

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2104

H.P. 1594

House of Representatives, February 24, 1984

Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Carroll of Gray.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR

AN ACT Relating to Medicaid
Reimbursement Rates for Ambulance Services.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Department of Human Services has failed to increase the base rate reimbursement since 1973, in spite of the drastic increases in gasoline, repair costs of vehicles, insurance rates, equipment and other costs; and

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

1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
2 follows:

3 22 MRSA §3173-D is enacted to read:

4 §3173-D. Reimbursement for ambulance services;
5 Medicaid

6 The Department of Human Services shall reimburse
7 state-licensed ambulance services for services pro-
8 vided to persons eligible for Medicaid coverage at
9 the following rates: Resident and nonresident base
10 shall be \$70; resident and nonresident mileage rate
11 shall be \$2.50 per loaded mile.

12 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited
13 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-
14 proved.

15 STATEMENT OF FACT

16 The base rates for ambulance services has not
17 been increased since 1973. During the past 10 years
18 the cost of gasoline, repairs, equipment, insurance,
19 tires and other items have increased dramatically.
20 There are many volunteer ambulance squads that raise
21 money through subscriptions, bean suppers, raffles,
22 bake sales and other activities and are having a dif-
23 ficult time meeting their expenses, due to the in-
24 creased costs of operation. Other ambulance services
25 which pay their personnel are trying to meet in-
26 creased payrolls, increased costs of insurance rates,
27 along with the same increases in operation of their
28 services. The department of Human Services has
29 failed to meet the increase in the cost of living
30 over the past 10 years. The present rates seldom
31 meet the cost of providing this necessary service to
32 the citizens of the State.

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