



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 389

Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service Transporters - Reimbursement

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: February 2, 2021

From: Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 389**. This bill proposes modernizing changes to the Medicaid reimbursement scheme for emergency service visits and transportation.

Medical care has evolved with time, but federal and state rules governing them – especially the largest health care programs, Medicare and Medicaid – have often failed to keep pace. One such example is with emergency transporters who offer on-site services and delivery to facilities.

SB 389 sensibly targets this problem, bringing Medicaid reimbursement gradually closer to the actual costs of these mobile services. By removing the condition of “transporting the Program recipient to a facility,” the bill recognizes that much emergency and immediate care is offered by the trained ambulance staff, independent of whether a delivery is ultimately needed. Further, when payment is suitable, SB 389 adjusts the state-authorized payment level annually to approach a value more connected to actual service costs. Both changes are welcome and due.

SB 389 brings Medicaid’s system of compensating emergency care closer to the realities, and costs, of modern times. For these reasons, MACo requests the Committee give SB 389 a **FAVORABLE** report.