

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 383
Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 4/20/17

Short Title: Behav. Health Crisis EMS Transports/Medicaid.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 27, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR AMBULANCE
3 TRANSPORTS OF MEDICAID RECIPIENTS IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS TO
4 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS OR ALTERNATIVE APPROPRIATE CARE
5 LOCATIONS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** It is the intent of the General Assembly to provide opportunities to
8 divert individuals in behavioral health crisis from hospital emergency departments to
9 alternative appropriate care locations. Consistent with Option 1 outlined in the Department of
10 Health and Human Services' (Department) March 1, 2015, legislative report entitled
11 "Ambulance Transports to Crisis Centers," the Department shall design a plan for adding
12 Medicaid coverage for ambulance transports of Medicaid recipients in behavioral health crisis
13 to behavioral health clinics or other alternative appropriate care locations. The plan shall ensure
14 the following:

- 15 (1) Medicaid reimbursement is contingent upon an Emergency Medical Services
16 (EMS) System's ability to demonstrate its EMS providers have received
17 appropriate education in caring for individuals in behavioral health crisis and
18 that the EMS System has at least one partnership with a receiving facility
19 that is able to provide care appropriate for those individuals.
20 (2) An EMS System shall be required to include in its EMS System Plan a
21 report on patient experiences and outcomes in accordance with rules adopted
22 by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health
23 Regulation, Office of Emergency Medical Services.

24 **SECTION 2.** No later than December 1, 2017, the Department shall report to the
25 Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice on the plan for
26 adding Medicaid coverage for ambulance transports of Medicaid recipients in behavioral health
27 crisis to behavioral health clinics or other alternative appropriate care locations. The report
28 shall include the following:

- 29 (1) The proposed reimbursement methodology to be utilized.
30 (2) An analysis of the financial impact of adding the coverage, including any
31 anticipated costs to the Medicaid program.
32 (3) Whether the Department intends to add this coverage pursuant to its
33 authority under G.S. 108A-54(e), or whether additional appropriations are
34 required.
35 (4) If the Department intends to add this coverage pursuant to its authority under
36 G.S. 108A-54(e), a time line for submission of any State Plan amendments



1 or any waivers necessary for implementation and expected implementation
2 date.
3 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.