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 $\begin{array}{c} LRB-1472/1 \\ RLR:kjf:rs \end{array}$

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

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.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. 49.45 (3) (m) of the statutes is created to read:

49.45 (3) (m) To be certified under sub. (2) (a) 11. to provide transportation by specialized medical vehicle, a person must have at least one human service vehicle, as defined in s. 340.01 (23g), that satisfies the requirements imposed under s. 110.05 for a vehicle that is used to transport a person in a wheelchair. If a certified provider uses 2 or more vehicles to provide transportation by specialized medical vehicle, at least 2 of the vehicles must be human service vehicles that satisfy the requirements imposed under s. 110.05 for a vehicle that is used to transport a person in a wheelchair, and any 3rd or additional vehicle must be a human service vehicle to which the equipment required under s. 110.05 for transporting a person in a wheelchair may be added. The department shall pay for transportation by specialized medical vehicle under s. 49.46 (2) (b) 3. that is provided in a human service vehicle that is not equipped to transport a person in a wheelchair if the person being transported does not use a wheelchair. The reimbursement rate for transportation by specialized medical vehicle provided in a vehicle that is not equipped to accommodate a wheelchair shall be the same as for transportation by specialized medical vehicle provided in a vehicle that is equipped to accommodate a wheelchair.

19 (END)