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HOUSE BILL NO. 828

INTRODUCED BY E. BUTTREY, S. KERNS, S. GIST, R. FITZGERALD, J. KASSMIER, N. DURAM

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AMBULANCE PROVIDER ASSESSMENT FEE; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING AND DISTRIBUTING THE FEE; ALLOWING AUDITING OF AMBULANCE PROVIDER REPORTS AND PAYMENTS; ALLOWING FOR PENALTIES AND INTEREST; REQUIRING REVENUES GENERATED BY THE FEE TO BE USED FOR SUPPLEMENTING AMBULANCE PROVIDER MEDICAID PAYMENTS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING A STATUTORY APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 17-7-502, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A CONTINGENT TERMINATION DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Definitions.** As used in [sections 1 through 13], the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Ambulance provider" means a person licensed pursuant to 50-6-306 to provide ground ambulance transport, including transport for a municipal fire or police department or other government entity.

(b) The term does not include:

~~(i) an entity that exclusively provides air ambulance services; or~~

~~(ii) a hospital required to pay the utilization fees provided for in 15-66-102.~~

(2) "Department" means the department of revenue provided for in 2-15-1301.

(3) "Emergency ambulance services" means any service delivered by an ambulance provider other than air ambulance services.

(4) "Fee" means the ambulance provider assessment fee as provided in [section 2].

(5) (a) "Net operating revenue" means gross revenue collected by ambulance providers for the delivery of emergency ambulance services, minus amounts deducted for bad debt, charity care, and payer discounts.

~~(b) The term does not include nonpatient service-related revenue.~~