

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Cameron Lapine 271-2104

HB 1568-FN, relative to Medicaid reimbursement for non-transport emergency medical services calls.

Hearing Date: April 10, 2024

Time Opened: 10:09 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:18 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Birdsell and Whitley

Members of the Committee Absent: Senators Avar, Bradley and Prentiss

Bill Analysis: This bill requires Medicaid reimbursement for non-transport emergency medical services calls.

Sponsors:

Rep. Sellers

Rep. McGough

Sen. Innis

Who supports the bill: Ben Bradley (NH Hospital Association), Rep. Joe Schapiro (Cheshire – District 10), Rep. Tim McGough (Hillsborough – District 12), Rep. John Sellers (Grafton – District 18), Katherine Heck (NHMA), Adam Schmidt (NH Association of Fire Chiefs), Rob Berry (General Counsel, DHHS), Chris Stawasz, Stacy Meier, Rep. Mark Proulx (Hillsborough – District 15), Eric Setenberg, and Chris Coates.

Who opposes the bill: None.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative John Sellers

Grafton – District 18

- Representative Sellers said that a constituent approached him to file HB 1568-FN. Every town responds to service calls without knowing if they are going to transport the patient. If the patient is not transported, the town picks up the full cost of responding to the call.
- Rep. Sellers said this practice is costing every property tax taxpayer.
- Rep. Sellers said HB 1568-FN is similar to SB 409-FN (2024).
- Rep. Sellers said this is offset by using Medicaid, meaning that the state only pays 10% of the cost and the federal government picks up the balance. This takes the burden off of the property tax taxpayers.
- Rep. Sellers said up to 55% of all calls do not result in transportation.

Representative Tim McGough

Hillsborough – District 12

- Representative McGough said HB 1568-FN is a simpler version of SB 409-FN and passed the House with a 101-vote margin.
- Rep. McGough said keeping patients at home when it is clinically appropriate benefits both parties, as it does not overcrowd emergency departments.
- Rep. McGough gave the example of a semi-conscious diabetic patient who receives an elaborate advanced life support treatment but recovers and does not need to be transported. There would be significant time and expense but no reimbursement.
- Rep. McGough said ambulances are currently incentivized to transport patients just to ensure they are reimbursed.

Representative Mark Proulx

Hillsborough – District 15

- Representative Proulx echoed previous testimony.

Rob Berry

General Counsel, Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

- Mr. Berry said DHHS supports HB 1568-FN and testified in the House that it should be aligned with SB 409-FN. He said the parameters in SB 409-FN are important from a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services perspective.
- Mr. Berry said that there needs to be an appropriation in order to implement these provisions. He said it is a worthwhile policy to pursue.
- Senator Birdsell asked if there was an appropriation on SB 409-FN.
 - Mr. Berry said there was not.
- Sen. Birdsell asked if there would be an appropriation on SB 409-FN by the time it passed the House.
 - Mr. Berry said he was unsure, given that the House hearing on SB 409-FN was taking place simultaneously.

Chris Stawasz

NH Ambulance Association

- Mr. Stawasz said he supports SB 409-FN a little bit more, as it provides a better outline for reimbursement.
- Mr. Stawasz said it is wise to take away the incentive to transport a person who does not need it.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.
Neutral Information Presented: None.

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Date Hearing Report completed: April 12, 2024