

B-Engrossed House Bill 3243

Ordered by the House June 19
Including House Amendments dated April 16 and June 19

Sponsored by Representative NOSSE; Representatives JAVADI, NGUYEN H, PHAM H, SOSA, Senator PATTERSON (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Tells ambulance service providers not to balance bill some patients and makes them report local rates to DCBS. Makes some rules about health insurance for ambulance services. Tells DCBS to make a new database of local rates and allows for penalties. Tells DCBS to submit a report. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.5).

Prohibits balance billing for ambulance ground transportation services in certain circumstances and creates rules for health benefit plan reimbursement of ambulance services. Requires ground ambulance services to submit established local rates to the Department of Consumer and Business Services. Establishes a database of local rates for ambulance services and allows for penalties to be imposed for violations. Requires the department to submit a report on the implementation of this Act.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to billing for ground ambulance services.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of the Insurance Code.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Enrollee" has the meaning given that term in ORS 743B.005.

(b) "Established local rate" means the rate established where the health care services originated for the provision of ground ambulance services through a publicly accessible process that includes an analysis of the cost to provide the ground ambulance services by:

(A) The local government entity if the ground ambulance services are provided by ground ambulance services organizations that are owned or operated by the local government entity; or

(B) The contract between a privately owned or operated ground ambulance services organization and the local government entity if the ground ambulance services are provided by a privately owned or operated ground ambulance services organization.

(c) "Ground ambulance services" means:

(A) The rendering of medical treatment and care at the scene of a medical emergency or while transporting an individual from the scene to an appropriate health care facility when the services are provided by one or more ground ambulance vehicles designed for this purpose; and

(B) Transport between health care facilities when the services are medically necessary and are provided by one or more ground ambulance vehicles designed for this purpose.

(d) "Ground ambulance services organization" means a public or private organization li-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

censed by the Oregon Health Authority pursuant to ORS 682.045 to provide ground ambulance services.

(e) “Health benefit plan” has the meaning given that term in ORS 743B.005, except that “health benefit plan” does not include a coverage offered by the Public Employees’ Benefit Board or the Oregon Educators Benefit Board through a commercial insurer, a health care service contractor or a third party administrator.

(f) “Health care facility” means a facility that provides health care services directly to patients, including but not limited to a hospital, clinic, health care provider’s office, health maintenance organization, diagnostic or treatment center, mental health facility, behavioral health service provider, emergency services provider or hospice or nursing home.

(g) “In-network” has the meaning given that term in ORS 743B.280.

(2) A ground ambulance service may not bill an enrollee for covered ground ambulance services if the enrollee has paid the in-network cost-sharing amount specified in the enrollee’s health benefit plan.

(3) A health benefit plan must reimburse the ground ambulance services organization at the established local rate or if an established local rate does not exist, in an amount no less than 325 percent of the Medicare rate.

(4) Ground ambulance services organizations shall submit a catalog of established local rates to the Department of Consumer and Business Services annually and within five calendar days of a change to the rates.

(5) The department shall create a database of established local rates for ground ambulance services. The department shall ensure this database is accessible by the public.

(6) The provisions of this section apply to a self-funded group health plan whether governed by or exempt from the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), as amended, only if the self-funded group health plan elects to participate in the provisions of this section by providing notice to the department in the form and manner described by the department by rule.

(7) The Public Employees’ Benefit Board and the Oregon Educators Benefit Board may elect to participate in the coverage provisions described in this section by providing notice to the department in the form and manner described by the department by rule.

(8) This section is exempt from ORS 743A.001.

(9) The department shall make rules to implement the provisions described in this section.

(10) The department may impose civil penalties, as described in ORS 731.988, but may not exceed \$1,000 for repeated violations of this section.

SECTION 3. No later than September 15, 2026, the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall submit a report in the form and manner described in ORS 192.245 to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health. The report shall include:

(1) All consumer complaints received by the department concerning billing for services provided by ground ambulance services organizations both before and after the implementation of section 2 of this 2025 Act.

(2) The number of contracts ground ambulance services organizations and health benefit plans entered into on or after January 1, 2026.

(3) Any effect on the premium rates for health benefit plans that occurred on or after January 1, 2026, and can be attributed to the implementation of section 2 of this 2025 Act.

1 **SECTION 4.** Section 3 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.

2 **SECTION 5.** Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the amount of \$502,113
3 is established for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of
4 expenses from fees, moneys or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts, but ex-
5 cluding lottery funds and federal funds, collected or received by the Department of Consumer
6 and Business Services, for the Division of Financial Regulation, for the purpose of carrying
7 out sections 2 and 3 of this 2025 Act.

8 **SECTION 6.** Section 2 of this 2025 Act applies to health benefit plans issued, renewed or
9 extended on or after the effective date of this 2025 Act.

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