

HOUSE BILL NO. 453

INTRODUCED BY P. NOONAN, VILLA, SESSO, POMNICHOWSKI, HOLLENBAUGH, REINHART,
FRENCH, MCCLAFFERTY, STEENSON, PEASE-LOPEZ, GRINDE, BOSS RIBS, FUREY, COHENOUR,
AUGARE, MACDONALD, BECKER, A. NOONAN, BOLAND, MCALPIN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES TO REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEDICAID TRANSPORTATION
REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES; AND PROVIDING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, many Montanans receiving Medicaid-covered targeted case management services are in
need of frequent physical or mental health care; and

WHEREAS, many Medicaid recipients do not have their own transportation because of their financial
situations; and

WHEREAS, children in particular are unable to keep medically necessary appointments without
transportation assistance; and

WHEREAS, inadequate transportation reimbursement rates may discourage Medicaid recipients or their
families from keeping medically necessary appointments or from seeking reimbursement, potentially affecting
both their health and financial situations; and

WHEREAS, recent clarifications of federal regulations have limited the ability of providers of targeted
case management services to receive reimbursement for transporting Medicaid clients to medically necessary
appointments; and

WHEREAS, these clarifications in federal regulations may have adverse effects on both Medicaid
recipients and providers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Medicaid transportation reimbursement review -- requirements. (1)

The department of public health and human services shall review and make recommendations on the
reimbursement rates for the medicaid transportation program as it relates to recipients of targeted case

1 management services. In conducting the review, the department shall survey medicaid recipients and providers
2 to determine:

3 (a) the ability of medicaid recipients to travel to and from medically necessary appointments;

4 (b) whether medicaid recipients have missed medically necessary appointments because of
5 transportation costs or lack of transportation;

6 (c) whether medicaid recipients and providers routinely apply for reimbursement of travel costs under
7 the medicaid transportation reimbursement program;

8 (d) the reasons any recipients or providers who do not routinely apply for reimbursement do not do so;
9 and

10 (e) the actual transportation costs incurred by medicaid-eligible individuals and their families and by
11 medicaid providers in providing or obtaining transportation services.

12 (2) The department shall provide the results of its review to the children, families, health, and human
13 services interim committee by July 1, 2010, and make recommendations on:

14 (a) measures that could improve the ability of medicaid recipients to travel to and from medically
15 necessary appointments;

16 (b) whether and how medicaid funds can be used to more appropriately pay for parents' costs of traveling
17 to appointments that are medically necessary for their children; and

18 (c) the amount of funding necessary for providers to be reimbursed for transporting medicaid recipients
19 to medically necessary appointments in a way that covers the actual costs of transportation.

20 (3) As part of its recommendations, the department shall indicate which of its recommendations may be
21 implemented at the department level and which recommendations would require legislative action.

22 (4) The review must be accomplished within available resources AND USING EXISTING PERSONNEL.

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24 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2009.

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