

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 393 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY O'NEILL, BRIGGS, BUXTON, CAUSER, CLYMER, CUTLER, DENLINGER, EVERETT, FARRY, HARHART, HARKINS, HORNAMAN, KAVULICH, M.K. KELLER, W. KELLER, LONGIETTI, MARSHALL, MILLARD, MILLER, MOUL, MURT, PAYNE, RAPP, READSHAW, SCAVELLO, SWANGER, TALLMAN, VEREB, WAGNER, WATSON, WILLIAMS AND FABRIZIO, FEBRUARY 2, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, FEBRUARY 2, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), entitled "An
2 act relating to insurance; amending, revising, and
3 consolidating the law providing for the incorporation of
4 insurance companies, and the regulation, supervision, and
5 protection of home and foreign insurance companies, Lloyds
6 associations, reciprocal and inter-insurance exchanges, and
7 fire insurance rating bureaus, and the regulation and
8 supervision of insurance carried by such companies,
9 associations, and exchanges, including insurance carried by
10 the State Workmen's Insurance Fund; providing penalties; and
11 repealing existing laws," prohibiting discrimination against
12 volunteer ambulance services.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. The act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known
16 as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, is amended by adding a
17 section to read:

18 Section 635.6. Discrimination Against Volunteer Ambulance
19 Services Prohibited.--(a) An insurer shall be required to
20 contract with and to accept as a participating provider any
21 willing provider of volunteer ambulance services. An insurer

1 shall not discriminate against a provider of volunteer ambulance
2 services who agrees to accept negotiated payment levels and to
3 adhere to quality standards established by the insurer.

4 (b) Whenever a volunteer ambulance service is properly
5 dispatched by a public safety answering point as defined in the
6 act of July 9, 1990 (P.L.340, No.78), known as the "Public
7 Safety Emergency Telephone Act," any payment made by an insurer
8 for a claim covered under a health insurance policy for a
9 service performed by the volunteer ambulance service during such
10 call shall be paid directly to the volunteer ambulance service,
11 regardless of whether the ambulance service is a participating
12 provider with the insurer.

13 (c) The following shall apply:

14 (1) An insured may, through the assignment of benefits,
15 assign to a willing provider of volunteer ambulance services his
16 right to receive reimbursement for any service performed by a
17 volunteer ambulance service.

18 (2) A volunteer ambulance service provided an assignment of
19 benefits by an insured shall submit a copy of that assignment or
20 provide a notice of the assignment of benefits on a form and in
21 a manner prescribed by the department to the insurer with any
22 claim for payment for any ambulance service performed by the
23 volunteer ambulance service.

24 (3) The insurer, based upon the claim and notice of the
25 assignment of benefits submitted by the volunteer ambulance
26 service, shall remit payment of the claim directly to the
27 volunteer ambulance service within the time frame established by
28 this act for remitting payment on a claim and provide written
29 notice, within the same applicable time frame, of the payment to
30 the insured.

1 (4) If the insured executes an assignment of benefits and
2 the volunteer ambulance service submits notice of that
3 assignment of benefits with its claim for payment pursuant to
4 paragraph (2), but the insurer remits payment of the claim to
5 the insured, the claim shall not be considered paid. The insurer
6 shall, notwithstanding the incorrect payment of the claim to the
7 insured, remain liable for remitting payment of the claim to the
8 volunteer ambulance service pursuant to the assignment of
9 benefits.

10 (d) As used in this section:

11 (1) "Insurer" means an entity that is responsible for
12 providing or paying for all or part of the cost of ambulance
13 services covered by an insurance policy, contract or plan other
14 than a homeowner's insurance policy. An insurer includes an
15 entity subject to:

16 (i) This act.

17 (ii) The act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701, No.364), known
18 as the "Health Maintenance Organization Act."

19 (iii) 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to hospital plan
20 corporations) or 63 (relating to professional health services
21 plan corporations).

22 (2) For purposes of the definition of "insurer" as provided
23 under paragraph (1), an "insurance policy, contract or plan"
24 shall not include the following types of insurance or any
25 combination thereof: accident only, fixed indemnity, limited
26 benefit, credit, dental, vision, specified disease, Medicare
27 supplement, Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed
28 Services (CHAMPUS) supplement, long-term care or disability
29 income, workers' compensation or automobile medical payment
30 insurance.

1 (3) "Volunteer ambulance service" means any nonprofit
2 chartered corporation, association or organization located in
3 this Commonwealth, which is licensed by the Department of Health
4 and is not associated or affiliated with any hospital and which
5 is regularly engaged in the provision of emergency medical
6 services, including basic life support or advanced life support
7 services and the transportation of patients within this
8 Commonwealth.

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.