



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 347

PRINTERS NO. 1754

PRIME SPONSOR: O'Neill

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 347, Printer's Number 1754, amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) by requiring insurers to pay emergency medical service agencies directly for care provided as the result of an emergency call.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) by requiring payment by an insurer for a claim covered under a health insurance policy to be made directly to the emergency medical services (EMS) agency as a result of an emergency call. This is contingent upon the EMS agency being properly dispatched by a public safety answering point and providing medically necessary emergency care. It also provides for the definition of "insurer" and exempts the following lines of insurance from the bill: homeowner's and auto insurance policies, and policies that are considered supplemental insurance policies, such as long-term care or disability income insurance or ancillary insurance plans, known as vision and dental insurance.

The bill inserts a reimbursement clause outlining conditions under which an insurer must pay a nonnetwork EMS agency that provides emergency care. It directs the Department of Health to develop both a standardized form that the EMS agency shall submit for reimbursement annually by October 15 and a publicly accessible registry that indicates which EMS agency has requested nonnetwork direct reimbursement. Additional language states that an EMS agency may be subject to periodic audits by an insurer to examine claims for direct reimbursement with findings forwarded to the department.

This legislation shall take effect January 1, 2016.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no impact on Commonwealth funds. It is expected that any additional administrative costs related to these duties would be covered under the department's existing operations.

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Ann Bertolino
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 9, 2015

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.