23.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Extends the expiration date for the ambulance transport quality assurance fee program to July 1, 2028.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE

Staff: Julie Tran (786-7283)

Background: In 2020, the Legislature created the ambulance transport quality assurance fee program (program), which applies to private ambulance transport providers (providers). The program requires providers to pay the fee for each emergency ambulance transport and each provider is required to submit certain data to the Health Care Authority (HCA).

The quality assurance fee rate is calculated based on transport and gross receipts data that HCA receives from providers. HCA applies an add-on to increase the Medicaid reimbursement for provider's emergency ambulance transports. The add-on must only be funded from the fees and interest earned on the fees, and federal reimbursement or other related federal funds.

For state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, the annual quality assurance fee rate is calculated by the product of the projected aggregate fee schedule amount divided by 90

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percent of the projected total annual ambulance transports by all providers.

The program's fund is known as the ambulance transport fund and is in the custody of the state treasury. The fund must retain its interest and must only be used to receive and disburse funds in accordance with the program.

Summary of Bill: The program expiration date is extended from July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2028.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 9, 2023.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.