

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
2025-2026 (194th) BILL SUMMARY**

Bill No: H1198

Title: AN ACT TO IMPROVE PATIENT ACCESS TO NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Sponsor: Rep. Daniel J. Hunt (*Boston*)

Hearing Date: October 27, 2025

Reporting Deadline: December 3, 2025

Prior History:

2023-2024 (H1050): Ordered to a House Study

Similar Matters: S746 (Feeney – Identical)

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 32A Contributory Group General or Blanket Insurance for Persons in the Service of the Commonwealth (Group Insurance Commission)

M.G.L. c. 118E Division of Medical Assistance (MassHealth)

M.G.L. c. 175 Insurance

M.G.L. c. 176A Non-Profit Hospital Service Corporations (Blue Cross of Massachusetts)

M.G.L. c. 176B Medical Service Corporations (Blue Shield of Massachusetts)

M.G.L. c. 176G Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)

101 CMR 327.00: Rates of payment for ambulance and wheelchair van services

Governs the rates of payment to eligible ambulance and wheelchair van service providers to be used by all governmental units for services provided to publicly aided individuals.

SUMMARY:

MassHealth and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance organizations, behavioral health management firms and third-party administrators under contract to a Medicaid managed care organization or primary care clinician plan will issue payments to eligible providers, as defined by regulation *101 CMR 327.00*, and nonpublic ambulance service providers, as defined by regulation *101 CMR 327.00*, in an amount no less than 2 and one half times the determined rates for authorized ambulance and wheelchair van services for: ambulance service, advanced life support, nonemergency transport ambulance service, basic life support, nonemergency transport nonemergency wheelchair van transportation, nonemergency wheelchair

transportation with loaded mileage and; nonemergency wheelchair transportation with patient attendant or escort when transporting covered members to inpatient and outpatient dialysis treatment, inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services, and inpatient and outpatient post-acute care, inclusive.

If the Group Insurance Commission (GIC), MassHealth and commercial health insurers require prior authorization for nonemergency ambulance and wheelchair van transportation to inpatient and outpatient dialysis treatment, inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services, and inpatient and outpatient post-acute care, such prior authorization will be valid for a minimum of 3 business days.