



2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 122

February 22, 2005 - Introduced by Representatives FRISKE, AINSWORTH, HUNDERTMARK, KERKMAN, GUNDERSON, ALBERS, VOS, HINES, MURSAU, HAHN, MUSSER and BALLWEG, cosponsored by Senators ROESSLER, GROTHMAN and BRESKE. Referred to Committee on Health.

- 1 **AN ACT** *to create* 49.45 (3) (m) of the statutes; **relating to:** Medical Assistance
2 reimbursement for transportation by specialized medical vehicle.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, transportation by specialized medical vehicle (SMV) to obtain medical care is a benefit under Medical Assistance (MA). The benefit is available to MA recipients who have a chronic physical disability that necessitates use of an aid such as a wheelchair, walker, or crutches, to recipients who have a mental impairment that contraindicates transportation by common carrier, and to recipients who are blind. SMV transportation services must be provided in a vehicle that is equipped to accommodate a wheelchair regardless of whether the MA recipient uses a wheelchair.

This bill eliminates the MA requirement that all SMV transportation services be provided in a vehicle that is equipped to accommodate a wheelchair. The bill requires that, to be certified as an MA provider of SMV transportation services, a provider have at least one vehicle that is equipped to accommodate a wheelchair. If an MA-certified provider uses two or more vehicles to provide SMV transportation services, at least two of the vehicles must be equipped to accommodate a wheelchair and any third or additional vehicle must be a vehicle that can be converted to accommodate a wheelchair. The bill requires MA reimbursement for SMV transportation services provided in a vehicle that is not equipped to accommodate a wheelchair if the person being transported does not use a wheelchair. Finally, the bill requires that the MA reimbursement rate for SMV transportation services provided in a vehicle that is not equipped to accommodate a wheelchair be the same as for services provided in a vehicle that is so equipped.

