



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 552

Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service Transporters - Reimbursement

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government Operations
and Appropriations Committees

Date: February 9, 2021

From: Alex Butler and Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 552**. This bill proposes modernizing changes to the Medicaid reimbursement scheme for emergency service visits and transportation.

Medical care has evolved with time, but federal and state rules governing them – especially the largest health care programs, Medicare and Medicaid – have often failed to keep pace. One such example is with emergency transporters who offer on-site services and delivery to facilities.

HB 552 sensibly targets this problem, bringing Medicaid reimbursement gradually closer to the actual costs of these mobile services. By removing the condition of “transporting the Program recipient to a facility,” the bill recognizes that much emergency and immediate care is offered by the trained ambulance staff, independent of whether a delivery is ultimately needed. Further, when payment is suitable, HB 552 adjusts the state-authorized payment level annually to approach a value more connected to actual service costs. Both changes are welcome and due.

HB 552 brings Medicaid’s system of compensating emergency care closer to the realities, and costs, of modern times. For these reasons, MACo requests the Committee give HB 552 a **FAVORABLE** report.