

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5650

As of February 13, 2001

Title: An act relating to emergency medical transportation services.

Brief Description: Establishing maximum ambulance and aid service rates.

Sponsors: Senators Winsley, Thibaudeau and Deccio.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/14/01.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Jonathan Seib (786-7427)

Background: Under current law, the Department of Health is responsible for the licensing and certification of emergency medical service providers, both public and private. Administrative rules adopted by the department establish minimum requirements for ambulance and aid vehicles, set out training and competency requirements for emergency service personnel, and provide for the licensing of organizations that operate such services in this state.

Some local jurisdictions negotiate rates as part of their contract with an emergency service provider. Statewide, however, these rates are not generally regulated. There is concern that the rates being charged are too high, particularly given that those using such services are not often in a position to seek a lower price.

Summary of Bill: The Department of Health is to annually establish the maximum rates that may be charged by an ambulance or aid service operating in this state. The rates may vary by county or other appropriate geographic region, and within each region may not exceed the amounts reasonable and necessary to ensure quality services.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 13, 2001.

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