



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 35

S.P. 56

In Senate, January 8, 2025

**An Act to Strengthen Local Emergency Medical Services by
Increasing the MaineCare Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance
Services**

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 6, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CURRY of Waldo.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** 2 recent blue ribbon commissions to study emergency medical services
4 established by Public Law 2021, chapter 749 and Resolve 2023, chapter 98, respectively,
5 identified lack of adequate funding as a critical issue facing the emergency medical services
6 system in the State; and

7 **Whereas,** without increased financial support, emergency medical services providers
8 are at risk of closure, leaving areas of the State without adequate access to life-saving
9 emergency services; and

10 **Whereas,** increasing reimbursement rates under the MaineCare program will provide
11 much needed financial relief and will further leverage additional federal funding for
12 emergency medical services in the State; and

13 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
14 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
15 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
16 therefore,

17 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

18 **Sec. 1. Ambulance services reimbursement rate.** Notwithstanding the Maine
19 Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-JJ or any other provision of law to the contrary,
20 beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2028, the Department of Health and Human
21 Services shall reimburse for ambulance services under MaineCare at a level that is 140%
22 of the average allowable reimbursement rate under Medicare for such services.

23 **Sec. 2. Transfer from Department of Public Safety, Emergency Medical**
24 **Services Stabilization and Sustainability Program, Other Special Revenue**
25 **Funds account; Department of Health and Human Services, Medical Care -**
26 **Payments to Providers.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or
27 before June 30, 2026, the State Controller shall transfer \$15,000,000 from the Department
28 of Public Safety, Emergency Medical Services Stabilization and Sustainability Program,
29 Other Special Revenue Funds account to the Department of Health and Human Services,
30 Medical Care - Payments to Providers program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

31 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
32 allocations are made.

33 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
34 **Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147**

35 Initiative: Provides one-time allocation for a temporary change to the department's rule
36 Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 5, Ambulance Services, so
37 that, effective July 1, 2025, MaineCare Ambulance Services codes with Medicare
38 equivalents are reimbursed at 140% of the current published Medicare rates. This
39 temporary increase ends June 30, 2028.

40 FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
41 All Other	\$7,300,000	\$7,300,000

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2	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$7,300,000	\$7,300,000
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4	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
5	All Other	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
6			
7	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
8			
9	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,		
10	DEPARTMENT OF		
11	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
12			
13	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$7,300,000	\$7,300,000
14	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
15			
16	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$12,300,000	\$12,300,000
17	PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF		
18	EMS Stabilization and Sustainability Program Z382		
19	Initiative: Provides one-time deallocation to the Emergency Medical Services Stabilization		
20	and Sustainability Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 98.		
21	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
22	All Other	(\$15,000,000)	\$0
23			
24	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$15,000,000)	\$0
25			
26	PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF		
27	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
28			
29	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	(\$15,000,000)	\$0
30			
31	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	(\$15,000,000)	\$0
32			
33	SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
34			
35	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$7,300,000	\$7,300,000
36	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	(\$10,000,000)	\$5,000,000
37			
38	SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	(\$2,700,000)	\$12,300,000
39	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation		
40	takes effect when approved.		

SUMMARY

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This bill increases for 3 years the MaineCare reimbursement rate for ambulance services to 140% of the average allowable reimbursement rate under Medicare for such services.