

ACT 140

H.B. NO. 1453

A Bill for an Act Relating to Emergency Medical Services.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new sections to part XVIII to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§321-A Enhanced and expanded emergency medical services; fees.

(a) The department shall establish reasonable fees to be collected from individuals who are:

- (1) Transported by emergency ground ambulance services to a health care facility designated by the department for the care of the individual; or
- (2) Provided health care by emergency medical services personnel but not transported by ground ambulance to a health care facility.

(b) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section.

(c) No later than July 1, 2020, the department shall adopt interim rules, which shall be exempt from chapter 91 and chapter 201M, to effectuate the purposes of this section; provided that the interim rules shall remain in effect until July 1, 2023, or until rules are adopted pursuant to subsection (b), whichever occurs sooner.

§321-B Community paramedicine program; established. (a) The department of health shall establish and administer the community paramedicine program.

- (b) The department shall:
 - (1) Develop guidelines for community paramedicine;
 - (2) Explore and develop partnerships with public and private health care entities, insurers, and community organizations; and
 - (3) Employ telehealth to enhance access and improve the patient experience.

(c) For purposes of this part, “community paramedicine program” means an enhanced and expanded service in the state comprehensive emergency medical services system that allows state-licensed health care professionals, and community health workers, to assist with public health, primary care, and prevention services, including services through telehealth.

(d) The department of health shall submit a report on the status of the community paramedicine program, including an accounting of expenses and source of funds, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session of the legislature.

(e) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to effectuate the purposes of this section.

(f) The department may adopt interim rules, which shall be exempt from chapter 91 and chapter 201M, to effectuate the purposes of this section; provided that the interim rules shall remain in effect until July 1, 2023, or until rules are adopted pursuant to subsection (e), whichever occurs sooner.”

SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§346- Coverage of ground ambulance services. Beginning on January 1, 2020, the State’s medicaid programs:

- (1) May provide coverage for ground ambulance services pursuant to part XVIII of chapter 321; and
 - (2) May provide coverage for health care provided by emergency medical services personnel, pursuant to part XVIII of chapter 321;
- provided that implementation of this section is dependent on approval by the United States Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.”

SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The report shall include:

- (1) The status of any rules adopted pursuant to this Act;
- (2) A report on community stakeholders engaged in developing the community paramedicine program;
- (3) The progress of the establishment of reasonable fees for individuals who are transported to health care facilities via ground ambulance or provided with health care by emergency services personnel but are not transported; and
- (4) Recommendations as to a private insurance mandate for coverage of ground ambulance services.

SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section 1 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating the new sections in this Act.

SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

(Approved June 25, 2019.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.