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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1113 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, CAUSER, McNEILL, BARRAR, READSHAW,  
D. COSTA, WATSON, PASHINSKI AND GILLEN, APRIL 4, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 4, 2017

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for certification of  
3 community paramedics, for community paramedicine service  
4 coverage by casualty insurance carriers and for medical  
5 assistance reimbursement.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
9 Statutes is amended by adding a part to read:

10 PART II

11 PUBLIC HEALTH

12 Chapter

13 41. Community Paramedicine Services

14 CHAPTER 41

15 COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE SERVICES

16 Subchapter

17 A. Preliminary Provisions

18 B. Community Paramedicine Services

19 C. Financial Provisions

1                                       SUBCHAPTER A

2                                       PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

3 Sec.

4 4101. Definitions.

5 § 4101. Definitions.

6       The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
7 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
8 context clearly indicates otherwise:

9       "Community paramedicine provider." An individual who is  
10 certified as an EMS provider with additional training pursuant  
11 to 28 Pa. Code Pt. VII (relating to emergency medical services)  
12 and who has successfully completed an education program for  
13 community paramedicine health care as prescribed by the  
14 department by regulation. A community paramedicine provider  
15 shall also be considered a "community health worker" for  
16 purposes of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act  
17 (Public Law 111-148, 124 Stat. 119).

18       "Community paramedicine services." Services, provided by  
19 certified EMS providers acting within their scope of practice  
20 pursuant to 28 Pa. Code Pt. VII, to provide outreach, injury and  
21 illness prevention and assistance, based on local need, to  
22 patients who do not require emergency medical transportation.

23       "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

24       "EMS provider." As defined in section 8103 (relating to  
25 definitions).

26       "Health insurance policy." An individual or group health  
27 insurance policy, subscriber contract, certificate or plan that  
28 provides medical or health care coverage by any health care  
29 facility or licensed health care provider that is offered by or  
30 is governed under the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284),

1 known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, or any of the  
2 following:

3 (1) Subarticle (f) of Article IV of the act of June 13,  
4 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code.

5 (2) The act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701, No.364),  
6 known as the Health Maintenance Organization Act.

7 (3) A nonprofit corporation subject to 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61  
8 (relating to hospital plan corporations) or 63 (relating to  
9 professional health services plan corporations).

10 The term includes a Medicare supplement policy.

11 SUBCHAPTER B

12 COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE SERVICES

13 Sec.

14 4111. Certification.

15 4112. Status.

16 4113. Regulations.

17 § 4111. Certification.

18 An individual who is certified for any of the types of EMS  
19 providers enumerated under section 8113(a) (relating to  
20 emergency medical services providers) shall be permitted to  
21 provide community paramedicine services, subject to disciplinary  
22 action pursuant to section 8121 (relating to certification  
23 sanctions).

24 § 4112. Status.

25 A community paramedicine provider shall be deemed an  
26 emergency medical services provider or EMS provider for purposes  
27 of Chapter 81 (relating to emergency medical services system).

28 § 4113. Regulations.

29 Within one year of the effective date of this section, the  
30 department shall promulgate regulations to carry out the

1 provisions of this chapter. The regulations shall establish  
2 certification, practice, disciplinary and other standards  
3 consistent with the purposes of this chapter and with the  
4 requirements applicable to EMS providers, except as necessary to  
5 meet the need for community paramedicine providers.

6 SUBCHAPTER C

7 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

8 Sec.

9 4121. Casualty insurance coverage.

10 4122. Medical assistance reimbursement.

11 § 4121. Casualty insurance coverage.

12 (a) General rule.--A health insurance policy delivered,  
13 issued, executed or renewed in this Commonwealth on or after the  
14 effective date of this section shall provide coverage for  
15 community paramedicine services.

16 (b) Copayments, coinsurance and deductible amounts.--  
17 Coverage under this chapter shall remain subject to any  
18 copayment, coinsurance or deductible amounts set forth in the  
19 policy.

20 (c) Prerequisites for coverage.--To qualify for coverage  
21 under this chapter, community paramedicine services must be part  
22 of a care plan ordered by an emergency services agency medical  
23 director, primary health care provider or health insurer as  
24 follows:

25 (1) The care plan should ensure that community  
26 paramedicine services provided by a community paramedic are  
27 coordinated with other community resources where available.

28 (2) Community paramedic services shall not duplicate  
29 services already provided to the patient.

30 (3) Community paramedic services shall include the

1 following:

2 (i) Coordination of community services.

3 (ii) Health assessment.

4 (iii) Chronic disease monitoring and education.

5 (iv) Medication compliance.

6 (v) Hospital discharge follow-up care.

7 (vi) Minor medical procedures ordered by an

8 emergency services agency medical director or primary

9 health care provider.

10 (vii) Such other services as approved by regulation

11 of the department.

12 (d) Duty of Department of Human Services.--The Department of

13 Human Services shall seek such waivers or Federal approvals as

14 may be necessary to ensure that actions taken under this section

15 comply with applicable Federal law.

16 (e) Nonapplicability.--This section shall not apply to the

17 following types of policies:

18 (1) Limited benefit.

19 (2) Credit.

20 (3) Dental.

21 (4) Vision.

22 (5) Long-term care or disability income.

23 § 4122. Medical assistance reimbursement.

24 (a) Duty of Secretary of Human Services.--The Secretary of

25 Human Services shall, in consultation with the department and

26 representatives of emergency medical services providers,

27 physicians and local public health agencies, determine specified

28 services and payment rates for community paramedicine services

29 to be performed by community paramedicine providers under this

30 chapter to be covered by medical assistance under the laws of

1 this Commonwealth.

2 (b) Payment.--

3 (1) Payment for community paramedicine services under  
4 this chapter must be part of a care plan ordered by a primary  
5 health care provider or medical director of an ambulance  
6 service and must be billed by an eligible provider enrolled  
7 in medical assistance that employs or contracts with the  
8 community paramedicine provider.

9 (2) In determining the community paramedicine services  
10 to include under medical assistance coverage, the Secretary  
11 of Human Services shall consider the potential of hospital  
12 admittance, emergency room utilization deductions, need for  
13 social services and increased access to quality care.

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